

## COVID-19 and South Australian Jobs – May 2020

ABS Labour Force data for May 2020 shows the impact of COVID-19 on the South Australian workforce. **Between April and May there were 11,200 job losses, bringing the total job losses since March to 48,400.** The unemployment rate went from 6.3% in March, to 7.2% in April and now 7.9% in May

However, underemployment which went from 11.2% to 17% in April, decreased by 19,200 people to be 14.3% in May. Those unemployed may have either increased hours or lost their jobs.

However, of the 11,200 net job losses in South Australia between April and May, 5,700 went to the unemployment line, while 5,500 dropped out of the labour force. This is a very different outcome to the previous month where 84% of job losses resulted in losses in labour force participation. Of the total 48,400 SA job losses between March and May, 11,700 went to the unemployment line, while 36,600 simply dropped out of the Labour Force.

**If those 36,600 had remained in workforce, then the May Unemployment Rate would be 11.6% (not 7.9%).**

Job losses were greatest among part-time workers. Between March and April part-time jobs accounted for 52% of all job losses, but from April to May the numbers of full-time jobs actually increased by 2,200 (0.4%). Part-time job numbers continued to fall. Overall, from March to May 64% of all SA job losses were part-time jobs.

There were also some key gender differences.

- Male employment increased from April to May by 1% (3,800 jobs), while female employment declined by 3.7%.
- From March to May, female jobs accounted for 60% of all job losses. (This is in line with national figures and reverses the anomaly in SA numbers in the April figures)
- However, because of the greater proportion of men in the workforce, there remains more men unemployed than women in South Australia and the male unemployment rate is higher at 8.4%, by comparison to 7.4% for women.
- The net exit of women between March and April which saw 16,600 women losing jobs but 22,100 exiting the workforce (i.e. 5,500 women who were unemployed leaving the workforce) was reversed in the May data with 14,900 jobs losses and 10,300 net increase in female unemployment.

The increase in both full time jobs and male job from April to May is probably due to the beginnings of recovery through May of some male-dominated industries such as mining, manufacturing, wholesale and telecommunications while female dominated industries such as hospitality and retail continued to decline.

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

- 69,000 unemployed
- 115,000 underemployed
- 36,600 recently dropped out of labour force

**That is, 220,600 South Australians looking for work or more hours work.** This is slightly less than in April due to the decrease in underemployment.

## Seasonally Adjusted, South Australian Labour Force Data, May 2020

Source: ABS 6202.0 Labour Force, May 2020.

**Table 1: Headline Data, April 2020**

	March	April	May
<b>Labour Force Total</b>	<b>911,700</b>	<b>880,600</b>	<b>875,100</b>
Loss of Labour Force		31,100	5,500
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	<b>7.2%</b>	<b>7.9%</b>
Male	6.5%	9.3%	8.4%
Female	6%	5%	7.4%

**Table 2: Detailed Employment Data**

	Total	Full Time	Part-Time*	Unemployed
<b>Total Jobs March 2020</b>	<b>854,500</b>	<b>545,200</b>	<b>310,400</b>	<b>57,300</b>
Male job #	439,000	344,300	95,500	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 #	415,400	200,800	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>
<b>Total Jobs April</b>	<b>817,300</b>	<b>527,900</b>	<b>291,700</b>	<b>63,300</b>
Male job # April	415,800	328,400	88,900	42,800
<i>Male jobs % of total</i>	<i>50.9</i>	<i>62.2</i>	<i>30.5</i>	<i>67.6</i>
Female job # April	401,400	199,500	202,900	20,500
<i>Female jobs % of total</i>	<i>49.1</i>	<i>37.8</i>	<i>69.6</i>	<i>32.4</i>
<b>Total Jobs May</b>	<b>806,100</b>	<b>530,100</b>	<b>279,600</b>	<b>69,000</b>
Male job # May	419,600	339,600	82,100	38,200
<i>Male jobs % of total</i>	<i>52.1</i>	<i>64.1</i>	<i>29.4</i>	<i>55.4</i>
Female job # May	386,500	190,500	197,500	30,800
<i>Female jobs % of total</i>	<i>47.9</i>	<i>35.9</i>	<i>70.6</i>	<i>44.6</i>
<b>Total Jobs Losses April-May</b>	<b>11,200</b>	<b>-2,200</b>	<b>12,100</b>	<b>5,700</b>
Male job losses #	- 3,800	- 11,200	6,800	4,600
<i>Male jobs losses % of total</i>	<i>- 33.9</i>	<i>509.1</i>	<i>56.2</i>	<i>80.7</i>
Female job losses #	14,900	9,000	5,400	10,300
<i>Female job losses % of total</i>	<i>133.0</i>	<i>- 409.1</i>	<i>44.6</i>	<i>180.7</i>
<b>Total Jobs Losses March-May</b>	<b>48,400</b>	<b>15,100</b>	<b>30,800</b>	<b>11,700</b>
Male job losses #	19,400	4,700	13,400	7,500
<i>Male jobs losses % of total</i>	<i>40.1</i>	<i>31.1</i>	<i>43.5</i>	<i>64.1</i>
Female job losses #	28,900	10,300	17,400	4,200
<i>Female job losses % of total</i>	<i>59.7</i>	<i>68.2</i>	<i>56.5</i>	<i>35.9</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**

<b>Underemployment</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>
<b>Total Underemployment</b>	<b>95,800</b>	<b>138,000</b>	<b>115,000</b>
<i>Underemploy as % those employed</i>	<i>11.2</i>	<i>16.9</i>	<i>14.27</i>
Male underemployment #	43,400	65,500	55,000
<i>Male underemploy % of all Under</i>	<i>45.3</i>	<i>47.5</i>	<i>47.8</i>
<i>Male under % of all Male Jobs</i>	<i>9.9</i>	<i>15.8</i>	<i>13.1</i>
Female underemployment #	52,400	72,500	60,000
<i>Female underemploy % of All Under</i>	<i>54.7</i>	<i>52.5</i>	<i>52.2</i>
<i>Female under % of Female Jobs</i>	<i>12.6</i>	<i>18.1</i>	<i>15.5</i>