

## SUMMARY

During February, total [employment](#):

- rose 1.2% in South Australia in [seasonally adjusted](#) terms (nationally, total employment rose 0.8%); and
- fell 0.1% in South Australia in [trend](#) terms (nationally, total employment rose 0.2%).

During February, the [unemployment rate](#):

- was 3.2% in South Australia in **seasonally adjusted** terms (3.7% nationally); and
- was 3.8% in South Australia in **trend** terms (also 3.8% nationally).

## FURTHER ANALYSIS

### EMPLOYMENT

In **seasonally adjusted** terms in February:

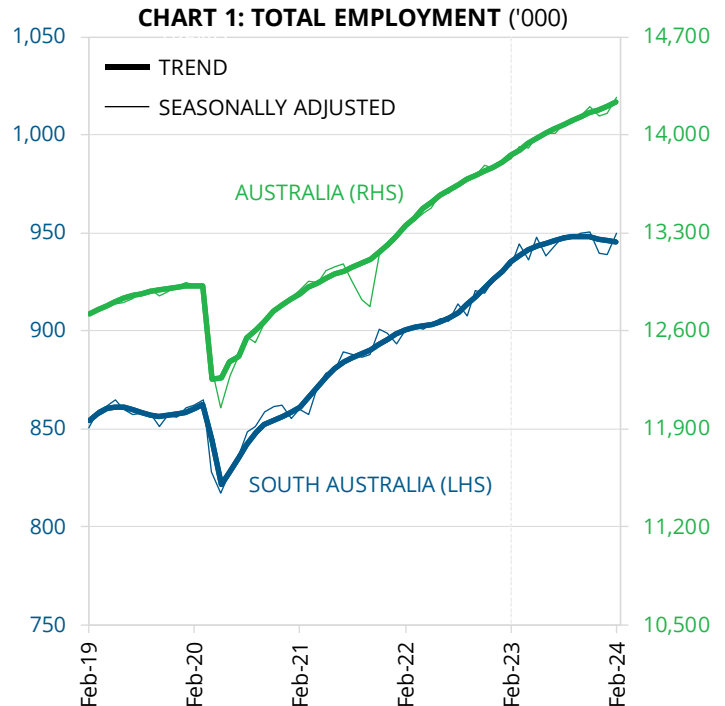
- Total employment in South Australia rose by 11,000 (1.2%), following a fall of 0.1% in January—see Chart 1. Full-time employment rose by 4,600 while part-time employment rose by 6,400.
- Nationally, total employment rose by 116,500 (0.8%). Full-time employment rose by 78,200 and part-time employment rose by 38,300.

[Through the year](#) seasonally adjusted employment growth was 1.7% for South Australia and 3.2% nationally.

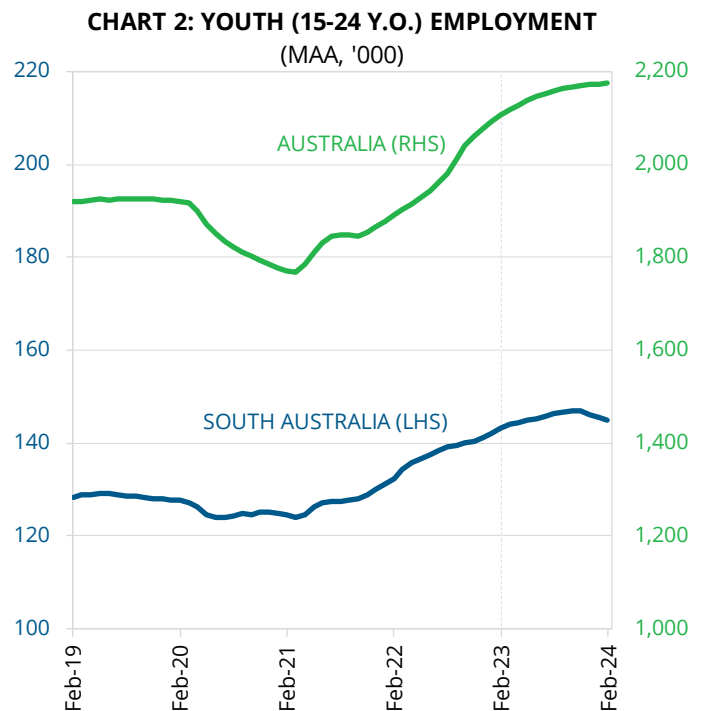
In **trend** terms in February:

- Total employment in South Australia fell by 500 (0.1%). Full-time employment fell by 1,500 while part-time employment rose by 1,000.
- Nationally, total employment rose by 26,600 (0.2%). Full-time employment rose by 13,000 and part-time employment rose by 13,700.

