

COVID-19 and South Australian Jobs – April 2020

ABS Labour Force data for April 2020 shows the impact of COVID-19 on the South Australian workforce. **Between March and April there were 40,800 job losses and 42,200 extra people underemployed.** (The unemployment rate went from 6.3% to 7.2%, while underemployment went from 11.2% to 17%).

However, of the 40,800 job losses in South Australia between March and April, 5,600 went to the unemployment line, while 35,200 (86%) simply dropped out of the Labour Force.

If those 35,000 had remained in workforce, then the Unemployment Rate would be 10.8% (not 7.2%).

Job losses were greatest among part-time workers with 6.3% of all part-time jobs being lost, by comparison with 3.7% of all full-time jobs.

There were also some key gender differences.

- Men accounted for 60% of the 40,800 job losses, taking the official male unemployment rate from 6.5% to 9.2%. Two-thirds of those now listed as unemployed are men.
- 16,600 women lost their job between March and April, but there were 5,500 fewer women listed as unemployed (female unemployment dropped from 6% to 5%). This was because 22,100 women left the labour force (i.e. stopped looking for work). That is, 63% of those leaving the workforce were women.
- Women account for 51.6% of all underemployed workers, although the gender gap narrowed from March-April as male underemployment grew faster than women's (again, partly due to more women leaving the workforce).

In total, the real employment challenge facing South Australia in April is:

- 62,900 unemployed
- 138,100 underemployed
- 35,200 recently dropped out of labour force

That is, 236,200 South Australians looking for work or more hours work.

This South Australian data broadly reflected national trends with increases in unemployment and underemployment, and drops in labour force participation. There were some differences with women accounting for 55% of all national job losses and female unemployment rising nationally.

Seasonally Adjusted, South Australian Labour Force Data, April 2020

Source: ABS 6202.0 Labour Force, April 2020.

Table 1: Headline Data, April 2020

	March	April
Labour Force Total	911,800	876,600
Loss of Labour Force		35,200
Unemployment Rate	6.3%	7.2%
Male	6.5%	9.2%
Female	6%	5%

Table 2: Detailed Employment Data

	Total	Full Time	Part-Time*	Unemployed
Total Jobs March 2020	854,500	545,200	310,500	57,300
Male job numbers	439,200	344,400	95,600	30,700
<i>Male % of total</i>	<i>51.4</i>	<i>63.2</i>	<i>30.8</i>	<i>53.6</i>
Female job numbers	415,300	200,700	214,900	26,600
<i>Female % of total</i>	<i>48.6</i>	<i>36.8</i>	<i>69.2</i>	<i>46.4</i>
Total Jobs April	813,700	525,100	291,000	62,900
Total job losses March-April	40,800	20,100	19,500	-5,600
<i>Job losses as % of total jobs</i>	<i>4.8</i>	<i>3.7</i>	<i>6.3</i>	
Male job numbers - April	415,000	328,700	87,700	41,800
<i>Male jobs % of total</i>	<i>51.0</i>	<i>62.6</i>	<i>30.1</i>	<i>66.5</i>
Total male job losses	24,200	15,700	7,900	- 11,100
<i>Male job losses as % of male jobs</i>	<i>5.5</i>	<i>4.6</i>	<i>8.3</i>	
<i>Male job losses as % of all job losses</i>	<i>59.3</i>	<i>78.1</i>	<i>40.5</i>	
Female job numbers - April	398,700	196,400	203,300	21,100
<i>Female jobs % of total</i>	<i>49.0</i>	<i>37.4</i>	<i>69.9</i>	<i>33.5</i>
Total female job losses	16,600	4,300	11,600	5,500
<i>Female losses as % of female jobs</i>	<i>4.0</i>	<i>2.1</i>	<i>5.4</i>	
<i>Female Losses as % of all job losses</i>	<i>40.7</i>	<i>21.4</i>	<i>59.5</i>	

* Part Time figures are not seasonally adjusted as these are not published by the ABS. As a result, the totals may not match full-time + part-time numbers.

Table 3: Underemployment March-April 2020

	March	April	Increase
Total Underemployed People	95,900	138,100	42,200
<i>Underemployed as % those employed</i>	<i>11.2</i>	<i>17.0</i>	
Male underemployment	43,500	66,800	23,300
<i>Male % of all underemployed</i>	<i>45.4</i>	<i>48.4</i>	
<i>% of all male jobs</i>	<i>9.9</i>	<i>16.1</i>	
Female underemployment	52,400	71,300	18,900
<i>Female % of all underemployed</i>	<i>54.6</i>	<i>51.6</i>	
<i>% of all female jobs</i>	<i>12.6</i>	<i>17.9</i>	