

EMPLOYMENT

In **seasonally adjusted** terms in September:

- Total **employment** in South Australia rose by 2,100 (0.2%), following a marginal fall in August — see Chart 1. Full-time employment fell by 2,500 while part-time employment rose by 4,600.
- Nationally, total employment fell by 39,300 (0.3%). Full-time employment rose by 34,400 while part-time employment fell by 73,700.

Through the year seasonally adjusted employment growth was 0.5% for South Australia and 1.2% nationally.

In **trend** terms in September:

- Total employment in South Australia rose by 1,700 (0.2%). Full-time employment fell by 300 while part-time employment rose by 2,000.
- Nationally, total employment rose by 15,700 (0.1%). Full-time employment rose by 16,800 and part-time employment marginally fell by 1,100.

Through the year trend employment grew by 0.6% for South Australia and grew by 1.4% nationally.

UNEMPLOYMENT

In **seasonally adjusted** terms, South Australia's **unemployment rate** fell from 4.7% in August to 4.2% in September. Australia's unemployment rate remained unchanged from 4.7% in August — see Table 1 and Chart 2.

In trend terms, the unemployment rate in South Australia remained unchanged from 4.3% in August. Nationally, the unemployment rate remained unchanged from 4.6% in August.

Table 1: **Unemployment rates**
(%) (seas. adj.)

	Last year Sep-25	Last month Aug-26	Latest month Sep-26
NSW	4.2	4.4	4.7
VIC	4.7	5.2	5.1
QLD	4.2	4.5	4.5
SA	4.5	4.7	4.2
WA	4.3	4.5	4.2
TAS	4.4	5.0	5.0
AUS	4.4	4.7	4.7

*The ABS notes seasonally adjusted estimates for NT and ACT are not available.

Chart 1: **Total employment** (millions)

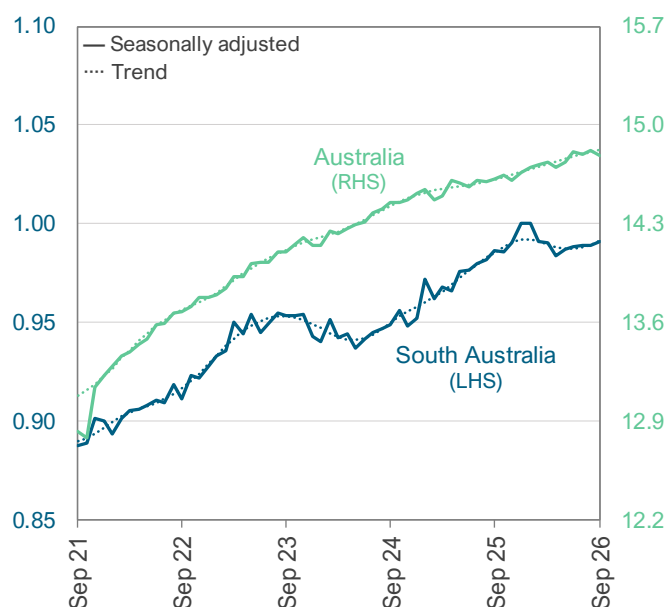
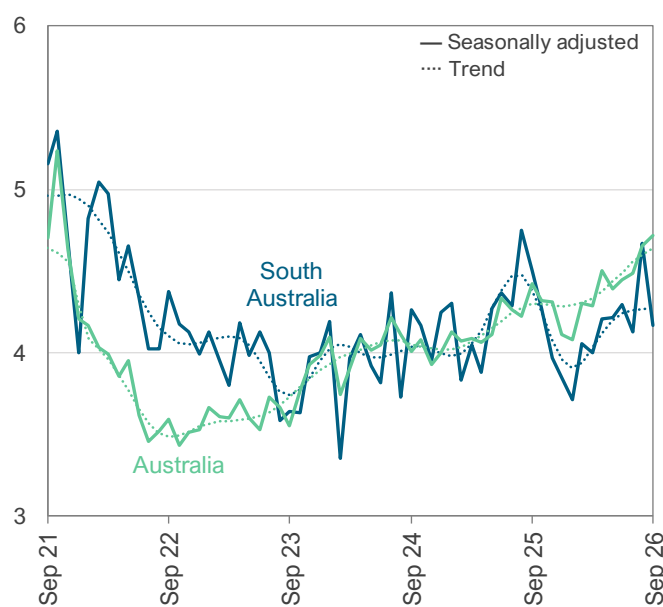


Chart 2: **Unemployment rates** (%)



UNDEREMPLOYMENT

Underemployed workers are those who are employed part-time and who want, and are available for, more hours of work than they currently have.

The **seasonally adjusted** underemployment rate in South Australia was 7.3% in September. As a result the overall labour force **underutilisation** rate was 11.5% in September, up from 10.9% a year earlier. In September, the national underutilisation rate was 11.0%.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

In the year to September, the number of employed 15 to 24 year olds in South Australia was 2.9% higher than a year earlier and 1.6% higher nationally (**moving annual average** terms) — see Chart 3.

