



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment
and Workplace Relations

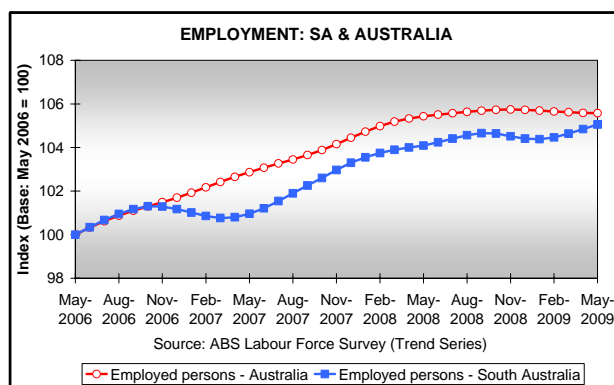
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LABOUR MARKET REVIEW

MAY 2009

ABS Labour Force Survey data (**trend**) show that South Australian employment increased 0.2 per cent (+1,600 persons) in May 2009, to 795,600 – the highest employment total on record. SA employment grew at an annualised rate of 0.9 per cent in May, compared to 0.1 per cent for Australia as-a-whole over the same period. SA female employment increased solidly over the past year, rising by 1.3 per cent. Conversely, SA male employment fell 0.8 per cent through the year to May. SA unemployment, which had risen strongly over the year to March, declined in both April and May, albeit modestly. Despite the recent downward trend, unemployment remains close to a five year high. The SA unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.6 per cent in May, 0.1 percentage points below the national average. Nationally, employment declined for the sixth straight month, while unemployment again trended upwards. Australia's unemployment rate rose to 5.7 per cent, the highest unemployment rate since December 2003.

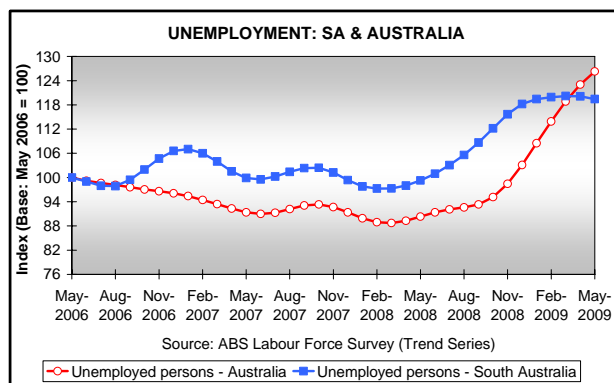
Employment Trends

- There were 795,600 persons employed in SA in May 2009, a rise of 1,600 compared to April.
- In year-on-year terms, SA employment grew 0.9 per cent (+7,300).
- Over the past twelve months, SA full-time employment contracted 0.7 per cent, while part-time employment rose 4.5 per cent.
- Nationally, employment contracted by 1,200 persons in May.



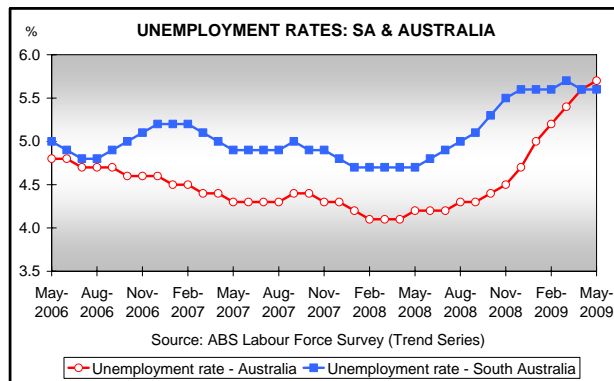
Unemployment Trends

- SA unemployment decreased 0.4 per cent (-200) in May, to 47,200 persons. This was the second successive monthly decline.
- Compared to a year ago, SA unemployment was 8,000 persons higher (+20.4 per cent).
- Nationally, unemployment rose 2.6 per cent (+16,900 persons) in May, and was 39.8 per cent above the level twelve months earlier.



