EMPLOYMENT

In **seasonally adjusted** terms in October:

- Total **employment** in South Australia fell by 5,200 (0.5%), following a rise of 0.2% in September — see Chart 1. Full-time employment rose by 4,000 while part-time employment fell by 9,200.
- Nationally, total employment fell by 43,500 (0.3%). Full-time employment marginally fell and part-time employment fell by 40,600.

Through the year seasonally adjusted employment fell 0.1% for South Australia but rose 0.6% nationally.

In **trend** terms in October:

- Total employment in South Australia rose by 600 (0.1%). Full-time employment rose by 1,200 while part-time employment fell by 600.
- Nationally, total employment marginally rose by 7,200. Full-time employment rose by 15,400 while part-time employment fell by 8,200.

Through the year trend employment remained unchanged for South Australia but grew by 1.1% nationally.

UNEMPLOYMENT

In **seasonally adjusted** terms, South Australia's **unemployment rate** rose from 4.2% in September to 4.8% in October. Australia's unemployment rate rose from 4.7% in September to 4.9% in October — see Table 1 and Chart 2.

In trend terms, the unemployment rate in South Australia rose from 4.5% in September to 4.6% in October. Nationally, the unemployment rate rose from 4.7% in September to 4.8% in October.

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

	Last year Oct-25	Last month Sep-26	Latest month Oct-26
NSW	4.2	4.7	4.6
VIC	4.6	5.1	5.4
QLD	4.1	4.6	4.8
SA	**4.2**	**4.2**	**4.8**
WA	4.1	4.2	4.5
TAS	4.0	5.0	5.4
AUS	**4.3**	**4.7**	**4.9**

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

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

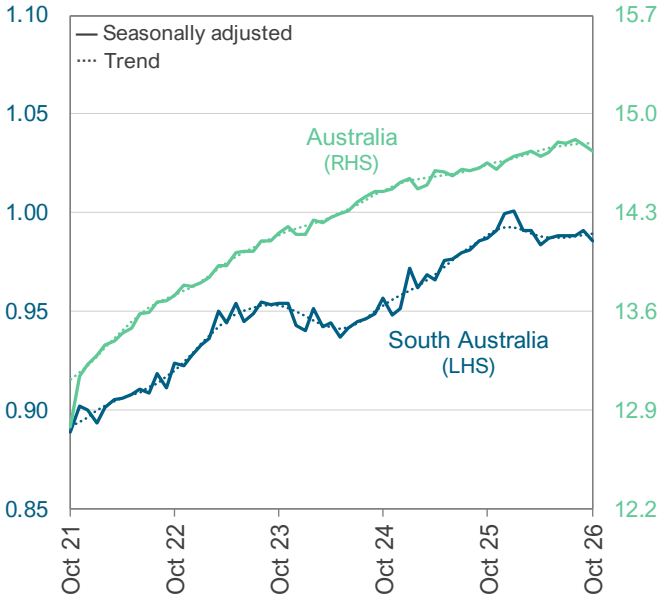
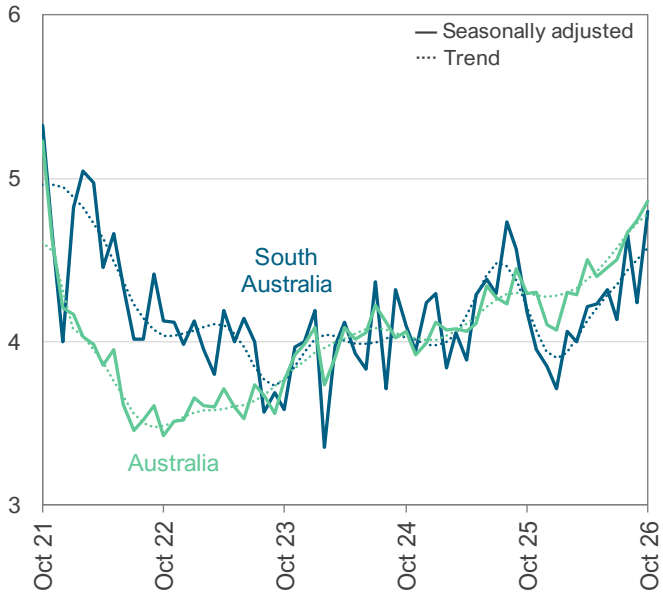


Chart 2: **Unemployment rates** (%)



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 6.9% in October. As a result the overall labour force **underutilisation** rate was 11.7% in October, up from 10.4% a year earlier. In October, the national underutilisation rate was 11.1%.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

In the year to October, the number of employed 15 to 24 year olds in South Australia was 1.8% higher than a year earlier and 1.5% higher nationally (**moving annual average** terms) — see Chart 3.

In South Australia, the **youth** (15-24 year old) unemployment rate was 9.7% in the year to October, up from 9.3% a year earlier and below the 10.4% rate recorded nationally (**annual average terms**).