In South Australia, the **youth** (15-24 year old) unemployment rate was 9.4% in the year to September, down from 9.6% a year earlier and below the 10.3% rate recorded nationally (**annual average terms**).

PARTICIPATION

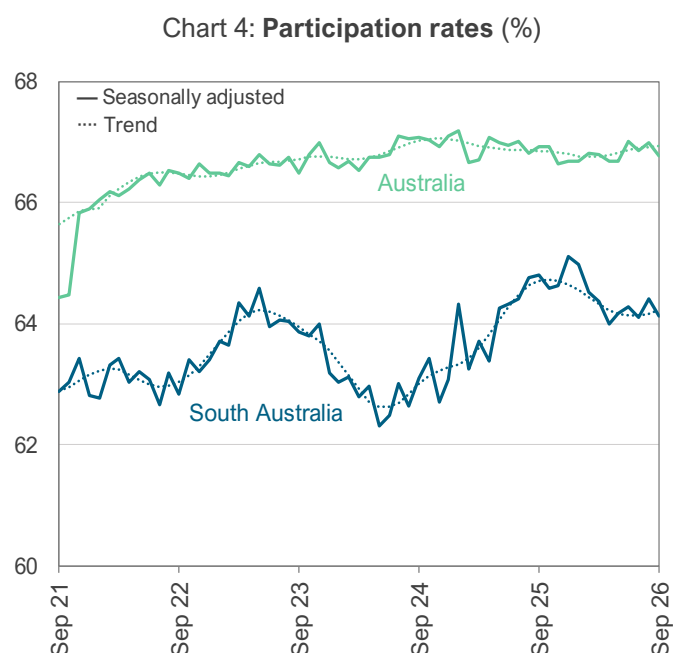
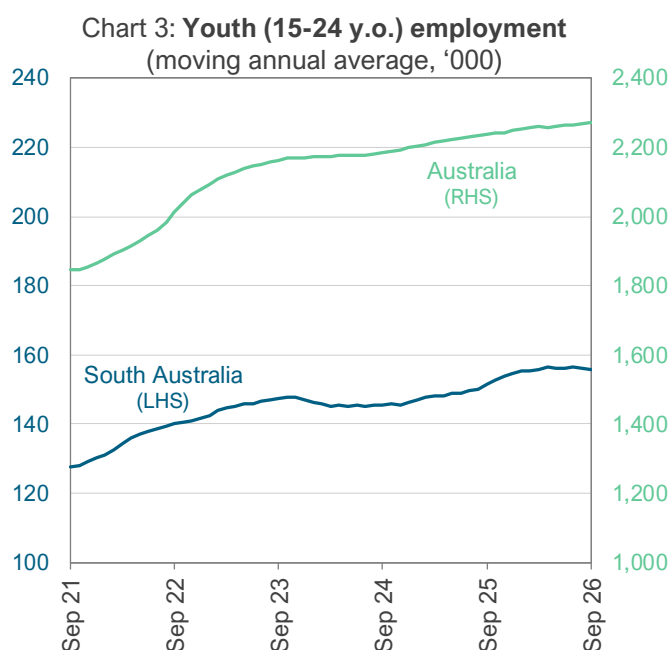
In **seasonally adjusted** terms, the South Australian **participation rate** fell 0.3 of a percentage point to 64.1% in September. Nationally, the participation rate fell 0.2 of a percentage point to 66.8%.

In trend terms, the participation rate in South Australia remained unchanged from 64.2% in August. Nationally, the participation rate remained unchanged from 66.9% in August — see Chart 4.

In **annual average terms**, the age groups that experienced the largest increases in participation in the year to September 2026 were 25-34 year olds (up 1.6pp) and 55-64 year olds (up 1.4pp).

Table 2: **Participation by Age Group, South Australia**
(Annual Average, %)

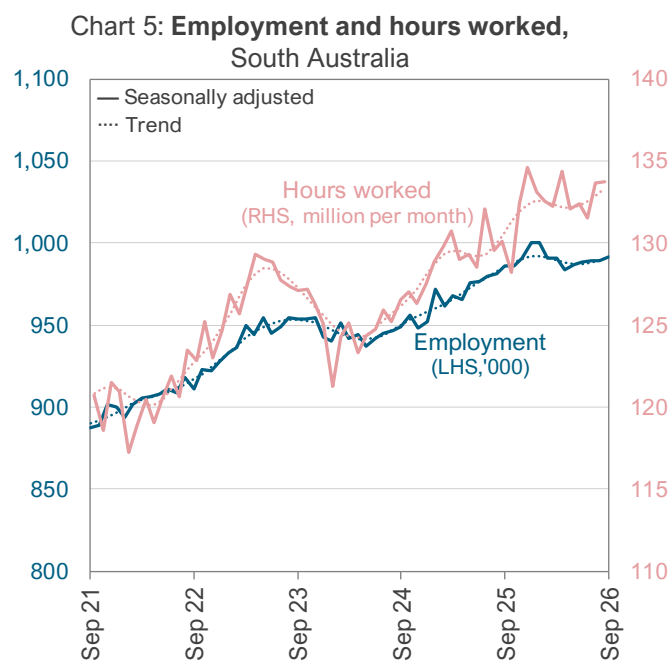
	Yr to Sep 25	Yr to Sep 26	Sep 25 vs Sep 26 (pp.)
15-24	72.7	73.8	1.1
25-34	86.2	87.8	1.6
35-44	85.8	86.7	0.9
45-54	85.0	86.1	1.1
55-64	67.7	69.2	1.4
65-74	24.1	24.0	-0.1
75+	5.0	4.1	-0.9



HOURS WORKED

In **seasonally adjusted** terms, monthly hours worked in all jobs rose by 0.1% in South Australia in September and were 2.8% higher than a year earlier — see Chart 5.

