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Quarterly Labour Force Survey

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1. Introduction

The Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) is a household-based sample survey conducted by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). It collects data on the labour market activities of individuals aged 15 years and older who live in South Africa. However, this report only covers labour market activities of persons aged 15–64 years. The QLFS questionnaire was revised in Q3: 2025 in order to adhere to the most recent international labour statistics standards. These standards required additional questions and review of some questions based on the latest International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) resolutions (*i.e. 19th ICLS on Statistics on work, employment and labour underutilisation, 20th ICLS on Statistics on work relationships as well as 21st ICLS on statistics on informal economy*).

This report presents key findings of the QLFS conducted from January to March 2026 (Q1: 2026) based on the Q3:2025 updated questionnaire. These updates are part of Stats SA's ongoing efforts to ensure that South Africa's labour statistics remain relevant and internationally comparable. While these revisions strengthen how certain aspects of the labour market are captured, they do not affect the measurement or definition of employment and unemployment. Therefore, headline unemployment figures remain comparable and consistent with previous quarters. The report now includes other labour underutilisation indicators in addition to unemployment, primarily because unemployment is not the only measure of labour underutilisation. The concept of the Not Economically Active population has been changed to "Outside the Labour Force" with additional terms on "Potential labour force". The definitions of the formal/informal sector and formal/informal employment have undergone significant revisions; as a result, the Q1:2026 estimates on informality cannot be compared with the previous estimates other than the results of Q3:2025 and Q4:2025. (Please refer to concepts and definitions on page 16).

2. Highlights of the results

Table A: Key labour market indicators

	Jan-Mar 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand					%	
Population 15-64 years	41 691	42 068	42 189	121	498	0,3	1,2
Labour Force	25 015	24 935	24 891	-44	-124	-0,2	-0,5
Employed	16 787	17 099	16 754	-345	-33	-2,0	-0,2
Formal sector*		12 303	12 113	-189		-1,5	
Informal sector*		3 667	3 540	-127		-3,5	
Household sector	1 078	1 129	1 101	-28	23	-2,5	2,1
Unemployed	8 228	7 836	8 137	301	-91	3,8	-1,1
Outside the Labour Force	16 676	17 134	17 298	164	622	1,0	3,7
Potential Labour Force	4 480	4 611	4 851	240	371	5,2	8,3
Available job-seekers	4 464	4 569	4 802	233	338	5,1	7,6
Discouraged work-seekers	3 473	3 714	3 893	178	420	4,8	12,1
Other (available job-seekers)	991	855	910	55	-82	6,4	-8,2
Unavailable job-seekers	15	42	49	6	33	14,4	216,4
Other (Outside the labour force)	12 196	12 522	12 447	-75	251	-0,6	2,1
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)							
Labour force participation rate	60,0	59,3	59,0	-0,3	-1,0		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	40,3	40,6	39,7	-0,9	-0,6		
Inactivity rate	40,0	40,7	41,0	0,3	1,0		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)							
LU1- Unemployment rate	32,9	31,4	32,7	1,3	-0,2		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	36,0	34,3	35,9	1,6	-0,1		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	43,1	42,1	43,7	1,6	0,6		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	45,7	44,5	46,3	1,8	0,6		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals

** Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q1:2026 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.*

The working-age population grew by 121 000 (0,3%) in the first quarter of 2026 compared with the previous quarter. During the same period, the number of employed individuals decreased by 345 000 to 16,8 million, while the number of unemployed persons grew by 301 000 to reach 8,1 million. Consequently, the labour force decreased by 44 000 (0,2%) between the last quarter of 2025 and the first quarter of 2026. Employment in the formal, informal and household sectors declined by 189 thousand, 127 thousand and 28 thousand persons, respectively.

Between Q4: 2025 and Q1: 2026, the number of persons outside the labour force increased by 164 000 (1,0%) to 17,3 million. This rise was driven by a growth of 240 000 among those classified as potential labour force. The number of available job-seekers rose by 233 000 (5,1%), and unavailable job-seekers grew by 6 000, leading to a net increase of 240 000 in the potential labour force. Among available job-seekers, discouraged work-seekers increased by 178 000 (4,8%), and other available job-seekers increased by 55 000, resulting in an overall increase of 233 000 in this category.

A decrease in employment and an increase in unemployment resulted in an increase of 1,3 percentage points in the unemployment rate to 32,7% in the first quarter of 2026. The labour force participation rate decreased by 0,3 of a percentage point to 59,0%, and the absorption rate decreased by 0,9 of a percentage point to 39,7% between Q4: 2025 and Q1: 2026.

In addition to the unemployment rate, other measures of labour underutilisation were recommended: the combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment (LU2), as well as the combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force (LU3). The analysis also looked at the composite measure of labour underutilisation (LU4) that combines unemployment, time-related underemployment, and potential labour force. It is crucial that these indicators are understood as complementary and that they highlight persons in different situations with different degrees of attachment to the labour market.

The combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment (LU2) was recorded at 35,9% and the combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force (LU3) stood at 43,7% in the first quarter of 2026. The labour underutilisation rate (which is the composite measure of labour underutilisation) increased by 1,8 percentage points compared with Q4:2025, and it increased by 0,6 of a percentage point in Q1:2026 compared with the same quarter of the previous year.

Compared with Q1: 2025, the working-age population increased by 498 000 or (1,2%). Total employment decreased by 33 000 persons (or 0,2%), the number of unemployed persons decreased by 91 000 (or 1,1%), while the number of persons who were outside the labour force increased by 622 000 (or 3,7%) during the same period.

3. Employment

Figure 1: Quarter-to-quarter changes in employment, Q1: 2021 to Q1: 2026

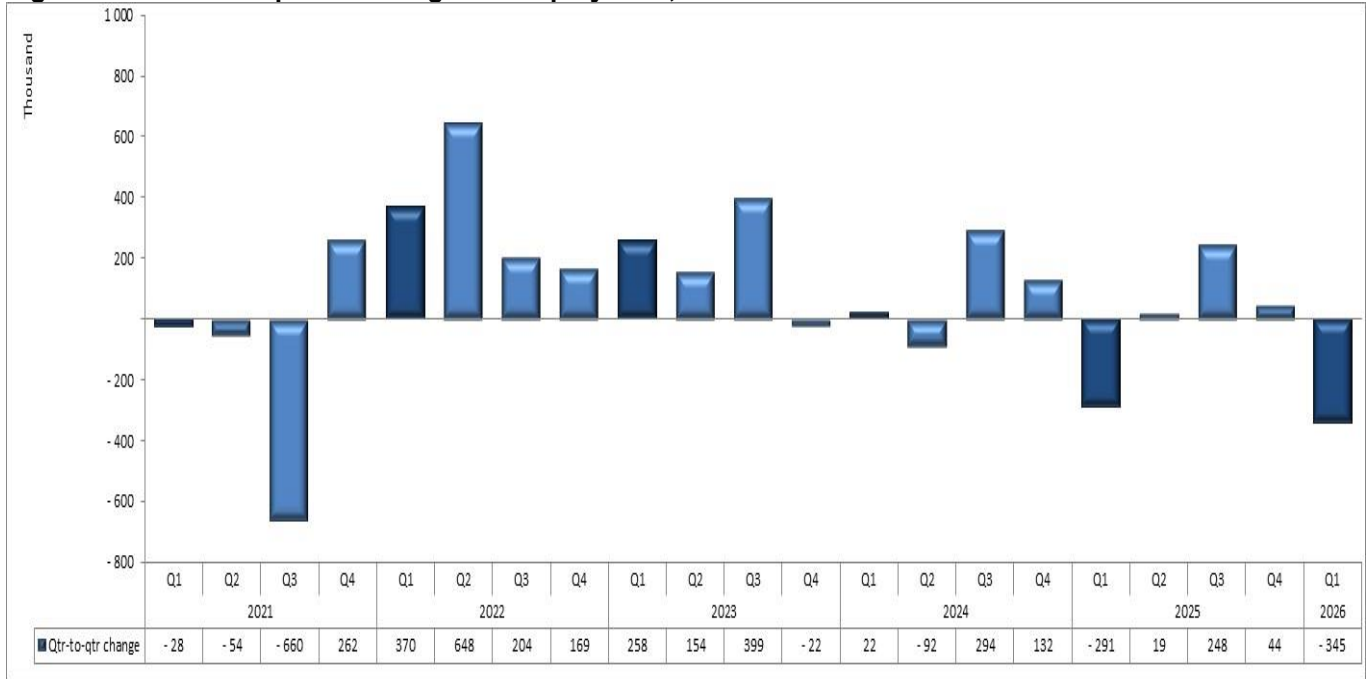


Figure 1 above, shows that following an increase of 44 000 in the previous quarter, employment decreased by 345 000 in the first quarter of 2026. Employment has been fluctuating in the first quarters of each year since the inception of the survey.

