



### Mount Barker Region

Retail Trade is the largest employer in the Mount Barker District Council, making up 18% of total employment.

An analysis of the jobs held by the workforce in the district in 2011 shows the three most popular industry sectors were:

- Retail Trade (1,647 people or 18%)
- Health Care and Social Assistance (1,066 people or 11.6%)
- Education and Training (880 people or 9.6%).

In combination these three industries employed 3,593 people in total or 39.2% of the total workforce. In comparison, South Australia employed 11.4% in Retail Trade; 13.8% in Health Care and Social Assistance; and 8.1% in Education and Training.

### The major differences between the jobs held by the workforce of the Mount Barker District Council and South Australia

- A *larger* percentage of people employed in Retail Trade (18% compared to 11.4%)
- A *larger* percentage of people employed in Accommodation and Food Services (8.5% compared to 6.3%)
- A *smaller* percentage of people employed in Public Administration and Safety (4.6% compared to 7.2%)
- A *smaller* percentage of people employed in Health Care and Social Assistance (11.6% compared to 13.8%).

The largest changes in the jobs held by the workforce between 2006 and 2011 in the Mount Barker District Council were for those employed in:

- Accommodation and Food Services (+230 people)
- Retail Trade (+222 people)
- Construction (+140 people)
- Mining (+138 people).

### Australian Retail Status

The latest Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Retail Trade figures show that Australian retail turnover was relatively unchanged in December 2015, following a rise of 0.4% in November 2015, seasonally adjusted.

There were also rises in food retailing, clothing, footwear and personal accessory retailing and department stores. However, household goods, other retail items, cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services all fell in December 2015.

The fall in household goods retailing was the largest of any industry in December. This fall follows large rises in recent months which have contributed significantly to stronger rises in total retail turnover. Despite the fall in December this industry maintains the strongest growth rate of any industry compared to the same time last year, rising 6.3% in December 2015 compared to December 2014.

In seasonally adjusted terms:

- Australian Capital Territory rose by 2.4%
- Queensland 0.2%
- New South Wales 0.1%
- South Australia 0.2%
- Northern Territory 0.3%
- Western Australia fell by -0.6%
- Victoria fell by -0.1%
- Tasmania fell by -0.6%.

Online retail turnover also made up 3% of total retail turnover.

(Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics)

## Opportunities

The Mount Barker Village Shopping Centre (Foodland) off Hutchinson Street is set for a complete overhaul which will include the construction of a new and larger Foodland Supermarket, specialty shops, medical centre and parking. The site is currently closed pending demolition.

The following stores have recently established themselves in Mount Barker or set up new premises:

- Aldi supermarket now open and operational.
- A Dan Murphy outlet is also progressing
- Dental Surgery, adjacent Giovanni's Restaurant
- AM/PM Petrol Station
- Barang Home and Gift Wares, Homemaker Centre
- Williams Shoes larger store in Mount Barker Central Shopping Centre
- Priceline Pharmacy – new store Mount Barker Central Shopping Centre
- Chicken and Seafood shop, Morphett Street
- Zambrero Mexican Restaurant, corner Morphett and Stephen Streets
- Raw in the Hills Wholefood Café, Gawler Street
- Black Lemon Café, Nairne.

The Mount Barker region has the potential to attract and encourage boutique shops that can offer goods such as clothing, art and craft, vintage items etc. that are unique in the district, especially in combination with the historic offerings of its smaller townships. This type of retail activity can be enhanced by the extended opening hours in the hills, and will also complement existing tourism and hospitality activities in the region. This type of retail activity can also become an extension of what is currently offered in Hahndorf.



*Black Lemon Café, Nairne*