Through the year trend employment growth was 1.1% for South Australia and 2.7% nationally.



In the year to February, the number of employed 15 to 24 year olds in South Australia was 1.3% higher than a year earlier and 3.3% higher nationally ([moving annual average](#) terms)—see Chart 2.

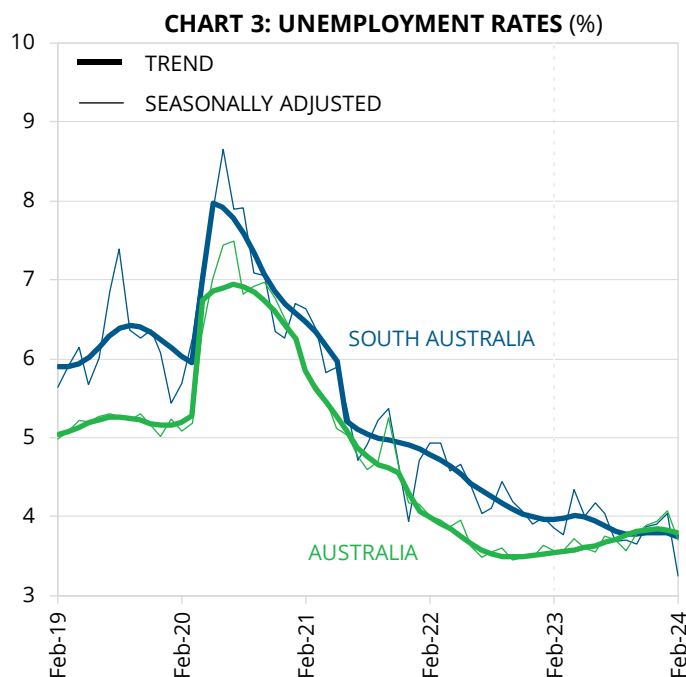


## UNEMPLOYMENT

In **seasonally adjusted** terms, South Australia's unemployment rate fell from 4.0% in January to 3.2% in February. Australia's unemployment rate fell from 4.1% in January to 3.7% in February. In **trend** terms, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.8% in February both in South Australia and nationally—see Table 1 and Chart 3.

**Table 1: Unemployment Rates (%)**

	Last year Feb-23		Last month Jan-24		Latest month Feb-24	
	trend	s.a.	trend	s.a.	trend	s.a.
NSW	3.2	3.2	3.6	4.1	3.6	3.6
VIC	3.8	3.7	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9
QLD	3.8	3.8	4.1	4.1	4.0	3.9
<b>SA</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.2</b>
WA	3.7	4.0	3.8	4.3	3.8	3.6
TAS	4.0	3.7	4.3	4.6	4.3	4.5
NT	4.3	5.4	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.4
ACT	3.0	3.0	4.1	4.3	4.2	4.2
<b>AUS</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.7</b>



In South Australia, the **youth** (15-24 year old) unemployment rate was 9.1% in the year to February, down from 9.4% a year earlier and above the 8.7% rate recorded nationally (**annual average terms**).