Table B: Employment by industry

Industry	Jan-Mar 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qtr-to-Qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-Qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand				%		
Total*	16 787	17 099	16 754	-345	-33	-2,0	-0,2
Agriculture	930	950	960	10	30	1,0	3,2
Mining	431	444	476	32	45	7,3	10,6
Manufacturing	1 677	1 548	1 587	38	-90	2,5	-5,4
Utilities	145	134	113	-21	-32	-15,5	-22,3
Construction	1 240	1 425	1 314	-110	75	-7,7	6,0
Trade	3 228	3 326	3 320	-6	92	-0,2	2,9
Transport	1 131	1 140	1 111	-30	-20	-2,6	-1,8
Finance	3 008	2 962	2 939	-23	-68	-0,8	-2,3
Community and social services	3 914	4 034	3 828	-206	-86	-5,1	-2,2
Private households	1 078	1 129	1 101	-28	23	-2,5	2,1

*Note: Total includes 'Other' industries.

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Note: Utilities refer to electricity, gas and water supply.

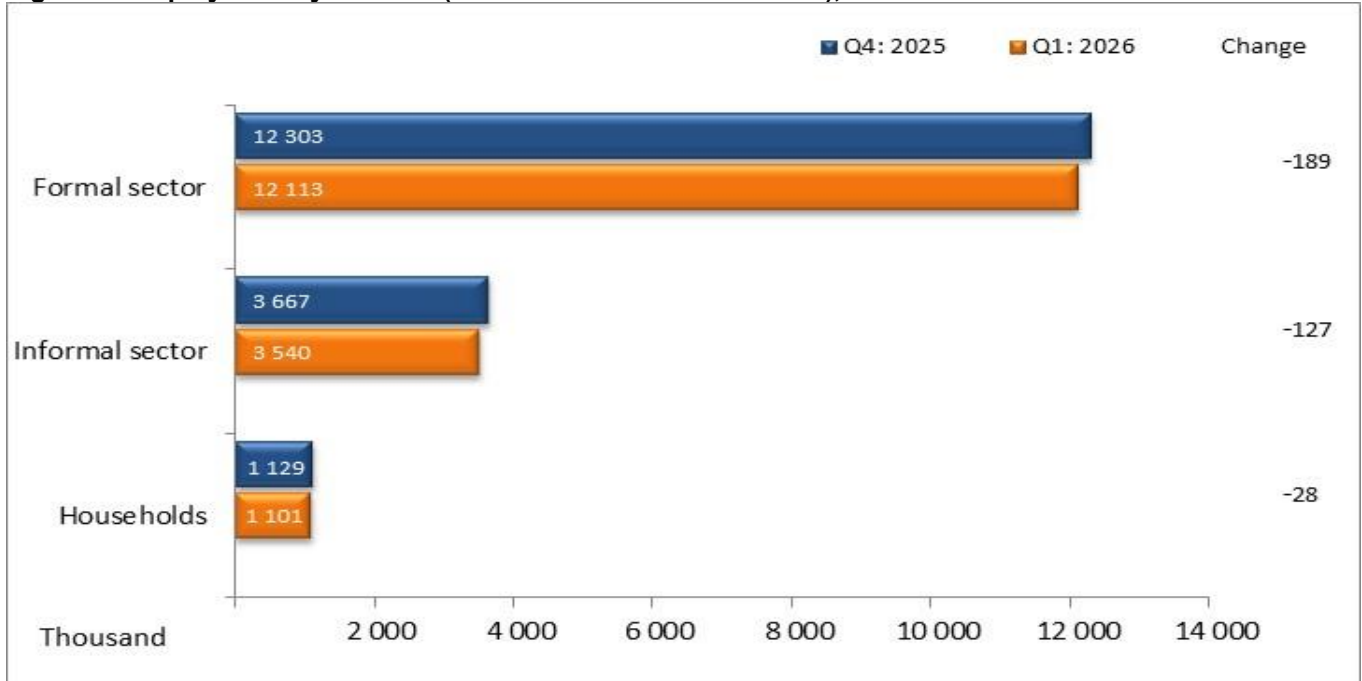
Trade refers to wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods; hotels and restaurants.

Finance refers to financial intermediation, insurance, real estate and business services.

Table B above, shows that between Q4: 2025 and Q1: 2026, the number of employed persons decreased in seven of the ten industries. The largest decreases in employment were recorded in the Community and social services industry (206 000), followed by Construction (110 000), Transport (30 000) and Private households (28 000) industries. Increases in employment were recorded in Manufacturing (38 000), followed by Mining (32 000) and Agriculture (10 000) industries.

Compared with the same period last year, a net decrease of 33 000 in total employment in Q1: 2026 was largely due to decreases in the number of persons employed in Manufacturing (90 000), Community and social services (86 000) and Finance (68 000) industries. Gains in employment were recorded in Trade (92 000), followed by Construction (75 000), Mining (45 000), Agriculture (30 000) and Private households (23 000).

Figure 2: Employment by sector – (based on 21st ICLS resolution), Q4: 2025 and Q1: 2026



Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals

** Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates from Q3:2025 to Q1:2026 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.*

Figure 2 above, illustrates the results of Q4: 2025 and Q1: 2026 employment by sector based on the 21st ICLS resolution which recommends the three sector categories, namely the formal sector (including Agriculture), informal sector (including Agriculture) and households’ sector. Between Q4: 2025 and Q1: 2026, the formal sector employment decreased by 189 000 persons, and informal sector and households sector decreased by 127 000 and 28 000 persons, respectively.

Table C: Employment by occupation

Occupation	Jan-Mar 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qtr-to-Qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-Qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand				%		
Total*	16 787	17 099	16 754	-345	-33	-2,0	-0,2
Manager	1 430	1 433	1 499	65	69	4,6	4,8
Professional	980	952	950	-2	-30	-0,2	-3,1
Technician	1 503	1 575	1 484	-91	-18	-5,8	-1,2
Clerk	1 854	1 820	1 791	-29	-63	-1,6	-3,4
Sales and services	2 929	3 079	2 934	-145	5	-4,7	0,2
Skilled agriculture	62	60	95	35	33	58,8	53,5
Craft and related trade	1 862	1 943	1 851	-91	-10	-4,7	-0,5
Plant and machine operator	1 386	1 427	1 459	31	73	2,2	5,3
Elementary	3 964	3 916	3 844	-72	-120	-1,8	-3,0
Domestic worker	818	855	844	-10	26	-1,2	3,2

*Note: Total includes 'Other' occupations.

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Seven out of ten occupational categories recorded employment losses in Q1: 2026 compared with Q4: 2025. Decreases in employment were observed in Sales and services occupations (145 000), followed by Technician and Craft and related trade (91 000 each), Elementary (72 000), Clerical (29 000), Domestic worker (10 000) and Professional occupations (2 000). During the same period, employment gains were recorded in Managerial occupations (65 000), followed by Skilled agriculture (35 000) and Plant and machine operators (31 000).

Year-on-year losses in employment were mainly driven by Elementary occupations (120 000), followed by Clerical (63 000) and Professional (30 000) occupations. Gains in employment were recorded among Plant and machine operators (73 000), Managerial (69 000), Skilled agriculture (33 000), Domestic worker (26 000) and Sales and services (5 000) occupations.

Table D: Employment by province

Province	Jan-Mar 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qtr-to-Qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-Qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand				%		
South Africa	16 787	17 099	16 754	-345	-33	-2,0	-0,2
Western Cape	2 861	2 907	2 883	-24	22	-0,8	0,8
Eastern Cape	1 373	1 377	1 333	-43	-39	-3,2	-2,9
Northern Cape	343	337	308	-29	-34	-8,5	-10,1
Free State	754	771	760	-11	6	-1,5	0,8
KwaZulu-Natal	2 788	2 716	2 722	6	-67	0,2	-2,4
North West	879	973	894	-80	15	-8,2	1,7
Gauteng	5 091	5 183	5 116	-67	25	-1,3	0,5
Mpumalanga	1 212	1 283	1 229	-54	18	-4,2	1,5
Limpopo	1 488	1 552	1 509	-43	21	-2,8	1,4

