

EMPLOYMENT

In **seasonally adjusted** terms in August:

- Total **employment** in South Australia rose by 1,000 (0.1%), following a marginal increase in July — see Chart 1. Full-time employment rose by 3,400 while part-time employment fell by 2,400.
- Nationally, total employment rose by 39,500 (0.3%). Full-time employment fell by 6,300 while part-time employment rose by 45,800.

Through the year seasonally adjusted employment growth was 0.8% for South Australia and 1.6% nationally.

In **trend** terms in August:

- Total employment in South Australia rose by 1,000 (0.1%). Full-time employment rose by 300 and part-time employment rose by 700.
- Nationally, total employment rose by 24,000 (0.2%). Full-time employment rose by 15,200 and part-time employment rose by 8,800.

Through the year trend employment grew by 0.7% for South Australia and grew by 1.6% nationally.

UNEMPLOYMENT

In **seasonally adjusted** terms, South Australia's **unemployment rate** rose from 4.1% in July to 4.6% in August. Australia's unemployment rate rose from 4.5% in July to 4.6% in August — see Table 1 and Chart 2.

In trend terms, the unemployment rate in South Australia remained unchanged from 4.4%. Nationally, the unemployment rate rose from 4.5% in July to 4.6% in August.

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

	Last year Aug-25	Last month Jul-26	Latest month Aug-26
NSW	4.2	4.2	4.3
VIC	4.3	5.1	5.2
QLD	4.3	4.2	4.5
SA	4.7	4.1	4.6
WA	3.8	4.4	4.5
TAS	3.3	5.0	5.0
AUS	4.2	4.5	4.6

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

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

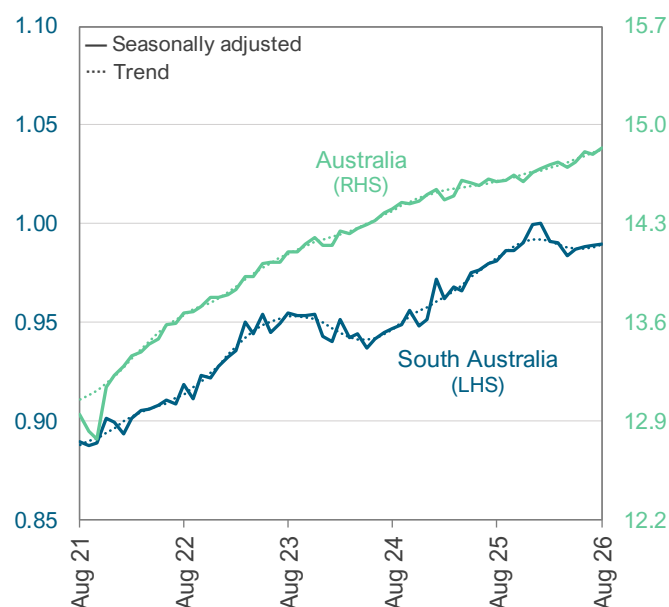
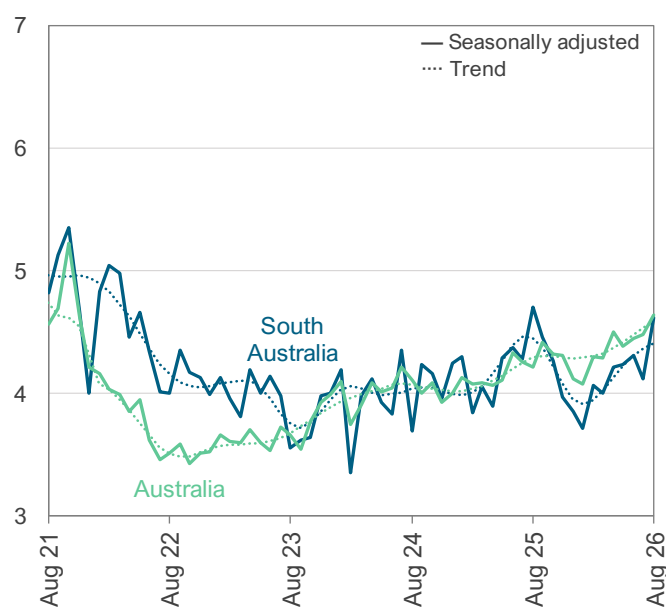


Chart 2: **Unemployment rates** (%)



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 6.4% in August. As a result the overall labour force **underutilisation** rate was 11.0% in August, up from 10.4% a year earlier. In August, the national underutilisation rate was 10.8%.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

In the year to August, the number of employed 15 to 24 year olds in South Australia was 4.0% 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 August, down from 9.6% a year earlier and below the 10.2% rate recorded nationally (**annual average terms**).