PARTICIPATION

In **seasonally adjusted** terms, the South Australian **participation rate** remained unchanged from 64.1% in September. Nationally, the participation rate fell 0.2 percentage points to 66.6%.

In trend terms, the participation rate in South Australia remained unchanged from 64.2% in September. Nationally, the participation rate also remained unchanged from 66.8% in September — see Chart 4.

In **annual average terms**, the age groups that experienced the largest increases in participation in the year to October 2026 were 55-64 year olds and 25-34 year olds (both up 1.3pp) — see Table 2.

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

	Yr to Oct 25	Yr to Oct 26	Oct 25 vs Oct 26 (pp.)
15-24	73.0	73.7	0.7
25-34	86.4	87.7	1.3
35-44	85.9	86.5	0.6
45-54	85.0	86.2	1.2
55-64	68.0	69.3	1.3
65-74	23.9	24.0	0.1
75+	4.9	4.0	-0.9

Chart 3: **Youth (15-24 y.o.) employment**
(moving annual average, '000)

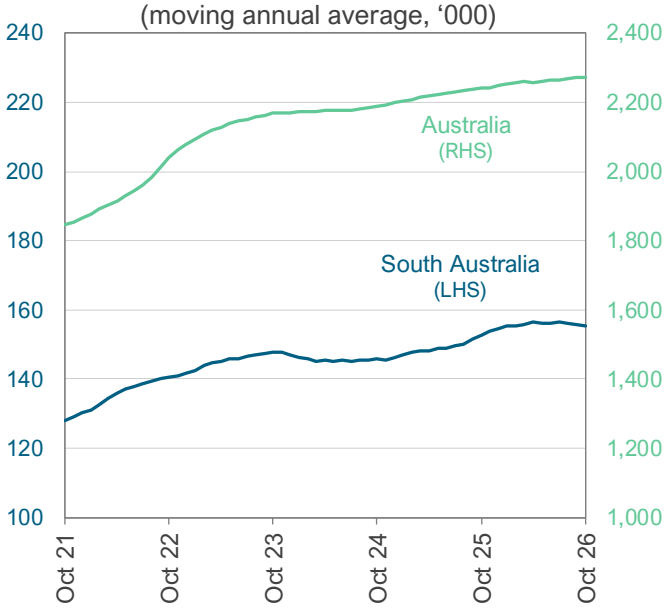
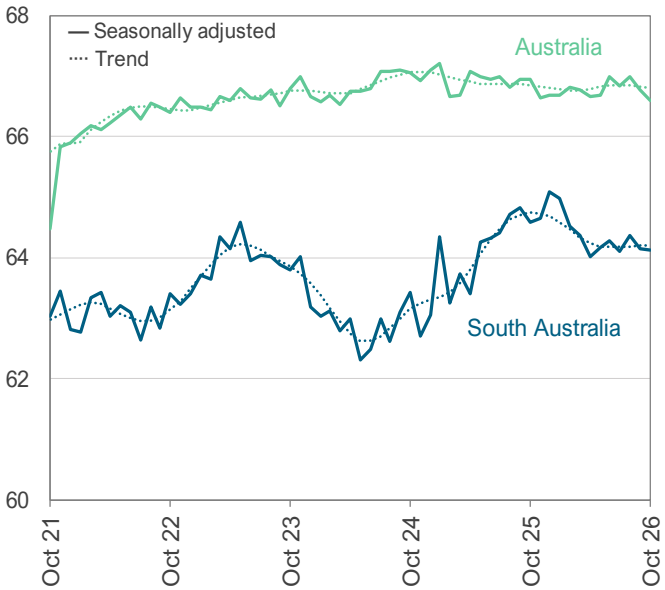


Chart 4: **Participation rates** (%)

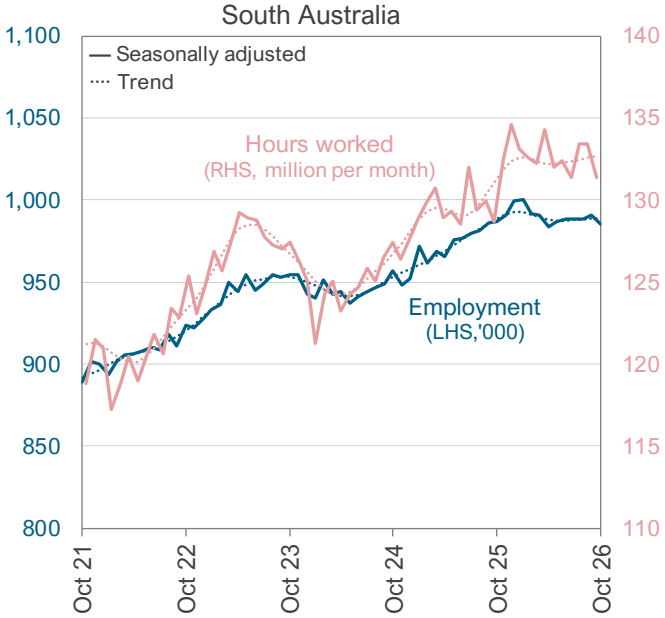


HOURS WORKED

In **seasonally adjusted** terms, monthly hours worked in all jobs fell by 1.6% in South Australia in October but were 2.1% higher than a year earlier — see Chart 5.

