



**stats sa**

Department:  
Statistics South Africa  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa, ISibalo House, Koch Street, Salvokop, Pretoria, 0002  
www.statssa.gov.za, info@statssa.gov.za, Tel +27 12 310 8911

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**23 June 2020**

### **Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) – Q1: 2020**

The results of the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) for the first quarter of 2020 indicate that employment decreased by 38 000 to 16,4 million and the number of unemployed persons increased by 344 000 to 7,1 million. As a result, the official unemployment rate increased by 1 percentage point to (30,1%) compared to the fourth quarter of 2019.

The South African working-age population increased by 147 000 to 38,9 million and the labour force increased by 306 000 to 23,5 million such that the percentage of South Africans aged 15-64 years with jobs (the absorption rate) has declined by 0,3 of a percentage point to 42,1% and the labour force participation rate increased by 0,5 of a percentage point to 60,3% in the first quarter of 2020 compared to the fourth quarter of 2019. The number of discouraged work-seekers increased by 63 000 and those who were not active in the labour market for other reasons other than discouragement decreased by 222 000 resulting in a net increase of 107 000 in the number of those who were not economically active.

A net decline in total employment in the first quarter of 2020 was mainly driven by decreases in the number of people employed in the formal sector (50 000) and Agriculture (21 000). Increases in employment were observed in the informal sector (3 000) and Private household (30 000) during this period.

Most industries experienced job losses in the first quarter of 2020, compared to the fourth quarter of 2019. Finance shed most jobs (50 000), followed by Community and social services (33 000), Agriculture (21 000), Transport (17 000), Manufacturing (15 000), Construction (7 000) and Utilities (4 000) industries. Year-on year there was a net increase of 91 000 in total employment with Community and social services (185 000), Agriculture (27 000), Mining (18 000), being the largest contributors to the observed increase.

There were approximately 10,3 million persons aged 15–24 years in Q1:2020. The proportion of these young people who were not in employment, education or training (NEET) increased by 2,1 percentage points from 32,0% in Q4:2019 to 34,10% (3,5 million) in Q1:2020. Of the 20,4 million young people aged 15-34 years, 41,7% were not in employment, education or training (NEET) in Q1:2020 – an increase of 1,6 percentage points compared to Q4:2019.



Dipalopalo tsa Aforikaborwa • Dipalopalo tsa Afrika Borwa • Ezezibalo zaseNingizimu Afrika • Tshitatistika Afrika Tshipembe • Tinhlayohlayo Afrika-Dzonga  
Statistieke Suid-Afrika • Dipalopalo tša Afrika Borwa • Telubalo taseNingizimu Afrika • EzeeNkcukacha maNani zoMzantsi Afrika • Iimbalobalo zeSewula Afrika

**The South Africa I know, the home I understand**



***Issued by Statistics South Africa***

**For technical enquiries, contact:**

Ms Gwen Lehloenya  
Acting Deputy Director-General: Population and Social Statistics  
Tel: 012 310 9324  
Cell: 082 888 2323  
Email: [GwenL@statssa.gov.za](mailto:GwenL@statssa.gov.za)

Ms Malerato Mosiane  
Acting Chief Director: Labour Statistics  
Tel: 012 310 8688  
Cell: 082 888 2449  
Email: [MaleratoM@statssa.gov.za](mailto:MaleratoM@statssa.gov.za)

**For media enquires contact:**

Ms Lesedi Dibakwane  
Tel: 012 310 8578  
Cell: 082 805 7088  
Email: [LesediD@statssa.gov.za](mailto:LesediD@statssa.gov.za)