PARTICIPATION

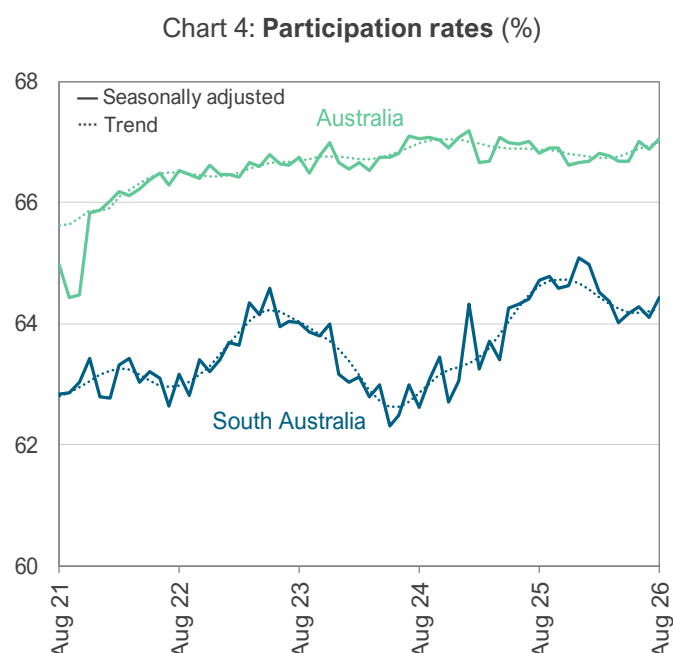
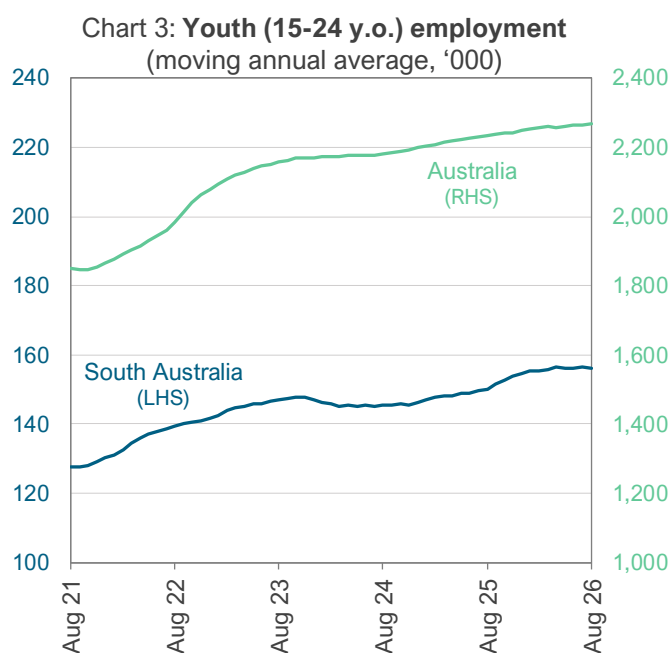
In **seasonally adjusted** terms, the South Australian **participation rate** rose 0.3 of a percentage point to 64.4% in August. Nationally, the participation rate rose 0.2 of a percentage point to 67.1%.

In trend terms, the participation rate in South Australia remained unchanged from 64.2% in July. Nationally, the participation rate rose from 66.9% in July to 67.0% in August — see Chart 4.

In **annual average terms**, the age groups that experienced the largest increases in participation in the year to August 2026 were 25-34 year olds (up 1.8pp) and 15-24 year olds (up 1.7pp) — see Table 2.

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

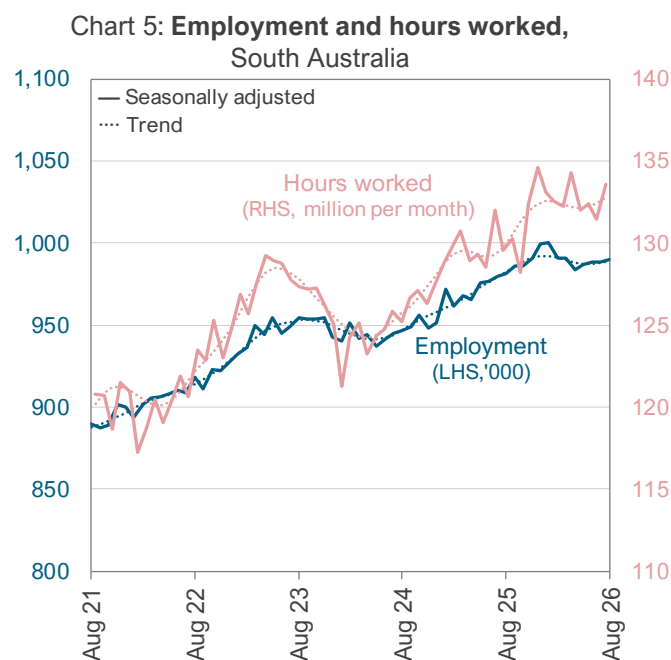
	Yr to Aug 25	Yr to Aug 26	Aug 25 vs Aug 26 (pp.)
15-24	72.3	74.0	1.7
25-34	86.0	87.8	1.8
35-44	85.6	86.8	1.1
45-54	84.9	86.1	1.2
55-64	67.5	69.0	1.5
65-74	24.1	24.0	-0.1
75+	5.0	4.1	-0.9



HOURS WORKED

In **seasonally adjusted** terms, monthly hours worked in all jobs rose by 1.6% in South Australia in August and were 3.1% higher than a year earlier — see Chart 5.