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

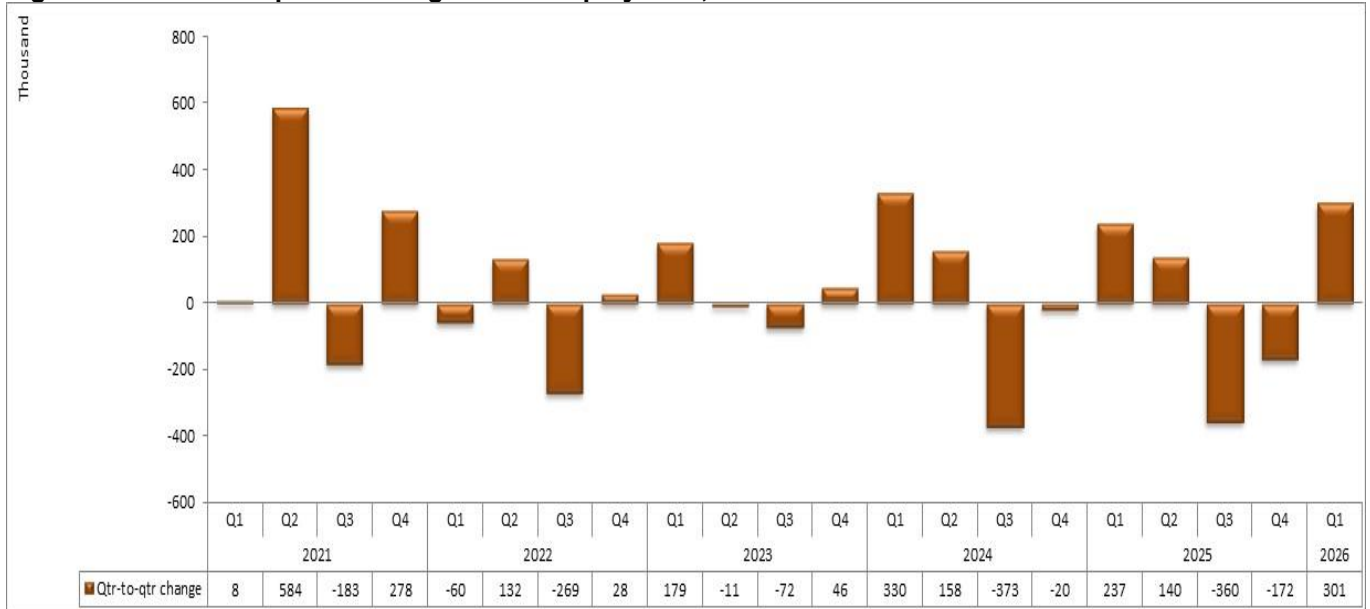
Table D above, shows employed persons decreased in eight provinces between Q4: 2025 and Q1: 2026. The largest employment losses were recorded in North West (80 000), Gauteng (67 000), Mpumalanga (54 000), Eastern Cape and Limpopo (43 000 each). During the same period, employment gain was only recorded in KwaZulu-Natal (6 000).

Compared with Q1: 2025, decreases in employment were recorded in KwaZulu-Natal (67 000), Eastern Cape (39 000) and Northern Cape (34 000). Six other provinces recorded increases in employment, with the largest in Gauteng (25 000), followed by Western Cape (22 000) and Limpopo (21 000).

4. Unemployment and not in employment, education or training (NEET)

4.1 Unemployment

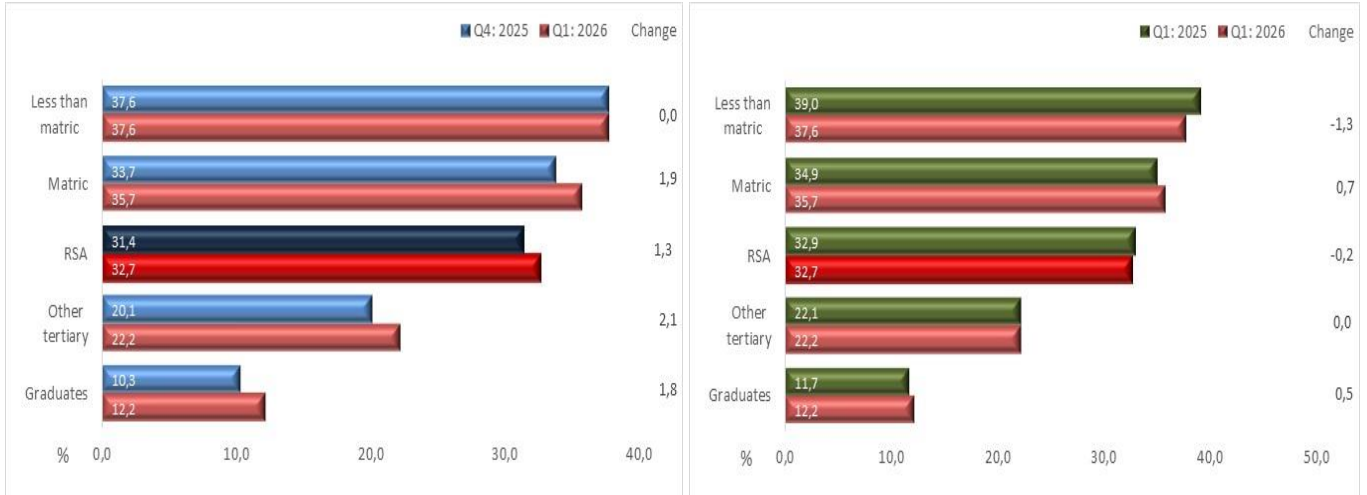
Figure 3: Quarter-to-quarter changes in unemployment, Q1: 2021 to Q1: 2026



The number of unemployed persons increased by 301 000 in Q1: 2026 following a decrease of 172 000 in the previous quarter. Notably, Figure 3 above, shows that unemployment increased in the first quarter of each year, except for the decrease observed in 2022.

Figure 4a: Unemployment rate by education level, Q4: 2025 and Q1: 2026

Figure 4b: Unemployment rate by education level, Q1: 2025 and Q1: 2026



Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Figures 4a above, shows that in Q1: 2026, individuals without matric recorded an unemployment rate of 37,6% (remained unchanged), while graduates had a rate of 12,2% (up by 1,8 percentage points) compared with the previous quarter. Unemployment rates for those with matric or lower educational qualifications exceeded the national rate, whereas individuals with other tertiary qualifications and graduates had rates below the national unemployment rate. Year-on-year comparisons indicated that the unemployment rate decreased among those with below matric but increased among matriculants and graduates, while those with other tertiary education levels remained virtually unchanged.

Table E: Unemployment rate by province

	Official unemployment rate					Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force (LU3)				
	Jan-Mar 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qtr-to-Qtr change	Year-on-year change	Jan-Mar 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qtr-to-Qtr change	Year-on-year change
	%			Percentage points		%			Percentage points	
South Africa	32,9	31,4	32,7	1,3	-0,2	43,1	42,1	43,7	1,6	0,6
Western Cape	19,6	18,1	19,6	1,5	0,0	24,8	23,7	24,8	1,1	0,0
Eastern Cape	39,3	42,5	44,6	2,1	5,3	49,0	51,4	54,4	3,0	5,4
Northern Cape	29,5	27,1	30,4	3,3	0,9	43,1	42,9	47,0	4,1	3,9
Free State	37,9	37,2	37,8	0,6	-0,1	44,9	44,1	44,3	0,2	-0,6
KwaZulu-Natal	32,3	32,3	31,2	-1,1	-1,1	46,9	47,1	47,2	0,1	0,3
North West	40,4	35,1	35,3	0,2	-5,1	56,0	50,9	54,8	3,9	-1,2
Gauteng	34,7	33,0	34,1	1,1	-0,6	40,1	39,4	40,6	1,2	0,5
Mpumalanga	35,4	32,3	36,3	4,0	0,9	49,3	46,3	49,6	3,3	0,3
Limpopo	33,3	28,2	31,7	3,5	-1,6	48,6	46,1	47,0	0,9	-1,6

The official unemployment rate increased by 1,3 percentage points to 32,7% in Q1: 2026 compared with Q4: 2025. The official unemployment rate increased in eight of the nine provinces. The largest increases were recorded in Mpumalanga (4,0 percentage points), followed by Limpopo (3,5 percentage points) and Northern Cape (3,3 percentage points). The only decrease in the unemployment rate was recorded in the KwaZulu-Natal (1,1 percentage points).

Year-on-year, the official unemployment rate decreased by 0,2 of a percentage point. The official unemployment rate decreased in five provinces. The largest decreases in the unemployment rate were recorded in North West (5,1 percentage points), followed by Limpopo (1,6 percentage points) and KwaZulu-Natal (1,1 percentage points). Increases in the unemployment rate were recorded in Eastern Cape (5,3 percentage points), Northern Cape and Mpumalanga (0,9 of a percentage point each), while Western Cape remained unchanged.