Nationally, monthly hours worked in all jobs rose by 0.6% through the year to October.

Chart 5: **Employment and hours worked,** South Australia



Next release of *ABS Labour Force, Australia* is 17 December 2026.

TABLE A1: Labour Force Aggregates - Trend

SOUTH AUSTRALIA	Oct-25	Sep-26	Oct-26	Change			
				In month		Through year	
Labour force ('000)	1032.4	1,035.2	**1,036.6**	+1.4	0.1%	+4.2	0.4%
Participation rate (%)	64.7	64.2	**64.2**		0.0pp		-0.5pp
Total employment ('000)	988.8	988.6	**989.2**	+0.6	0.1%	+0.4	0.0%
Full-time employment ('000)	645.4	652.9	**654.1**	+1.2	0.2%	+8.6	1.3%
Part-time employment ('000)	343.4	335.6	**335.1**	-0.6	-0.2%	-8.3	-2.4%
Unemployment ('000)	43.6	46.7	**47.4**	+0.7	1.6%	+3.8	8.8%
Unemployment rate (%)	4.2	4.5	**4.6**		0.1pp		0.4pp
Under-utilisation rate (%)	10.5	11.4	**11.6**		0.1pp		1.1pp
Total hours worked (million)	131.1	132.6	**132.7**		0.1%		1.2%

AUSTRALIA	Oct-25	Sep-26	Oct-26	Change			
				In month		Through year	
Labour force ('000)	15,293.3	15,525.1	**15,542.0**	+16.9	0.1%	+248.7	1.6%
Participation rate (%)	66.9	66.8	**66.8**		0.0pp		-0.1pp
Total employment ('000)	14,636.3	14,790.3	**14,797.5**	+7.2	0.0%	+161.2	1.1%
Full-time employment ('000)	10,080.5	10,219.4	**10,234.8**	+15.4	0.2%	+154.3	1.5%
Part-time employment ('000)	4,555.8	4,570.9	**4,562.7**	-8.2	-0.2%	+6.9	0.2%
Unemployment ('000)	657.0	734.7	**744.5**	+9.8	1.3%	+87.5	13.3%
Unemployment rate (%)	4.3	4.7	**4.8**		0.1pp		0.5pp
Under-utilisation rate (%)	10.2	11.0	**11.0**		0.0pp		0.9pp
Total hours worked (million)	1,988.5	2,005.8	**2,006.9**		0.1%		0.9%

TABLE A2: Labour Force Aggregates - Seasonally Adjusted

SOUTH AUSTRALIA	Oct-25	Sep-26	Oct-26	Change			
				In month		Through year	
Labour force ('000)	1029.9	1,034.6	**1,035.3**	+0.7	0.1%	+5.4	0.5%
Participation rate (%)	64.6	64.1	**64.1**		0.0pp		-0.4pp
Total employment ('000)	986.8	990.8	**985.6**	-5.2	-0.5%	-1.2	-0.1%
Full-time employment ('000)	640.2	651.0	**655.0**	+4.0	0.6%	+14.8	2.3%
Part-time employment ('000)	346.6	339.8	**330.7**	-9.2	-2.7%	-16.0	-4.6%
Unemployment ('000)	43.1	43.8	**49.7**	+5.9	13.4%	+6.6	15.3%
Unemployment rate (%)	4.2	4.2	**4.8**		0.6pp		0.6pp
Under-utilisation rate (%)	10.4	11.5	**11.7**		0.2pp		1.2pp
Total hours worked (million)	128.7	133.5	**131.4**		-1.6%		2.1%

AUSTRALIA	Oct-25	Sep-26	Oct-26	Change			
				In month		Through year	
Labour force ('000)	15,313.4	15,518.0	**15,492.3**	-25.7	-0.2%	+178.9	1.2%
Participation rate (%)	66.9	66.8	**66.6**		-0.2pp		-0.3pp
Total employment ('000)	14,655.1	14,782.2	**14,738.6**	-43.5	-0.3%	+83.5	0.6%
Full-time employment ('000)	10,111.1	10,231.7	**10,228.7**	-2.9	0.0%	+117.6	1.2%
Part-time employment ('000)	4,544.0	4,550.5	**4,509.9**	-40.6	-0.9%	-34.1	-0.8%
Unemployment ('000)	658.3	735.8	**753.7**	+17.8	2.4%	+95.4	14.5%
Unemployment rate (%)	4.3	4.7	**4.9**		0.1pp		0.6pp
Under-utilisation rate (%)	10.0	11.1	**11.1**		0.0pp		1.1pp
Total hours worked (million)	1,991.9	2,009.8	**2,006.2**		-0.2%		0.7%

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