

EMPLOYMENT

In **seasonally adjusted** terms in May:

- Total **employment** in South Australia rose by 2,900 (0.3%), following a fall of 0.7% in April — see Chart 1. Full-time employment rose by 2,000 and part-time employment rose by 900.
- Nationally, total employment rose by 40,300 (0.3%). Full-time employment rose by 5,200 and part-time employment rose by 35,200.

Through the year seasonally adjusted employment growth was 1.2% for South Australia and 1.0% nationally.

In **trend** terms in May:

- Total employment in South Australia fell by 500 (0.1%). Full-time employment rose by 700 while part-time employment fell by 1,200.
- Nationally, total employment rose by 20,200 (0.1%). Full-time employment rose by 11,400 and part-time employment rose by 8,700.

Through the year trend employment grew by 1.6% for South Australia and grew by 1.3% nationally.

UNEMPLOYMENT

In **seasonally adjusted** terms, South Australia's **unemployment rate** remained unchanged from 4.2% in April. Australia's unemployment rate fell from 4.5% in April to 4.4% in May — see Table 1 and Chart 2.

In trend terms, the unemployment rate in South Australia rose from 4.0% in April to 4.1% in May. Nationally, the unemployment rate rose from 4.3% in April to 4.4% in May.

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

	Last year May-25	Last month Apr-26	Latest month May-26
NSW	4.1	4.4	4.3
VIC	4.4	4.8	4.9
QLD	3.8	4.3	3.7
SA	4.3	4.2	4.2
WA	3.9	4.2	4.6
TAS	3.9	5.0	5.3
AUS	4.1	4.5	4.4

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

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

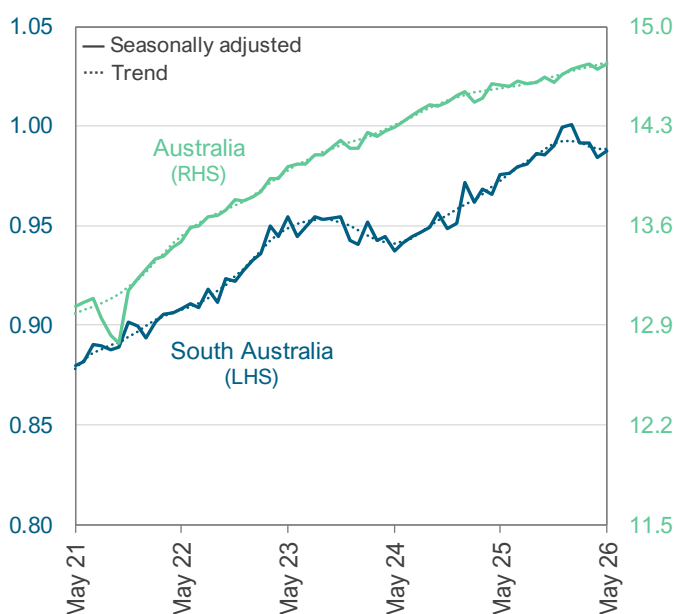
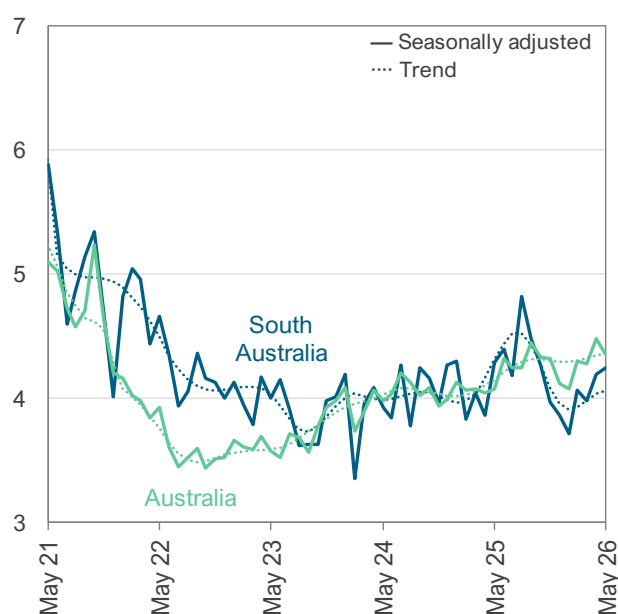


Chart 2: **Unemployment rates** (%)



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 6.2% in May. As a result the overall labour force **underutilisation** rate was 10.4% in May, down from 10.5% a year earlier. In May, the national underutilisation rate was 10.2%.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

In the year to May, the number of employed 15 to 24 year olds in South Australia was 5.0% higher than a year earlier and 1.7% 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 May, up from 9.3% a year earlier and below the 10.1% rate recorded nationally (**annual average terms**).