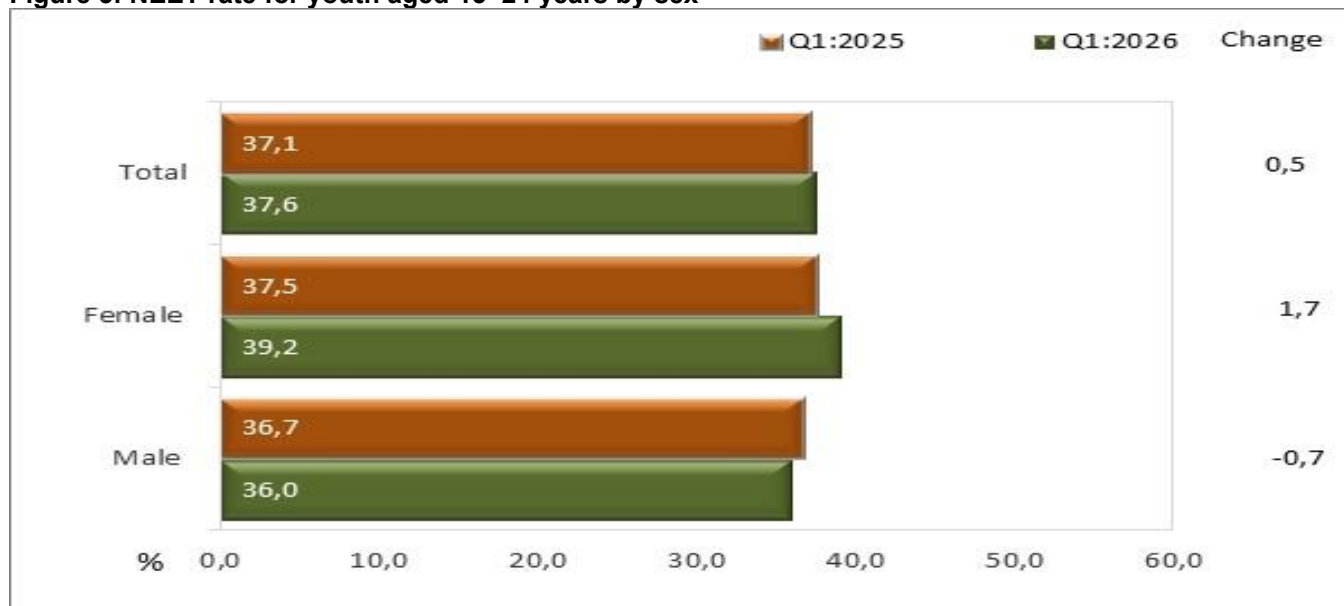
The combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force increased by 1,6 percentage points in Q1: 2026 compared with Q4: 2025. This rate increased in all provinces. The largest increases were recorded in Northern Cape (4,1 percentage points), followed by North West (3,9 percentage points), Mpumalanga (3,3 percentage points) and Eastern Cape (3,0 percentage points).

Compared with the same period last year, the combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force increased by 0,6 of a percentage point in Q1: 2026. Five out of nine provinces recorded increases in the combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force. The largest increases in the combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force were recorded in Eastern Cape (5,4 percentage points), followed by Northern Cape (3,9 percentage points) and Gauteng (0,5 of a percentage point). Decreases in the combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force were recorded in Limpopo (1,6 percentage points), North West (1,2 percentage points) and Free State (0,6 of a percentage point), while Western Cape remained unchanged.

4.2 Not in employment, education or training (NEET)

Some young persons have been disengaged from the labour market, and they are also not building on their skills base through education and training – they are not in employment, education or training (NEET). The NEET rate serves as an important additional labour market indicator for young persons.

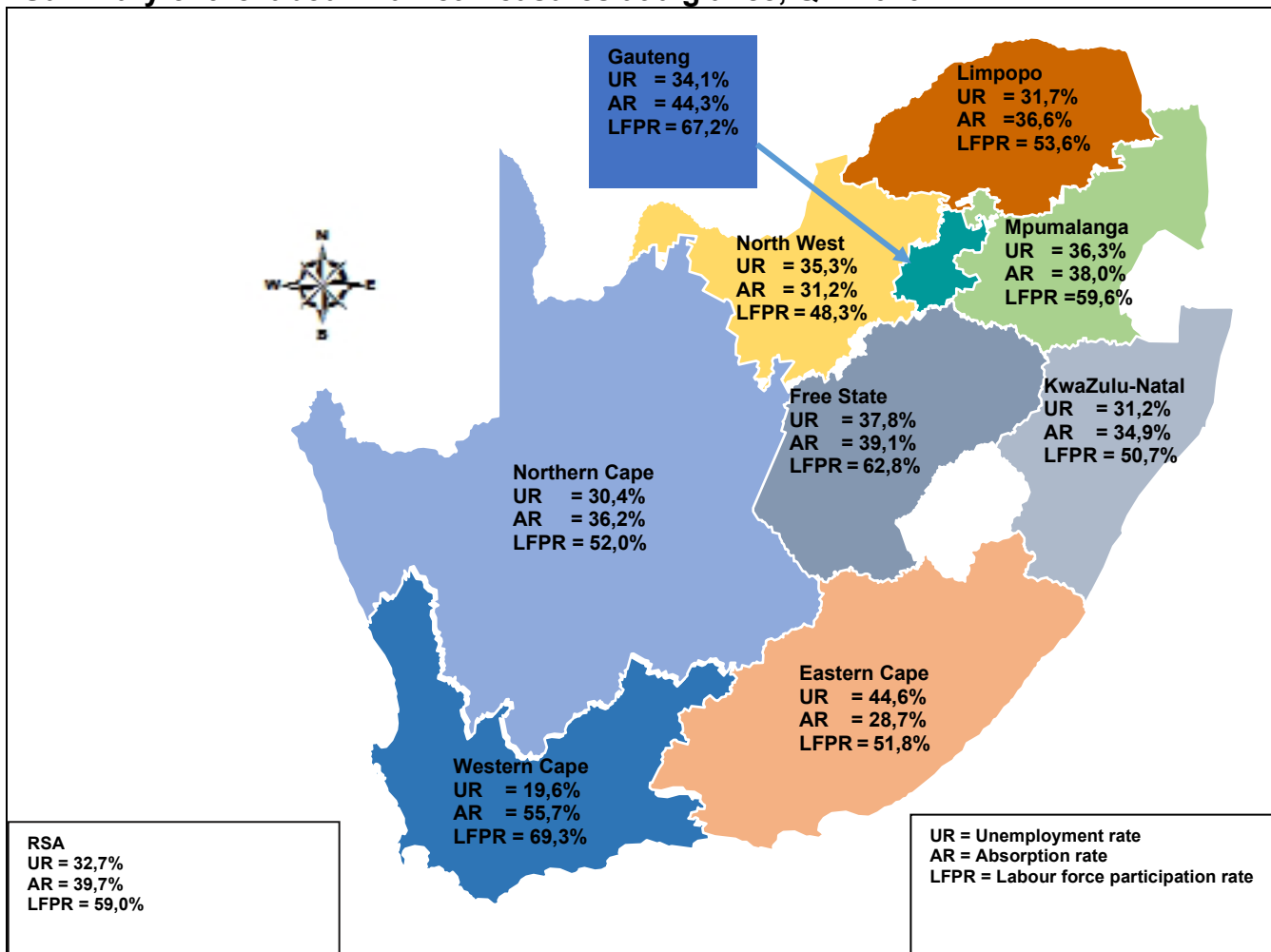
Figure 5: NEET rate for youth aged 15–24 years by sex



Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals

There were about 10,3 million young persons 15–24 years in Q1: 2026, of which 37,6% were not in employment, education or training. This is 0,5 of a percentage point higher than the NEET rate in Q1: 2025. In this age group, the NEET rate for females increased by 1,7 percentage points while the rate for males decreased by 0,7 of a percentage point. The NEET rate for females was higher than that of their male counterparts in both years.

