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UNEMPLOYMENT BY ELECTORATE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

While the national unemployment rate might be 5.7% this average unemployment hides important variations. The Australia Institute has assessed unemployment by regional variation by federal electorate using Department of Employment data.

The average unemployment rate in South Australia is 6.8%, but the unemployment rate varies significantly across the state, from 5.0% in Boothby to 10.6% in Port Adelaide.

Table 1. South Australian electorate's unemployment rate and change in unemployment rate since last election

Electorate	Party	Unemployment rate	Change in unemployment rate since 2013 election
BOOTHBY	LIB	5.0%	+1.8%
MAKIN	ALP	5.4%	+0.4%
STURT	LIB	5.5%	+0.7%
HINDMARSH	LIB	5.9%	+1.4%
MAYO	LIB	6.2%	+1.2%
ADELAIDE	ALP	6.7%	+0.8%
BARKER	LIB	7.5%	+1.4%
GREY	LIB	7.7%	+0.9%
KINGSTON	ALP	10.1%	+3.8%
WAKEFIELD	ALP	10.6%	+1.0%
PORT ADELAIDE	ALP	10.6%	+1.5%

The unemployment rate divides along party lines. The average unemployment rate in Liberal seats is 6.3%. This is below the state average of 6.8%. Average unemployment in Labor seats is 8.7%, well above the state average. The Federal government's decision to remove support for the car industry is clearly having a big impact on Labor seats. It is having a less severe impact on Liberal seats which might explain why the government has been slow to focus on the unemployment problems in South Australia.

South Australia has a large number of electorates with some of the worst unemployment rates in the country. Of the 7 electorates nationally with unemployment rates above 10%, South Australia has 3. This is a very large proportion given that South Australia only has 11 of the 150 electorates nationally.

While the recent defence contract announcement to build submarines in South Australia will help create jobs, it is unlikely to stem the tide against rising unemployment. Since the last election unemployment in the state has risen by more than 1%. The rise has been largest in the electorate of Kingston where it has gone up by 3.8%.

Unemployment in both parties' electorates has risen with average unemployment since the last election increasing by 1.2% in Liberal seats while it has risen 1.5% in Labor seats. The most marginal government held seat in the state is Hindmarsh. It has seen unemployment rise by 1.4% since the last election.

Table 2. Average unemployment rate and change in average unemployment rate since last election by party

Party	Average unemployment rate	Change in average unemployment rate since last election
LIB	6.3%	+1.2%
ALP	8.7%	+1.5%

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