Nationally, monthly hours worked in all jobs rose by 1.3% through the year to September.



Next release of [ABS Labour Force, Australia](#) is 19 November 2026.

TABLE A1: Labour Force Aggregates - Trend

SOUTH AUSTRALIA	Sep-25	Aug-26	Sep-26	Change			
				In month		Through year	
Labour force ('000)	1030.9	1,033.6	1,035.4	+1.8	0.2%	+4.6	0.4%
Participation rate (%)	64.7	64.2	64.2		0.0pp		-0.5pp
Total employment ('000)	985.6	989.5	991.2	+1.7	0.2%	+5.6	0.6%
Full-time employment ('000)	643.2	651.0	650.7	-0.3	0.0%	+7.5	1.2%
Part-time employment ('000)	342.4	338.5	340.5	+2.0	0.6%	-1.9	-0.6%
Unemployment ('000)	45.2	44.1	44.3	+0.1	0.3%	-1.0	-2.2%
Unemployment rate (%)	4.4	4.3	4.3		0.0pp		-0.1pp
Under-utilisation rate (%)	10.6	11.2	11.3		0.1pp		0.7pp
Total hours worked (million)	130.4	132.9	133.3		0.3%		2.2%

AUSTRALIA	Sep-25	Aug-26	Sep-26	Change			
				In month		Through year	
Labour force ('000)	15,272.1	15,526.2	15,549.0	+22.8	0.1%	+276.9	1.8%
Participation rate (%)	66.9	66.9	66.9		0.0pp		0.1pp
Total employment ('000)	14,615.8	14,811.0	14,826.7	+15.7	0.1%	+210.8	1.4%
Full-time employment ('000)	10,071.9	10,207.9	10,224.7	+16.8	0.2%	+152.8	1.5%
Part-time employment ('000)	4,544.0	4,603.1	4,602.0	-1.1	0.0%	+58.0	1.3%
Unemployment ('000)	656.3	715.2	722.3	+7.1	1.0%	+66.0	10.1%
Unemployment rate (%)	4.3	4.6	4.6		0.0pp		0.3pp
Under-utilisation rate (%)	10.1	10.9	11.0		0.0pp		0.8pp
Total hours worked (million)	1,985.8	2,006.0	2,006.9		0.0%		1.1%

TABLE A2: Labour Force Aggregates - Seasonally Adjusted

SOUTH AUSTRALIA	Sep-25	Aug-26	Sep-26	Change			
				In month		Through year	
Labour force ('000)	1032.8	1,037.7	1,034.4	-3.3	-0.3%	+1.6	0.2%
Participation rate (%)	64.8	64.4	64.1		-0.3pp		-0.7pp
Total employment ('000)	986.4	989.2	991.3	+2.1	0.2%	+5.0	0.5%
Full-time employment ('000)	643.5	653.1	650.6	-2.5	-0.4%	+7.1	1.1%
Part-time employment ('000)	342.9	336.1	340.7	+4.6	1.4%	-2.2	-0.6%
Unemployment ('000)	46.5	48.5	43.1	-5.4	-11.1%	-3.4	-7.3%
Unemployment rate (%)	4.5	4.7	4.2		-0.5pp		-0.3pp
Under-utilisation rate (%)	10.9	11.1	11.5		0.3pp		0.6pp
Total hours worked (million)	130.1	133.6	133.7		0.1%		2.8%

AUSTRALIA	Sep-25	Aug-26	Sep-26	Change			
				In month		Through year	
Labour force ('000)	15,291.2	15,545.1	15,514.7	-30.4	-0.2%	+223.5	1.5%
Participation rate (%)	66.9	67.0	66.8		-0.2pp		-0.2pp
Total employment ('000)	14,614.3	14,822.0	14,782.7	-39.3	-0.3%	+168.3	1.2%
Full-time employment ('000)	10,058.8	10,198.1	10,232.4	+34.4	0.3%	+173.6	1.7%
Part-time employment ('000)	4,555.5	4,623.9	4,550.2	-73.7	-1.6%	-5.3	-0.1%
Unemployment ('000)	676.8	723.1	732.0	+8.9	1.2%	+55.2	8.2%
Unemployment rate (%)	4.4	4.7	4.7		0.1pp		0.3pp
Under-utilisation rate (%)	10.3	10.9	11.0		0.2pp		0.7pp
Total hours worked (million)	1,985.6	2,009.6	2,010.9		0.1%		1.3%

pp represents percentage points; totals may not reconcile due to rounding