5. Summary of the labour market measures at a glance, Q1: 2026

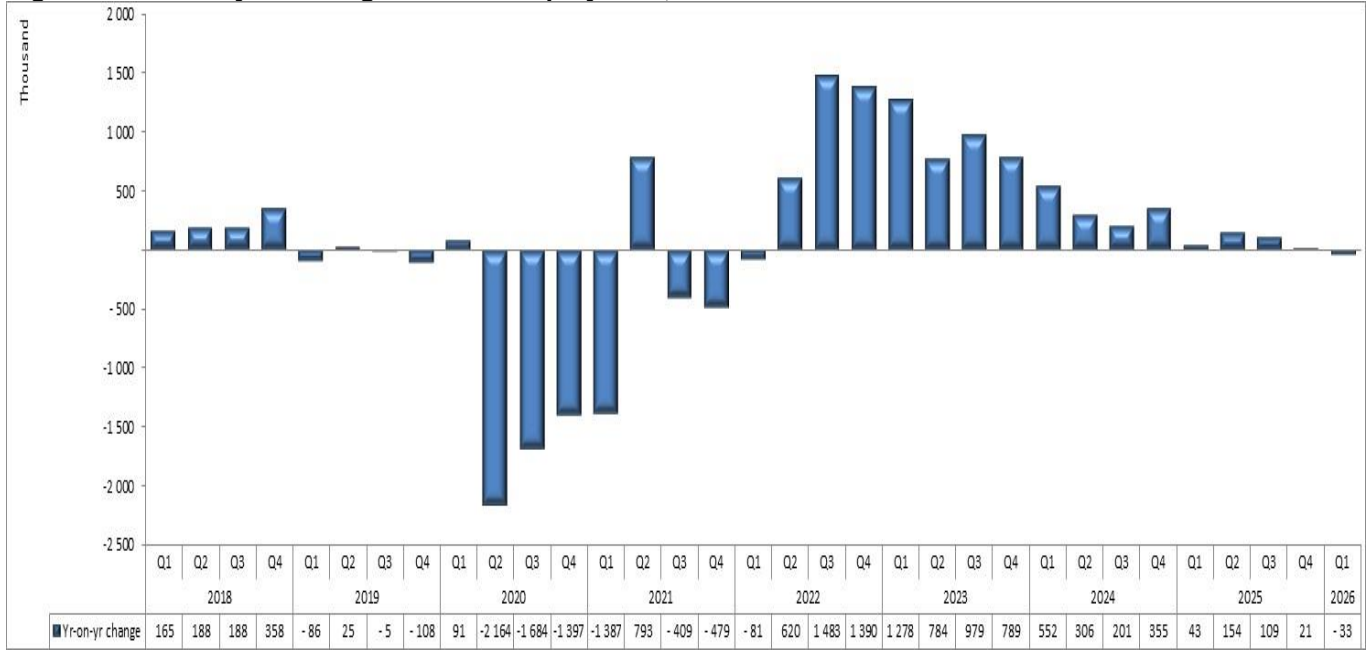


Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

6. Other labour market trends

6.1 Year-on-year changes

Figure 6: Year-on-year changes in total employment, Q1: 2018 to Q1: 2026



6.2 Trends in the unemployment rate

Figure 7: Unemployment rate by sex, Q1: 2018 to Q1: 2026

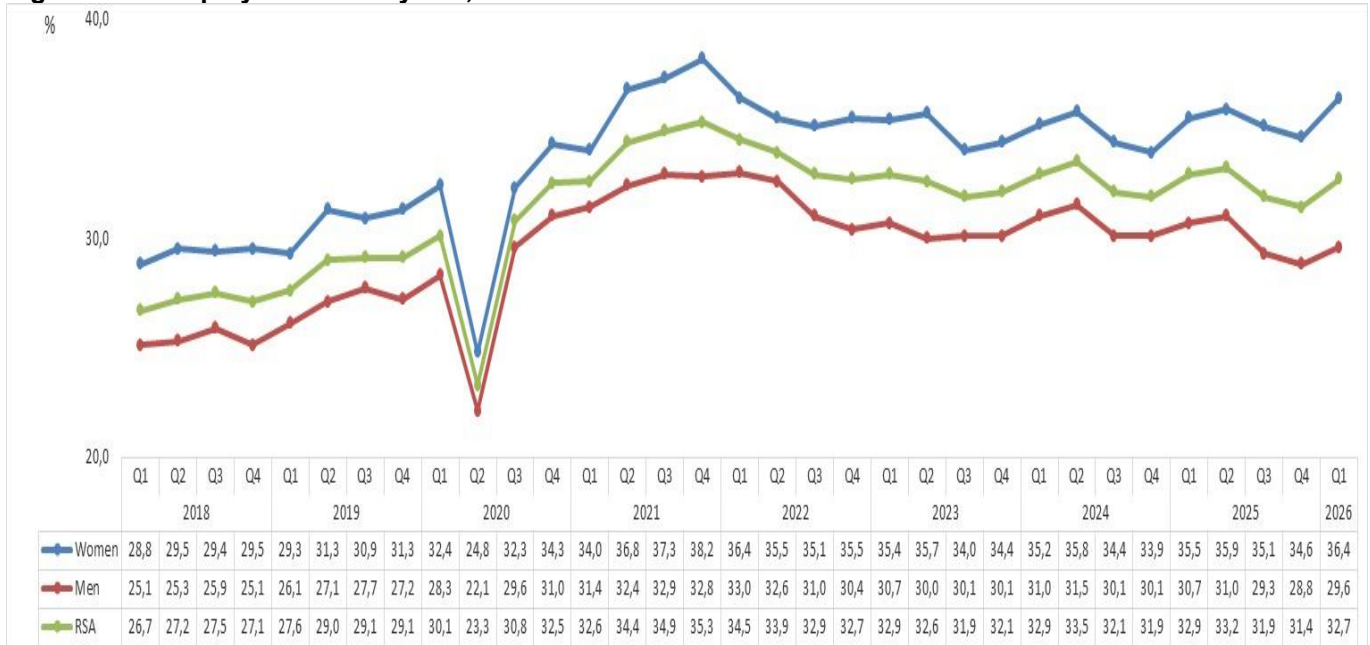
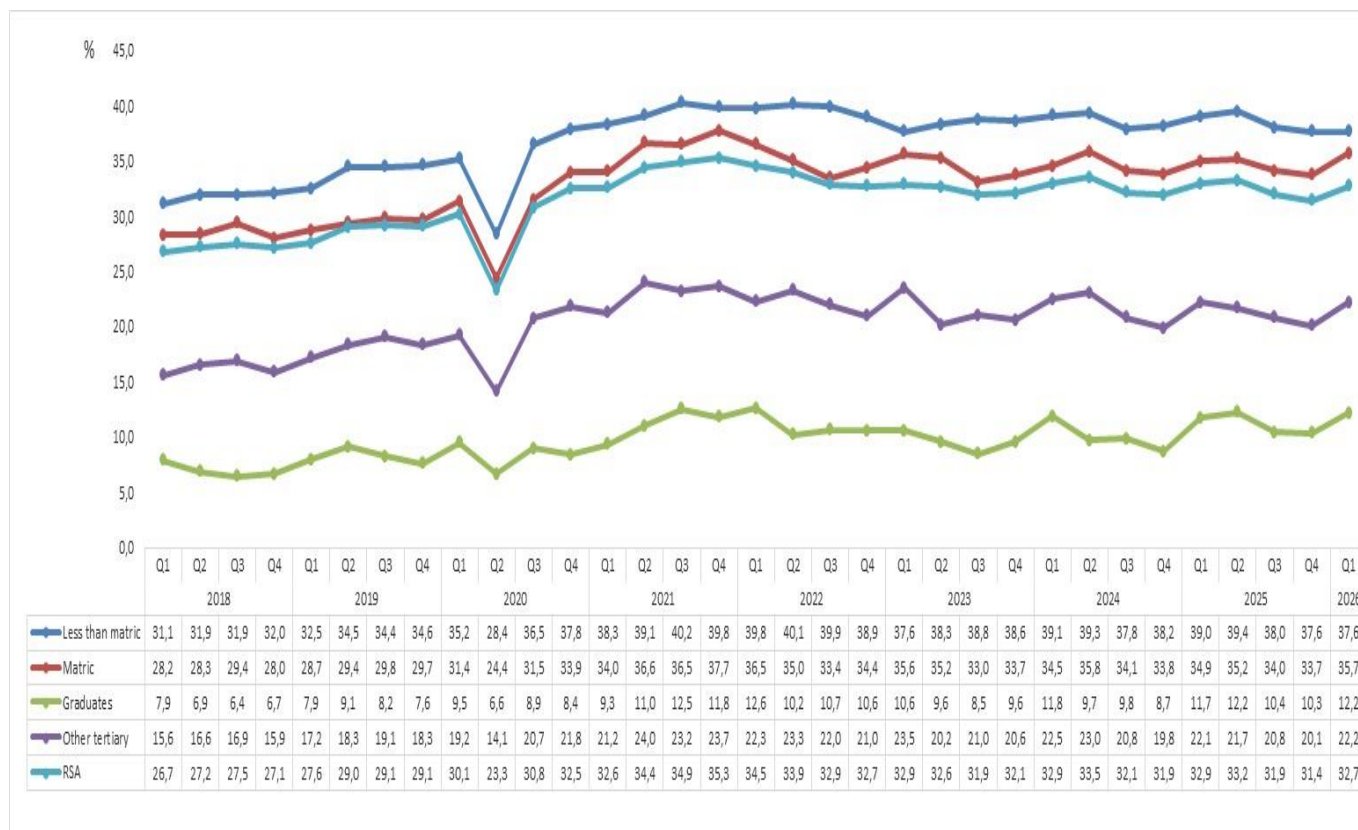


Figure 8: Unemployment rate by education status, Q1: 2018 to Q1: 2026



7. The Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) and the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES)

Stats SA conducts two official sources of employment statistics surveys: QES (which is establishment-based) and QLFS (which is household-based). Each survey has its strengths and limitations. For example, QES cannot provide information on the following:

- Description of the employed, e.g. their demographic profile, education level, hours of work, etc.; and
- Unemployment and descriptors of the unemployed.