PARTICIPATION

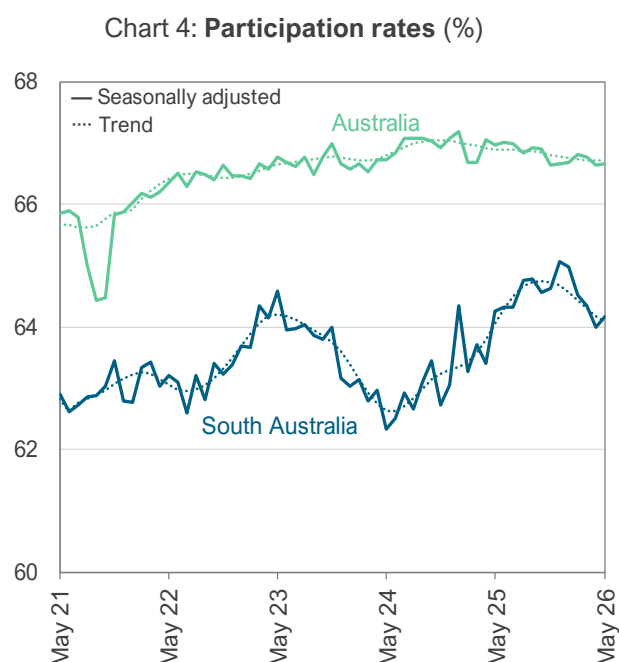
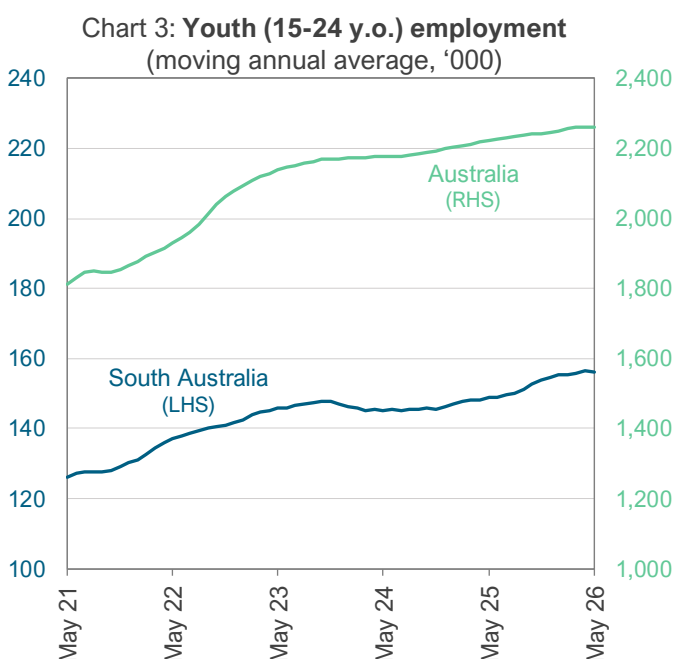
In **seasonally adjusted** terms, the South Australian **participation rate** rose 0.2 of a percentage point to 64.2% in May. Nationally, the participation rate rose from 66.6% in April, to 66.7% in May.

In trend terms, the participation rate in South Australia fell from 64.2% in April to 64.1% in May. Nationally, the participation rate remained unchanged from 66.7% in April — see Chart 4.

In **annual average terms**, the age groups that experienced the largest increases in participation in the year to May 2026 were 15-24 year olds (up 2.6pp) and 25-34 year olds (up 2.4pp)—see Table 2.

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

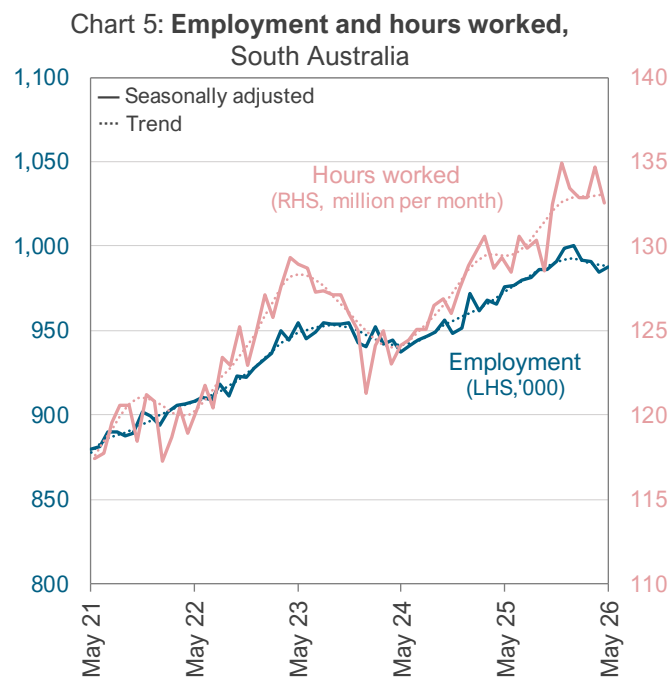
	Yr to May 25	Yr to May 26	May 25 vs May 26 (pp.)
15-24	71.6	74.2	2.6
25-34	85.3	87.7	2.4
35-44	85.3	86.9	1.6
45-54	84.5	85.6	1.1
55-64	66.6	68.6	2.0
65-74	23.6	24.6	0.9
75+	5.1	4.1	-0.9



HOURS WORKED

In **seasonally adjusted** terms, monthly hours worked in all jobs fell by 1.6% in South Australia in May but were 2.5% higher than a year earlier — see Chart 5.

