**Employment is Growing in South Australian Manufacturing**

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While unemployment remains stubbornly high across our State, manufacturing has topped the list of 2016 employment sector growth in an analysis of ABS data by the Advertiser (10/01/17:8). The South Australian manufacturing sector added 9,700 jobs in 2016. Increases of 9,200 were also reported in Administrative Services, 7,300 in Construction and 3,000 in Education/Training. Sectors that lost jobs in 2016 included Mining (-1,100) and Transport (-5,100). The worst performer was Accommodation and Food Services which shed 12,500 jobs in 2016.  
  
These surprising figures show that the much-maligned manufacturing sector grew strongly while the widely promoted tourism/hospitality sector shed more jobs than the manufacturing sector added.  
  
It is well-known that employment has reduced in labour-intensive, low-skill manufacturing, but this decline was more than offset by the large increase in total manufacturing. This increase is understood to be at the higher end of manufacturing, in the high-skill production of knowledge-based products. The take-away message is: High-Skill, ‘Knowledge-Age’ manufacturing in SA is replacing jobs lost in declining low-skill, labour-intensive manufacturing. A key question is: Will our education system assist the further growth of Knowledge-Age manufacturing by providing the trained people to fill these additional jobs?