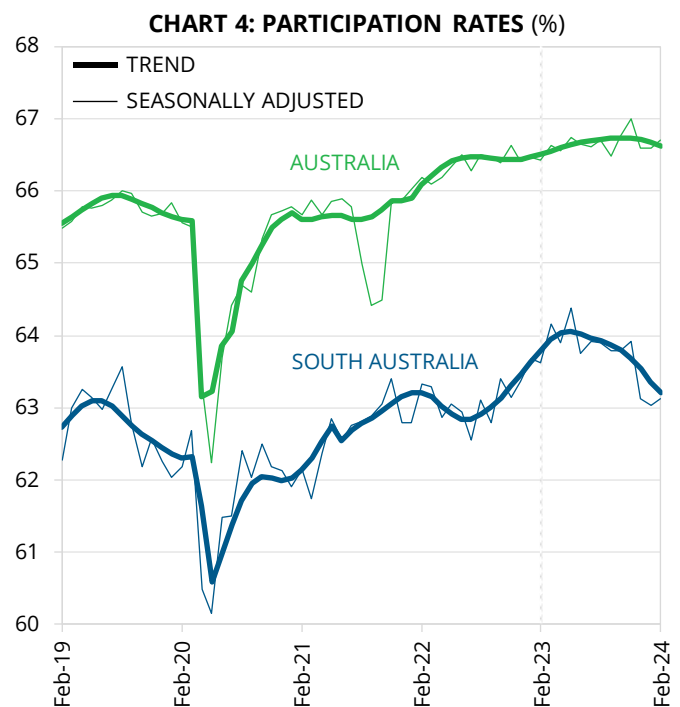
## UNDEREMPLOYMENT

**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 February. As a result the overall seasonally adjusted labour force **underutilisation** rate was 10.5% in February, down from 10.8% a year earlier. In February, the national underutilisation rate was 10.3%.

## PARTICIPATION

In **seasonally adjusted** terms, the South Australian participation rate rose 0.1 of a percentage point to 63.1% in February. Nationally, the participation rate rose 0.1 of a percentage point to 66.7%.



In **trend** terms, the **participation rate** in South Australia fell from 63.4% in January to 63.2% in February. Nationally, the participation rate fell from 66.7% in January to 66.6% in February—see Chart 4.

## HOURS WORKED

In **seasonally adjusted** terms, monthly hours worked in all jobs rose by 3.6% in South Australia in February but were 0.7% lower than a year earlier—see Chart 5. Nationally, monthly hours worked in all jobs rose by 0.8% through the year to February.

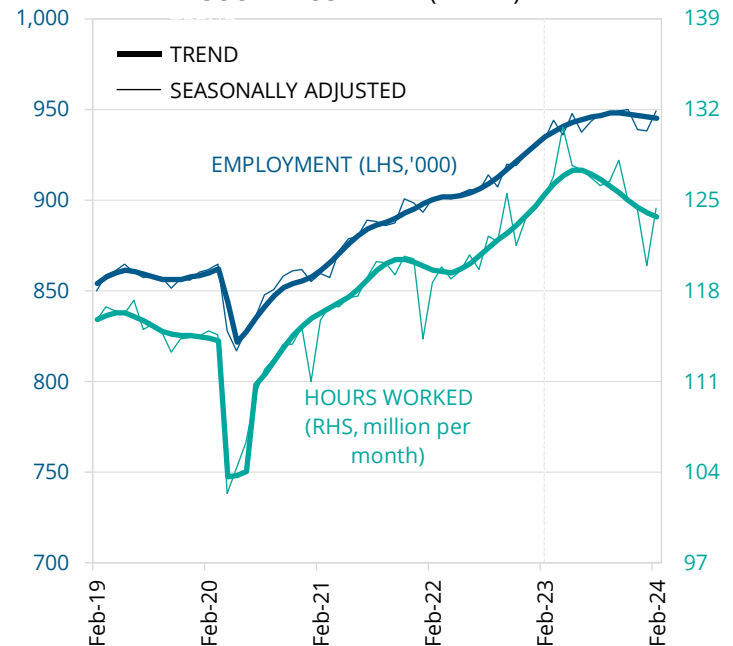
In **annual average terms**, the age groups that experienced the largest increases in participation in the year to January 2024 were 45-54 year olds (up 2.9pp) and 65-74 year olds (up 2.6pp). The age groups that experienced the largest declines in participation over the same period were 15-24 year olds (down 1.0pp) and 35-44 year olds (down 0.3pp)—see Table 2.

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

	Yr to Jan 23	Yr to Jan 24	Jan 23 vs Jan 24 (pp.)
15-24	73.6	72.6	-1.0
25-34	85.4	87.1	1.7
35-44	86.7	86.4	-0.3
45-54	82.6	85.5	2.9
55-64	68.1	68.0	0.0
65-74	20.2	22.9	2.6
75+	4.6	4.4	-0.2

**Note:** The breakdown of participation by age group is published on the Thursday following the main release. The age breakdowns of participation reported in this brief reflect annual average rates up to the previous month.

**CHART 5: EMPLOYMENT AND HOURS WORKED, SOUTH AUSTRALIA (TREND)**



Next release of [this ABS data](#) (formerly Cat No 6202.0) is 18 April 2024.