Nationally, monthly hours worked in all jobs rose by 0.5% through the year to May.



Next release of [ABS Labour Force, Australia](#) is 23 July 2026.

TABLE A1: Labour Force Aggregates - Trend

SOUTH AUSTRALIA	May-25	Apr-26	May-26	Change			
				In month	Through year		
Labour force ('000)	1016.5	1,030.5	1,030.2	-0.3	0.0%	+13.7	1.3%
Participation rate (%)	64.1	64.2	64.1		-0.1pp		0.0pp
Total employment ('000)	972.8	988.8	988.3	-0.5	-0.1%	+15.5	1.6%
Full-time employment ('000)	638.8	654.2	654.9	+0.7	0.1%	+16.1	2.5%
Part-time employment ('000)	334.0	334.7	333.5	-1.2	-0.4%	-0.5	-0.2%
Unemployment ('000)	43.7	41.6	41.8	+0.2	0.5%	-1.9	-4.3%
Unemployment rate (%)	4.3	4.0	4.1		0.0pp		-0.2pp
Under-utilisation rate (%)	10.5	10.3	10.3		0.0pp		-0.3pp
Total hours worked (million)	129.4	133.0	133.1		0.1%		2.8%

AUSTRALIA	May-25	Apr-26	May-26	Change			
				In month	Through year		
Labour force ('000)	15,200.0	15,403.3	15,426.5	+23.2	0.2%	+226.5	1.5%
Participation rate (%)	66.9	66.7	66.7		0.0pp		-0.2pp
Total employment ('000)	14,568.8	14,733.6	14,753.7	+20.2	0.1%	+185.0	1.3%
Full-time employment ('000)	10,047.1	10,139.2	10,150.6	+11.4	0.1%	+103.6	1.0%
Part-time employment ('000)	4,521.7	4,594.4	4,603.1	+8.7	0.2%	+81.4	1.8%
Unemployment ('000)	631.2	669.8	672.8	+3.0	0.5%	+41.6	6.6%
Unemployment rate (%)	4.2	4.3	4.4		0.0pp		0.2pp
Under-utilisation rate (%)	10.1	10.2	10.2		0.0pp		0.2pp
Total hours worked (million)	1,975.3	2,015.7	2,018.5		0.1%		2.2%

TABLE A2: Labour Force Aggregates - Seasonally Adjusted

SOUTH AUSTRALIA	May-25	Apr-26	May-26	Change			
				In month	Through year		
Labour force ('000)	1019.5	1,027.6	1,031.3	+3.6	0.4%	+11.8	1.2%
Participation rate (%)	64.3	64.0	64.2		0.2pp		-0.1pp
Total employment ('000)	975.8	984.6	987.5	+2.9	0.3%	+11.7	1.2%
Full-time employment ('000)	639.8	653.5	655.5	+2.0	0.3%	+15.7	2.5%
Part-time employment ('000)	335.9	331.1	331.9	+0.9	0.3%	-4.0	-1.2%
Unemployment ('000)	43.7	43.1	43.8	+0.7	1.7%	+0.1	0.2%
Unemployment rate (%)	4.3	4.2	4.2		0.1pp		0.0pp
Under-utilisation rate (%)	10.5	10.2	10.4		0.3pp		0.0pp
Total hours worked (million)	129.3	134.7	132.6		-1.6%		2.5%

AUSTRALIA	May-25	Apr-26	May-26	Change			
				In month	Through year		
Labour force ('000)	15,212.3	15,388.1	15,410.1	+22.0	0.1%	+197.8	1.3%
Participation rate (%)	67.0	66.6	66.7		0.0pp		-0.3pp
Total employment ('000)	14,591.4	14,698.5	14,738.8	+40.3	0.3%	+147.5	1.0%
Full-time employment ('000)	10,086.5	10,135.6	10,140.8	+5.2	0.1%	+54.3	0.5%
Part-time employment ('000)	4,504.8	4,562.9	4,598.0	+35.2	0.8%	+93.2	2.1%
Unemployment ('000)	621.0	689.6	671.3	-18.3	-2.7%	+50.3	8.1%
Unemployment rate (%)	4.1	4.5	4.4		-0.1pp		0.3pp
Under-utilisation rate (%)	10.0	10.3	10.2		0.0pp		0.3pp
Total hours worked (million)	2,000.3	2,031.9	2,010.4		-1.1%		0.5%

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