Unemployment Rate Trends

- The SA unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.6 per cent in May, but below the Australian average for the first time since February 2006.
- The SA male unemployment rate was 6.2 per cent in May, compared to 4.9 per cent for females. The male unemployment rate was the highest in over four and a half years.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate increased for the eighth consecutive month, to 5.7 per cent.



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Note: These are trend data. The media tend to concentrate on the more volatile seasonally adjusted data.

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AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS (ABS) LABOUR FORCE SURVEY (TREND SERIES) FOR MAY 2009

		May 2008	April 2009	May 2009	Monthly change	Annual change
Employed persons ('000)	SA	788.3	794.0	795.6	0.2%	0.9%
	AUST	10,773.2	10,789.3	10,788.1	0.0%	0.1%
Unemployed persons ('000)	SA	39.2	47.4	47.2	-0.4%	20.4%
	AUST	468.3	638.0	654.9	2.6%	39.8%
Unemployment Rate (%)	SA	4.7	5.6	5.6	0.0pp	0.9pp
	AUST	4.2	5.6	5.7	0.1pp	1.5pp
Participation Rate (%)	SA	63.2	63.6	63.7	0.1pp	0.5pp
	AUST	65.5	65.5	65.5	0.0pp	0.0pp
Unemployment Rate (%) x State	NSW	4.6	6.4	6.5	0.1pp	1.9pp
	VIC	4.4	5.7	5.9	0.2pp	1.5pp
	QLD	3.7	5.0	5.2	0.2pp	1.5pp
	SA	4.7	5.6	5.6	0.0pp	0.9pp
	WA	3.2	4.8	5.0	0.2pp	1.8pp
	TAS	4.3	5.3	5.5	0.2pp	1.2pp
	NT	3.4	3.9	3.9	0.0pp	0.5pp
	ACT	2.7	3.1	3.3	0.2pp	0.6pp

Note: Trend series are used to analyse the underlying behaviour of the series over time, however, revisions are made to the most recent months as additional observations become available.

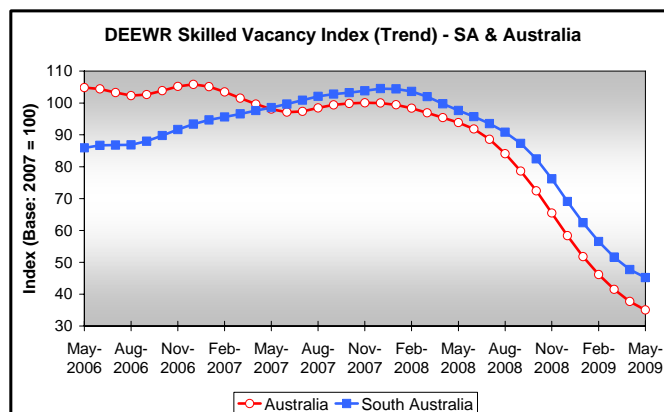
pp percentage point

DEEWR'S SKILLED VACANCY INDEX RESULTS – MAY 2009

This series is based on a count of selected skilled vacancies in the major metropolitan newspaper of each State and the Northern Territory, occurring (usually) on the first Saturday of each month.

The trend index for South Australia fell 5.3 per cent in May 2009, representing the seventeenth consecutive monthly decrease. In year-on-year terms, the SA index has fallen by 53.7 per cent to its lowest level in almost 15 years.

The national index fell 7 per cent in May, and for the eighteenth consecutive month. Compared to May last year, the Australian index was 62.6 per cent lower. The May level was the lowest in over 25 years.