QLFS is a survey of households which collects information from approximately 30 000 dwelling units and collects data on the labour market activities of individuals, whereas QES is an enterprise-based survey which collects information from non-agricultural businesses and organisations from approximately 20 000 units. Numerous conceptual and methodological differences between the household- and enterprise-based surveys result in important distinctions in employment estimates derived from surveys. Among these are:

- The household-based survey includes agricultural workers, self-employed workers whose businesses are unincorporated, unpaid family workers, and private household workers among the employed; these groups are excluded from the enterprise-based QES survey.
- The household-based survey is limited to workers 15 years of age and older, whereas the enterprise-based survey is not limited by age.
- The household-based survey has no duplication of individuals because individuals are counted only once, even if they hold more than one job. In the enterprise-based survey, employees working at more than one job and thus appearing on more than one payroll are counted separately for each appearance.
- QLFS includes registration of the business for VAT or income tax or keeping accounts for tax purposes is the key criterion or registered with Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC), while QES surveys includes formal sector enterprises with only VAT with annual turnover greater than R300 000.
- QLFS allows for proxy responses (a household member responding on behalf of the other). This can introduce misclassification of items, e.g. formal/informal classification.

Table F: Key differences between the QLFS and the QES

	QLFS	QES
Coverage	Private households and workers' hostels Non-institutional population (15 years and older) Total employment (including Informal sector, Private households, Agriculture and small businesses)	Payroll of VAT-registered businesses Employees only Formal sector, excluding Agriculture
Sample size	Quarterly sample of approximately 30 000 dwellings in which households reside	Quarterly sample of 20 000 non-agricultural formal-sector businesses
Reference period	One week prior to the interview	Payroll on the last day of the quarter
Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)	All industries	Excluding Agriculture and Private households
Formal sector definition	Registration for VAT or income tax or Registered with Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) Or keeping accounts for tax purposes	Employees on a payroll of VAT-registered businesses

8. Technical notes

8.1 Response details

Table G: Response rates by province and metropolitan area

Province / metropolitan area	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026
National	87,2	87,3
Western Cape	81,2	83,2
Non-metro	86,4	89,3
City of Cape Town	78,9	80,3
Eastern Cape	94,5	95,0
Non-metro	94,4	95,6
Buffalo City	94,7	95,9
Nelson Mandela Bay	94,5	92,4
Northern Cape	86,6	89,1
Free State	93,9	92,0
Non-metro	94,9	94,2
Mangaung	91,7	86,6
KwaZulu-Natal	91,8	91,5
Non-metro	92,8	92,2
eThekweni	90,2	90,3
North West	92,3	87,8
Gauteng	75,9	76,2
Non-metro	83,0	84,1
Ekurhuleni	79,1	79,4
City of Johannesburg	69,0	68,0
City of Tshwane	80,2	81,6
Mpumalanga	95,4	94,5
Limpopo	96,1	97,4

8.2 Survey requirements and design

QLFS uses the master sample frame (MSF) that has been developed as a general-purpose household survey frame that can be used by all other Stats SA household-based surveys having design requirements that are reasonably compatible with the QLFS. The 2013 master sample is based on information collected during the Census 2011 conducted by Stats SA. In preparation for Census 2011, the country was divided into 103 576 enumeration areas (EAs). Census EAs, together with auxiliary information for the EAs, were used as frame units or building blocks for formation of primary sampling units (PSUs) for the master sample. They covered the entire country and had other information that is crucial for stratification and creation of PSUs. There are 3 324 primary sampling units (PSUs) in the master sample, with an expected sample of approximately 33 000 dwelling units (DUs). The number of PSUs in the current master sample (3 324) reflects an 8,0% increase in the size of the master sample compared with the previous master sample in 2008 (which had 3 080 PSUs). The larger master sample of PSUs was selected to improve precision (smaller coefficients of variation, known as CVs) of the QLFS estimates.

The master sample is designed to be representative at provincial level and at metro/non-metro levels. Within metros, the sample is further distributed by geographical type. The three geography types used are Urban, Tribal and Farms. This implies, for example, that within a metropolitan area the sample is representative of different geography types that may exist within that metro.

It is divided equally into four subgroups or panels called rotation groups. Rotation groups are designed in such a way that each of these groups have the same distribution pattern as that which is observed in the whole sample. They are numbered from one (1) to four (4), and these numbers also correspond to the quarters of the year in which the sample will be rotated for the particular group.

A sample for the QLFS is based on a stratified two-stage design with probability proportional to size (PPS) sampling of PSUs in the first stage, and sampling of dwelling units (DUs) with systematic sampling in the second stage.

8.3 Sample rotation

For each quarter of the QLFS, a quarter of the sampled dwellings are rotated out of the sample. These dwellings are replaced by new dwellings from the same PSU or the next PSU on the list. Thus, sampled dwellings are expected to remain in the sample for four consecutive quarters. It should be noted that the sampling unit is the dwelling, and the unit of observation is the household. Therefore, if a household moves out of a dwelling after being in the sample for two quarters (for example) and a new household moves in, the new household will be enumerated for the next two quarters. If no household moves into the sampled dwelling, the dwelling will be classified as vacant (or unoccupied).

8.4 Weighting

Sample weights were constructed in order to account for: the original selection probabilities (design weights); adjustments for PSUs that were sub-sampled or segmented; excluded population from the sampling frame (EAs with insufficient DUs); non-response; weight trimming; benchmarking to known population estimates from the Demographic Analysis Chief Directorate within Stats SA.

8.4.1 Non-response adjustment

In general, imputation is used for item non-response (i.e. blanks within the questionnaire) and edit failures (i.e. invalid or inconsistent responses). Eligible households in sampled dwellings can be divided into two response categories: respondents and non-respondents. Weight adjustment is applied to account for the non-respondent households (e.g. refusal, no contact, etc.). Adjustment for total non-response was computed at two levels of non-response: PSU non-response and household non-response.

8.4.2 Calibrated survey weights

Calibrated sample weights are constructed such that all individuals within a household are assigned the same adjusted base weight. Adjusted base weights are calibrated such that the aggregate totals will match with independently derived population estimates (from the Stats SA Demographic Analysis Chief Directorate) for various age, race and gender groups at national level and individual metropolitan and non-metropolitan area levels within provinces. Calibrated weights are constructed using the constraint that each person within the same household, should have the same calibrated weight, with a lower bound on the calibrated weights set at 50.

8.5 Estimation

Final survey weights are used to obtain the estimates for various domains of interest, e.g. number of persons employed in Agriculture in Western Cape, the number of females employed in Manufacturing, etc.

8.6 Reliability of the survey estimates

Since estimates are based on sample data, they differ from figures that would have been obtained from complete enumeration of the population using the same instrument. Results are subject to both sampling and non-sampling errors. Non-sampling errors include biases from inaccurate reporting, processing, and tabulation, etc., as well as errors from non-responses and incomplete reporting. These types of errors cannot be measured readily. However, to some extent, non-sampling errors can be minimised through the procedures used for data collection, editing, quality control, and non-response adjustment. The variances of the survey estimates are used to measure sampling errors.

(i) Variance estimation

Most commonly used methods for estimating variances of survey estimates from complex surveys such as the QLFS are the Taylor-series Linearization, Jack-knife Replication, Balanced Repeated Replication (BRR), and Bootstrap methods (Wolter, 2007).¹ The Fay's BRR method has been used for variance estimation in the QLFS because of its simplicity.

(ii) Coefficient of variation

It is more useful in many situations to assess the size of standard error relative to magnitude of the characteristic being measured (the standard error is defined as the square root of the variance). The **coefficient of variation** (cv) provides such a measure. It is the **ratio of the standard error of the survey estimate to the value of the estimate itself expressed as a percentage**. It is very useful in comparing the precision of several different survey estimates, where their sizes or scales differ from one another.

(iii) P-value of an estimate of change

The p-value corresponding to an estimate of change is the probability of observing a value larger than the particular observed value under the hypothesis that there is no real change. If the p-value $< 0,01$, the difference is highly significant; if p-value is between 0,01 and 0,05, the difference is significant; and if p-value $> 0,05$, the difference is not significant.

¹Wolter, K.M. 2007. *Introduction to Variance Estimation, 2nd Edition*. New York: Springer-Verlag.
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9. Concepts and definitions

Available potential job-seekers: Persons outside the labour force who did not carry out activities to seek employment but wanted employment and were currently available.

Contributing- family workers: Are workers who help, without receiving regular pay, in a job or market-oriented enterprise held or operated by a household or family member.

Dependent contractor: These are workers who have contractual arrangements of a commercial nature (but not a contract of employment) to provide goods or services for or through another economic unit on which they are dependent for the organization and execution of the work, income or access to the market.

Discouraged work-seeker is a person who was not employed during the reference period, wanted to work, was available to work/start a business but did not take active steps to find work during the last four weeks, provided that the main reason given for not seeking work was any of the following: no jobs available in the area; unable to find work requiring his/her skills; lost hope of finding any kind of work.

Economic activities are those activities that contribute to the production of goods and services in the country. There are two types of economic activities, namely: (1) Market production activities (work done for others and usually associated with pay or profit); and (2) Non-market production activities (work done for the benefit of the household, e.g. subsistence farming).

Employed persons are those aged 15–64 years who, during the reference week, did any work for at least one hour, or had a job or business but were not at work (i.e. were temporarily absent).

Employment-to-population ratio (labour absorption rate) is the proportion of the working-age population that is employed.

