
Media Release-Quarterly Labour Force Survey

25 February 2016

Unemployment decreases in the fourth quarter of 2015

Employment grew by 1,2% or 190 000 in Q4:2015, followed by a decline in the number of unemployed persons by 225 000 resulting in a decline in the official unemployment rate by 1,0 percentage point to 24,5%.

The growth in employment resulted in the increase in the proportion of South Africans of working age who are employed (Absorption rate) by 0,4 of percentage point to 44,2%.

Employment levels increased in six industries during this period - large employment gains were observed in the Finance and other business services (113 000), Trade (80 000) and Community and social services (42 000) industries. However, job losses were recorded in the Agriculture (37 000), Manufacturing (36 000) and Construction (21 000).

Despite the increase in employment levels and the subsequent decrease in unemployment levels, 5,2 million persons remain unemployed of which;

- 65,7% are young person aged 15-34
- 57,6% did not complete secondary education (matric)

The expanded unemployment which includes those who were available to work but did not look for work in the reference period also declined by 117 000 to 8,2 million. This translated into a decline of 0,6 of a percentage point in the expanded unemployment rate to 33,8%.

Ends.

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