Nationally, monthly hours worked in all jobs rose by 1.7% through the year to August.



Next release of [ABS Labour Force, Australia](#) is 15 October 2026.

TABLE A1: Labour Force Aggregates - Trend

SOUTH AUSTRALIA	Aug-25	Jul-26	Aug-26	Change			
				In month	Through year		
Labour force ('000)	1028.5	1,033.2	1,034.8	+1.6	0.2%	+6.3	0.6%
Participation rate (%)	64.6	64.2	64.2		0.0pp		-0.4pp
Total employment ('000)	982.7	988.1	989.1	+1.0	0.1%	+6.4	0.7%
Full-time employment ('000)	641.8	652.1	652.5	+0.3	0.1%	+10.7	1.7%
Part-time employment ('000)	340.8	335.9	336.6	+0.7	0.2%	-4.2	-1.2%
Unemployment ('000)	45.9	45.1	45.7	+0.6	1.2%	-0.2	-0.4%
Unemployment rate (%)	4.5	4.4	4.4		0.0pp		0.0pp
Under-utilisation rate (%)	10.7	11.0	11.0		0.0pp		0.3pp
Total hours worked (million)	129.8	132.4	132.7		0.2%		2.3%

AUSTRALIA	Aug-25	Jul-26	Aug-26	Change			
				In month	Through year		
Labour force ('000)	15,255.9	15,509.3	15,542.6	+33.3	0.2%	+286.6	1.9%
Participation rate (%)	66.9	66.9	67.0		0.1pp		0.1pp
Total employment ('000)	14,601.0	14,805.4	14,829.4	+24.0	0.2%	+228.3	1.6%
Full-time employment ('000)	10,065.6	10,187.3	10,202.5	+15.2	0.1%	+136.9	1.4%
Part-time employment ('000)	4,535.4	4,618.1	4,626.9	+8.8	0.2%	+91.5	2.0%
Unemployment ('000)	654.9	703.9	713.2	+9.3	1.3%	+58.3	8.9%
Unemployment rate (%)	4.3	4.5	4.6		0.0pp		0.3pp
Under-utilisation rate (%)	10.1	10.8	10.8		0.0pp		0.7pp
Total hours worked (million)	1,984.1	2,004.3	2,004.2		0.0%		1.0%

TABLE A2: Labour Force Aggregates - Seasonally Adjusted

SOUTH AUSTRALIA	Aug-25	Jul-26	Aug-26	Change			
				In month	Through year		
Labour force ('000)	1030.0	1,031.3	1,037.8	+6.5	0.6%	+7.9	0.8%
Participation rate (%)	64.7	64.1	64.4		0.3pp		-0.3pp
Total employment ('000)	981.5	988.9	989.8	+1.0	0.1%	+8.3	0.8%
Full-time employment ('000)	641.6	649.9	653.2	+3.4	0.5%	+11.7	1.8%
Part-time employment ('000)	339.9	339.0	336.6	-2.4	-0.7%	-3.3	-1.0%
Unemployment ('000)	48.5	42.5	48.0	+5.5	13.0%	-0.5	-1.0%
Unemployment rate (%)	4.7	4.1	4.6		0.5pp		-0.1pp
Under-utilisation rate (%)	10.4	10.9	11.0		0.1pp		0.6pp
Total hours worked (million)	129.6	131.5	133.6		1.6%		3.1%

AUSTRALIA	Aug-25	Jul-26	Aug-26	Change			
				In month	Through year		
Labour force ('000)	15,241.4	15,491.8	15,559.5	+67.7	0.4%	+318.1	2.1%
Participation rate (%)	66.8	66.9	67.1		0.2pp		0.3pp
Total employment ('000)	14,598.5	14,797.1	14,836.6	+39.5	0.3%	+238.1	1.6%
Full-time employment ('000)	10,058.9	10,200.2	10,193.9	-6.3	-0.1%	+135.0	1.3%
Part-time employment ('000)	4,539.6	4,596.9	4,642.6	+45.8	1.0%	+103.1	2.3%
Unemployment ('000)	642.9	694.7	722.9	+28.2	4.1%	+80.0	12.4%
Unemployment rate (%)	4.2	4.5	4.6		0.2pp		0.4pp
Under-utilisation rate (%)	9.9	10.8	10.8		0.0pp		0.9pp
Total hours worked (million)	1,975.7	1,995.4	2,009.1		0.7%		1.7%

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