Employees: are workers employed for pay, on a formal or informal basis, who do not hold controlling ownership of the economic unit in which they are employed. They are remunerated in cash or in kind in return for time worked, or, in some cases, for each task or piece of work done or for services provided including sales (by the piece or commission).

Employers in corporations: are independent workers who, on their own-account or in partnership with others, own and control the activities of an incorporated enterprise that regularly employs one or more employees.

Employers in household market enterprises: are independent workers who, on their own account or in partnership with others, own and control the activities of an unincorporated market enterprise that regularly employs one or more employees.

Employers: are independent workers who own the economic unit in which they work and control its activities on their own account or in partnership with others, and in this capacity regularly employ one or more employees.

Fixed-term employees: are employees who are employed on a time-limited basis for a period of three months or more and who are guaranteed a minimum number of hours or amount of work.

Formal sector: Comprising economic unit that is formally recognized as distinct producer of goods and services for the consumption of others;

Formal sector has the following components

- being owned or controlled by the government; or
- being recognized as separate legal entities from their owners or
- Registration for VAT or Income tax or
- Keeping accounts for tax purposes or
- Registered in a governmentally established system of registration (i.e CIPC);

Informal employment identifies persons who are in precarious employment situations, irrespective of whether or not the entity for which they work is in the formal or informal sector. Persons in informal employment, therefore, comprise all persons in the informal sector, employees in the formal sector, and persons working in private households who are not entitled to or receive basic benefits such as pension or paid leave and sick leave.

Informal sector: comprising economic unit whose production is mainly intended for the market with the purpose of generating income and profit, but that is not formally recognized as producers of goods and services distinct from the own-use production of the owner-operators' household.

The informal sector does **not** comply with any of the following components:

- being owned or controlled by the government; or
- being recognized as separate legal entities from their owners or
- Registration for VAT or Income tax or
- Keeping accounts for tax purposes or
- Registered in a governmentally established system of registration (i.e CIPC);

Independent workers without employees: are independent workers who operate an economic unit, alone or in partnership with others, that does not employ any employees on a regular basis. The economic unit which they operate may be incorporated or unincorporated.

Institutional sector of employment refers to the kind of economic unit in which the person is employed, as defined by its legal organisation, principal functions, behaviour and objectives. It is a characteristic of the economic unit in which the person is employed.

The **labour force** comprises all persons who are employed, plus all persons who are unemployed.

Labour force participation rate is the proportion of the working-age population that is either employed or unemployed.

Long-term unemployment: Persons in long-term unemployment are those individuals among the unemployed who were without work and trying to find a job or start a business for one year or more.

Labour underutilisation refers to mismatches between labour supply and demand which translates into an unmet need for employment among the population. The measure of Labour underutilisation includes: Time-related underemployment, Unemployment, and Potential labour force.

Outside the Labour Force (*previously Not economically Active*): Persons aged 15–64 years who are neither employed nor unemployed in the reference period.

Own-account workers in household market enterprises without employees: are independent workers who operate an unincorporated household market enterprise, alone or with one or more partners or contributing family workers and do not regularly employ any employees.

Owner-operators of corporations without employees: are independent workers who hold a job in an incorporated enterprise in which they hold controlling ownership of the enterprise, alone or together with one or more partners and /or with family members and does not employ any employees on a regular basis.

Paid apprentices and interns are employees who work for pay in an economic unit to acquire workplace experience or skills in a trade or profession. They may be formal or informal and may or may not receive a certification for the training experience.

Permanent employees (or with contracts without limit of time): are employees who are employed on an ongoing or indefinite basis and guaranteed a minimum number of hours or amount of work. It includes recently appointed employees with jobs that are subject to an initial trial period but who are expected to continue indefinitely.

Potential Labour Force: The potential labour force includes persons who are not in the labour force, but are either available for work but not actively seeking employment or actively seeking employment but not currently available to work.

(a) carried out activities to “seek employment”, were not “currently available” but would become available within a short subsequent period (i.e. unavailable jobseekers); or

(b) did not carry out activities to “seek employment”, but wanted employment and were “currently available” (i.e. available potential jobseekers).

Short-term and casual employees: are employees with short-term employment arrangements and/or without a guaranteed minimum number of hours or amount of work per pay period. It excludes paid apprentices, interns, trainees with short-term employment arrangements.

Status in employment: Status in employment refers to the type of work relationship a person has in his/her job, taking into account the kind of economic risk and degree of authority that the person experiences in their job.

Time related underemployment: Time-related underemployment refers to the number of employed persons whose hours of work in the reference period are insufficient in relation to a more desirable employment situation in which the person is willing and available to engage.

Unavailable jobseekers: Persons outside the labour force who carried out activities to seek employment, were not currently available but would become available within a short subsequent period.

Persons in **underemployment (time-related)** are employed persons who were willing and available to work additional hours, whose total number of hours actually worked during the reference period were below 35 hours per week.

Unemployed persons according to the **Official definition** are those (aged 15–64 years) who:

- a) were not employed in the reference week; **and**
- b) actively looked for work or tried to start a business in the four weeks preceding the survey interview; **and**
- c) were available for work, i.e. would have been able to start work or a business in the reference week; **or**
- d) had not actively looked for work in the past four weeks but had a job or business to start at a definite date in the future and were available.

Unemployment rate is the proportion of the labour force that is unemployed.

Willing non-jobseekers: Persons not in employment who wanted employment but did not seek employment and were not currently available.

Working age population: The working age population consists of all individuals aged 15 years and older who are considered capable of working regardless of their employment status.

Appendix 1

Table 1: Population of working age (15-64 years)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Both sexes	41 691	41 822	41 948	42 068	42 189	121	498	0,3	1,2
Women	20 982	21 043	21 103	21 158	21 214	56	232	0,3	1,1
Men	20 709	20 778	20 846	20 910	20 975	65	266	0,3	1,3
Population groups	41 691	41 822	41 948	42 068	42 189	121	498	0,3	1,2
Black/African	34 270	34 403	34 532	34 656	34 779	123	509	0,4	1,5
Coloured	3 620	3 624	3 629	3 633	3 637	4	17	0,1	0,5
Indian/Asian	1 060	1 062	1 064	1 066	1 068	2	8	0,2	0,7
White	2 741	2 733	2 724	2 715	2 706	-9	-36	-0,3	-1,3
South Africa	41 691	41 822	41 948	42 068	42 189	121	498	0,3	1,2
Western Cape	5 108	5 126	5 143	5 160	5 176	17	68	0,3	1,3
Eastern Cape	4 592	4 605	4 618	4 629	4 641	12	49	0,3	1,1
Northern Cape	844	846	847	849	850	1	6	0,2	0,7
Free State	1 942	1 943	1 944	1 944	1 944	0	2	0,0	0,1
KwaZulu Natal	7 707	7 732	7 756	7 779	7 802	23	95	0,3	1,2
North West	2 826	2 834	2 843	2 851	2 860	8	34	0,3	1,2
Gauteng	11 399	11 440	11 480	11 518	11 557	39	158	0,3	1,4
Mpumalanga	3 199	3 209	3 219	3 228	3 237	9	39	0,3	1,2
Limpopo	4 074	4 086	4 098	4 110	4 121	11	47	0,3	1,2