**Table A1: Labour Force Aggregates - Trend**

SOUTH AUSTRALIA	Feb-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Change			
				In month		Through year	
Labour force ('000)	973.6	983.4	<b>982.5</b>	-0.9	-0.1%	+8.9	0.9%
Participation rate (%)	63.8	63.4	<b>63.2</b>		-0.2pp		-0.6pp
Total employment ('000)	934.9	946.1	<b>945.6</b>	-0.5	-0.1%	+10.7	1.1%
Full-time employment ('000)	616.7	621.1	<b>619.5</b>	-1.5	-0.2%	+2.9	0.5%
Part-time employment ('000)	318.3	325.0	<b>326.0</b>	+1.0	0.3%	+7.8	2.4%
Unemployment ('000)	38.7	37.3	<b>36.9</b>	-0.4	-1.2%	-1.8	-4.6%
Unemployment rate (%)	4.0	3.8	<b>3.8</b>		0.0pp		-0.2pp
Under-utilisation rate (%)	11.1	11.1	<b>11.1</b>		-0.1pp		0.0pp
Total hours worked (million)	125.5	124.1	<b>123.8</b>		-0.2%		-1.4%

AUSTRALIA	Feb-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Change			
				In month		Through year	
Labour force ('000)	14362.1	14771.3	<b>14794.5</b>	+23.1	0.2%	+432.3	3.0%
Participation rate (%)	66.5	66.7	<b>66.6</b>		0.0pp		0.1pp
Total employment ('000)	13,852.3	14,205.6	<b>14,232.3</b>	+26.6	0.2%	+379.9	2.7%
Full-time employment ('000)	9,694.2	9,796.0	<b>9,809.0</b>	+13.0	0.1%	+114.8	1.2%
Part-time employment ('000)	4,158.2	4,409.6	<b>4,423.3</b>	+13.7	0.3%	+265.1	6.4%
Unemployment ('000)	509.8	565.7	<b>562.2</b>	-3.5	-0.6%	+52.4	10.3%
Unemployment rate (%)	3.5	3.8	<b>3.8</b>		0.0pp		0.3pp
Under-utilisation rate (%)	9.7	10.4	<b>10.4</b>		0.0pp		0.7pp
Total hours worked (million)	1,920.4	1,913.5	<b>1,909.4</b>		-0.2%		-0.6%

**Table A2: Labour Force Aggregates - Seasonally Adjusted**

SOUTH AUSTRALIA	Feb-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Change			
				In month		Through year	
Labour force ('000)	971.0	978.3	<b>981.8</b>	+3.5	0.4%	+10.7	1.1%
Participation rate (%)	63.6	63.0	<b>63.1</b>		0.1pp		-0.5pp
Total employment ('000)	933.7	938.9	<b>949.9</b>	+11.0	1.2%	+16.2	1.7%
Full-time employment ('000)	614.7	614.5	<b>619.1</b>	+4.6	0.8%	+4.4	0.7%
Part-time employment ('000)	319.0	324.3	<b>330.8</b>	+6.4	2.0%	+11.8	3.7%
Unemployment ('000)	37.4	39.5	<b>31.9</b>	-7.6	-19.2%	-5.5	-14.7%
Unemployment rate (%)	3.8	4.0	<b>3.2</b>		-0.8pp		-0.6pp
Under-utilisation rate (%)	10.8	11.8	<b>10.5</b>		-1.2pp		-0.3pp
Total hours worked (million)	125.2	120.0	<b>124.4</b>		3.6%		-0.7%

AUSTRALIA	Feb-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Change			
				In month		Through year	
Labour force ('000)	14,345.7	14753.4	<b>14,817.8</b>	+64.5	0.4%	+472.1	3.3%
Participation rate (%)	66.4	66.6	<b>66.7</b>		0.1pp		0.3pp
Total employment ('000)	13,832.5	14,153.1	<b>14,269.6</b>	+116.5	0.8%	+437.1	3.2%
Full-time employment ('000)	9,677.9	9,746.7	<b>9,824.9</b>	+78.2	0.8%	+147.0	1.5%
Part-time employment ('000)	4,154.6	4,406.4	<b>4,444.7</b>	+38.3	0.9%	+290.1	7.0%
Unemployment ('000)	513.3	600.2	<b>548.3</b>	-52.0	-8.7%	+35.0	6.8%
Unemployment rate (%)	3.6	4.1	<b>3.7</b>		-0.4pp		0.1pp
Under-utilisation rate (%)	9.5	10.8	<b>10.3</b>		-0.5pp		0.8pp
Total hours worked (million)	1,917.8	1,879.3	<b>1,932.7</b>		2.8%		0.8%

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