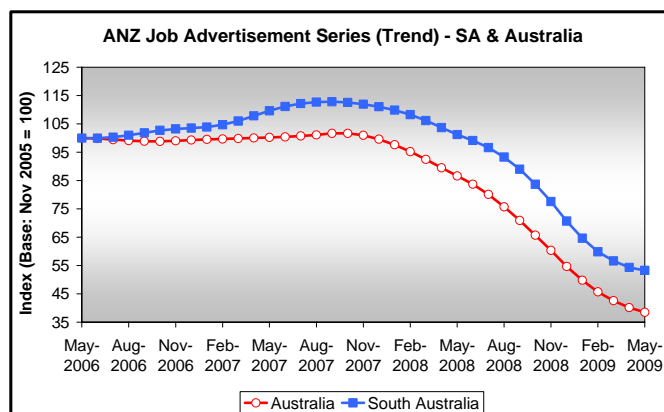


ANZ JOB ADVERTISEMENT SERIES RESULTS – MAY 2009

This series shows the average number of weekly advertisements based on a count of the number of job advertisements in the classified advertisement section of the major metropolitan daily newspaper in each State and the ACT.

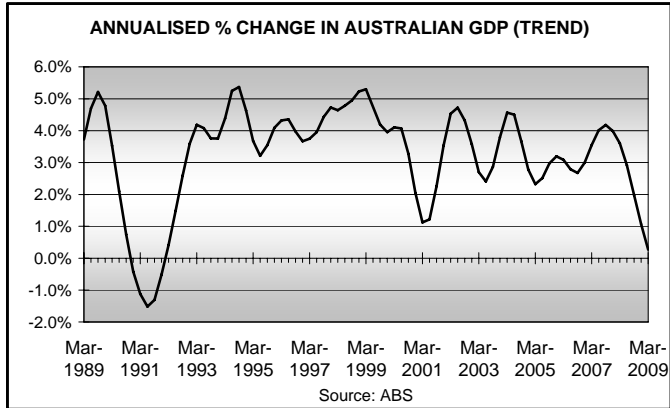
The ANZ Bank trend series index for South Australia recorded a 1.9 per cent decrease in vacancy levels in May 2009. This was the twentieth consecutive monthly fall in the series. In the past year, the index for SA has declined by 47.4 per cent.

Nationally, the number of advertised job vacancies decreased 4.1 per cent in April. Vacancies Australia-wide were at their lowest level since the series commenced in 1975. Compared with a year earlier, newspaper job advertisements were 55.6 per cent lower.

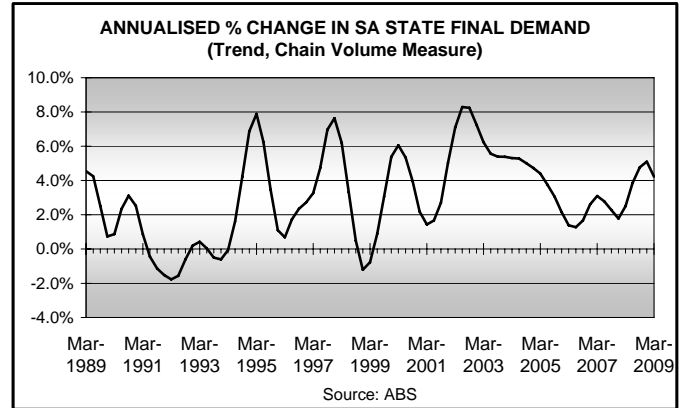


SELECTED KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

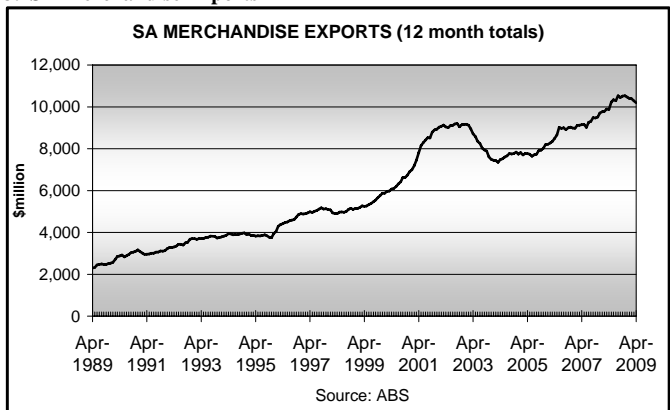
1. Gross Domestic Product (GDP)



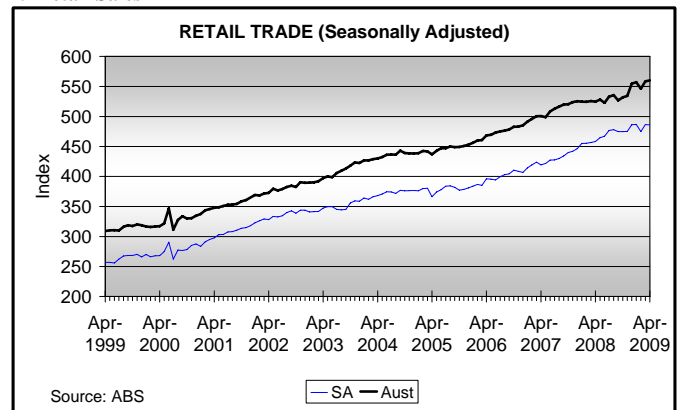
2. SA State Final Demand (SFD)



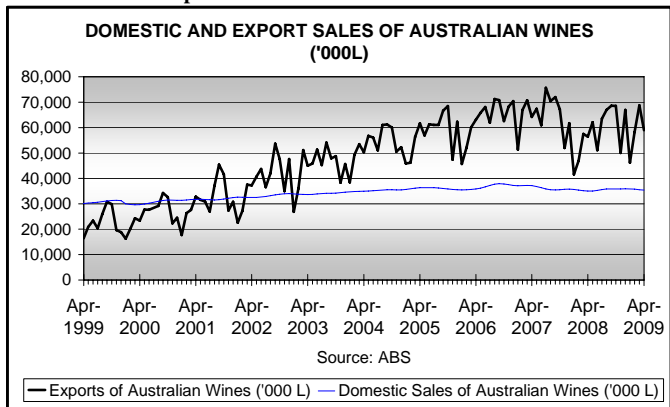
3. SA Merchandise Exports



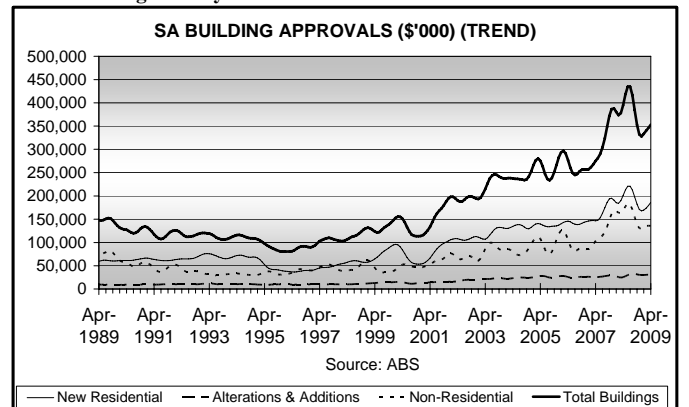
4. Retail Sales



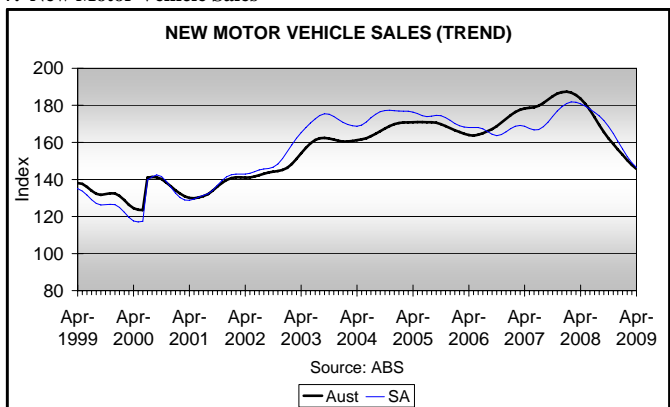
5. Domestic and Export Wine Sales



6. SA Building Activity



7. New Motor Vehicle Sales



8. Private New Capital Expenditure