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 2: Labour force characteristics by sex - All population groups									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Both sexes									
Population 15-64 years	41 691	41 822	41 948	42 068	42 189	121	498	0,3	1,2
Labour Force	25 015	25 174	25 062	24 935	24 891	-44	-124	-0,2	-0,5
Employed	16 787	16 807	17 055	17 099	16 754	-345	-33	-2,0	-0,2
Formal sector			11 983	12 303	12 113	-189		-1,5	
Informal sector			3 961	3 667	3 540	-127		-3,5	
Household sector	1 078	1 106	1 111	1 129	1 101	-28	23	-2,5	2,1
Unemployed	8 228	8 367	8 007	7 836	8 137	301	-91	3,8	-1,1
Outside the Labour Force	16 676	16 648	16 886	17 134	17 298	164	622	1,0	3,7
Potential Labour Force	4 480	4 299	4 529	4 611	4 851	240	371	5,2	8,3
Available potential jobseekers	4 464	4 280	4 446	4 569	4 802	233	338	5,1	7,6
Discouraged work-seekers	3 473	3 445	3 481	3 714	3 893	178	420	4,8	12,1
Other (available potential jobseekers)	991	836	965	855	910	55	-82	6,4	-8,2
Unavailable jobseekers	15	19	83	42	49	6	33	14,4	216,4
Other (Outside the labour force)	12 196	12 348	12 357	12 522	12 447	-75	251	-0,6	2,1
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	60,0	60,2	59,7	59,3	59,0	-0,3	-1,0		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	40,3	40,2	40,7	40,6	39,7	-0,9	-0,6		
Inactivity rate	40,0	39,8	40,3	40,7	41,0	0,3	1,0		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	32,9	33,2	31,9	31,4	32,7	1,3	-0,2		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	36,0	36,1	34,9	34,3	35,9	1,6	-0,1		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	43,1	43,0	42,4	42,1	43,7	1,6	0,6		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	45,7	45,4	44,9	44,5	46,3	1,8	0,6		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q1:2026 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 2: Labour force characteristics by sex - All population groups (continued)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Women									
Population 15-64 years	20 982	21 043	21 103	21 158	21 214	56	232	0,3	1,1
Labour Force	11 491	11 549	11 450	11 419	11 418	-1	-72	0,0	-0,6
Employed	7 412	7 400	7 429	7 470	7 264	-206	-148	-2,8	-2,0
Formal sector			5 318	5 465	5 350	-115		-2,1	
Informal sector			1 292	1 161	1 096	-65		-5,6	
Household sector	830	840	819	844	818	-26	-12	-3,1	-1,5
Unemployed	4 078	4 149	4 020	3 949	4 154	205	76	5,2	1,9
Outside the Labour Force	9 491	9 494	9 653	9 739	9 796	57	304	0,6	3,2
Potential Labour Force	2 516	2 432	2 554	2 569	2 723	155	208	6,0	8,3
Available potential jobseekers	2 509	2 424	2 504	2 541	2 693	153	185	6,0	7,4
Discouraged work-seekers	1 895	1 912	1 884	1 982	2 112	130	217	6,5	11,4
Other (available potential jobseekers)	613	511	621	558	581	23	-32	4,1	-5,2
Unavailable jobseekers	7	9	49	28	30	2	23	8,1	316,2
Other (Outside the Labour Force)	6 975	7 062	7 099	7 171	7 072	-98	97	-1,4	1,4
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	54,8	54,9	54,3	54,0	53,8	-0,2	-1,0		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	35,3	35,2	35,2	35,3	34,2	-1,1	-1,1		
Inactivity rate	45,2	45,1	45,7	46,0	46,2	0,2	1,0		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	35,5	35,9	35,1	34,6	36,4	1,8	0,9		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	39,1	39,2	38,6	37,9	40,3	2,4	1,2		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	47,1	47,1	46,9	46,6	48,6	2,0	1,5		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	50,0	49,8	49,8	49,3	51,8	2,5	1,8		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q1:2026 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 2: Labour force characteristics by sex - All population groups (concluded)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Men									
Population 15-64 years	20 709	20 778	20 846	20 910	20 975	65	266	0,3	1,3
Labour Force	13 524	13 625	13 613	13 516	13 473	-43	-52	-0,3	-0,4
Employed	9 375	9 407	9 625	9 629	9 490	-139	115	-1,4	1,2
Formal sector			6 665	6 838	6 763	-75		-1,1	
Informal sector			2 668	2 506	2 443	-62		-2,5	
Household sector	248	266	292	285	283	-2	35	-0,6	14,1
Unemployed	4 150	4 218	3 987	3 887	3 983	96	-167	2,5	-4,0
Outside the Labour Force	7 185	7 153	7 233	7 395	7 502	108	318	1,5	4,4
Potential Labour Force	1 964	1 867	1 975	2 043	2 128	85	164	4,1	8,3
Available potential jobseekers	1 956	1 857	1 941	2 028	2 109	81	153	4,0	7,8
Discouraged work-seekers	1 578	1 532	1 597	1 732	1 781	49	203	2,8	12,9
Other (available potential jobseekers)	378	324	344	296	328	32	-50	10,8	-13,1
Unavailable jobseekers	8	10	34	15	18	4	10	26,3	126,9
Other (Outside the Labour Force)	5 221	5 286	5 258	5 352	5 375	23	154	0,4	2,9
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	65,3	65,6	65,3	64,6	64,2	-0,4	-1,1		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	45,3	45,3	46,2	46,0	45,2	-0,8	-0,1		
Inactivity rate	34,7	34,4	34,7	35,4	35,8	0,4	1,1		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	30,7	31,0	29,3	28,8	29,6	0,8	-1,1		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	33,4	33,4	31,9	31,2	32,1	0,9	-1,3		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	39,5	39,3	38,3	38,1	39,2	1,1	-0,3		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	41,9	41,4	40,5	40,2	41,4	1,2	-0,5		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q1:2026 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 2.1: Labour force characteristics by population group									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
South Africa									
Population 15-64 years	41 691	41 822	41 948	42 068	42 189	121	498	0,3	1,2
Labour Force	25 015	25 174	25 062	24 935	24 891	-44	-124	-0,2	-0,5
Employed	16 787	16 807	17 055	17 099	16 754	-345	-33	-2,0	-0,2
Unemployed	8 228	8 367	8 007	7 836	8 137	301	-91	3,8	-1,1
Outside the Labour Force	16 676	16 648	16 886	17 134	17 298	164	622	1,0	3,7
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	60,0	60,2	59,7	59,3	59,0	-0,3	-1,0		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	40,3	40,2	40,7	40,6	39,7	-0,9	-0,6		
Inactivity rate	40,0	39,8	40,3	40,7	41,0	0,3	1,0		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	32,9	33,2	31,9	31,4	32,7	1,3	-0,2		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	36,0	36,1	34,9	34,3	35,9	1,6	-0,1		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	43,1	43,0	42,4	42,1	43,7	1,6	0,6		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	45,7	45,4	44,9	44,5	46,3	1,8	0,6		
Black/African									
Population 15-64 years	34 270	34 403	34 532	34 656	34 779	123	509	0,4	1,5
Labour Force	20 196	20 434	20 370	20 179	20 172	-7	-24	0,0	-0,1
Employed	12 727	12 848	13 082	13 058	12 823	-236	96	-1,8	0,8
Unemployed	7 469	7 586	7 289	7 121	7 349	229	-120	3,2	-1,6
Outside the Labour Force	14 074	13 969	14 162	14 476	14 607	131	533	0,9	3,8
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	58,9	59,4	59,0	58,2	58,0	-0,2	-0,9		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	37,1	37,3	37,9	37,7	36,9	-0,8	-0,2		
Inactivity rate	41,1	40,6	41,0	41,8	42,0	0,2	0,9		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	37,0	37,1	35,8	35,3	36,4	1,1	-0,6		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	40,5	40,2	39,1	38,5	40,0	1,5	-0,5		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	47,6	47,0	46,4	46,3	47,8	1,5	0,2		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	50,4	49,6	49,1	49,0	50,7	1,7	0,3		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 2.1: Labour force characteristics by population group (continued)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Coloured									
Population 15-64 years	3 620	3 624	3 629	3 633	3 637	4	17	0,1	0,5
Labour Force	2 263	2 215	2 167	2 215	2 221	6	-42	0,3	-1,8
Employed	1 730	1 683	1 687	1 746	1 691	-55	-39	-3,1	-2,2
Unemployed	533	532	479	469	530	61	-3	13,0	-0,6
Outside the Labour Force	1 357	1 409	1 462	1 418	1 415	-2	58	-0,2	4,3
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	62,5	61,1	59,7	61,0	61,1	0,1	-1,4		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	47,8	46,4	46,5	48,1	46,5	-1,6	-1,3		
Inactivity rate	37,5	38,9	40,3	39,0	38,9	-0,1	1,4		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	23,6	24,0	22,1	21,2	23,9	2,7	0,3		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	26,1	26,2	24,8	23,4	26,1	2,7	0,0		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	32,7	34,6	33,4	31,7	33,5	1,8	0,8		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	35,0	36,4	35,6	33,6	35,5	1,9	0,5		
Indian/Asian									
Population 15-64 years	1 060	1 062	1 064	1 066	1 068	2	8	0,2	0,7
Labour Force	649	621	593	620	614	-7	-35	-1,1	-5,4
Employed	562	527	510	529	530	1	-32	0,1	-5,8
Unemployed	86	94	83	91	84	-7	-3	-8,0	-3,1
Outside the Labour Force	411	441	471	445	454	9	43	1,9	10,5
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	61,2	58,5	55,7	58,2	57,5	-0,7	-3,7		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	53,1	49,7	48,0	49,7	49,7	0,0	-3,4		
Inactivity rate	38,8	41,5	44,3	41,8	42,5	0,7	3,7		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	13,3	15,1	13,9	14,7	13,6	-1,1	0,3		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	13,5	16,1	15,5	15,0	14,5	-0,5	1,0		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	20,3	21,2	24,0	23,6	22,2	-1,4	1,9		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	20,4	22,1	25,4	23,9	22,9	-1,0	2,5		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Quarter 1: 2026

Table 2.1: Labour force characteristics by population group (concluded)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
White									
Population 15-64 years	2 741	2 733	2 724	2 715	2 706	-9	-36	-0,3	-1,3
Labour Force	1 907	1 904	1 932	1 920	1 884	-36	-23	-1,9	-1,2
Employed	1 768	1 748	1 776	1 765	1 710	-55	-58	-3,1	-3,3
Unemployed	139	156	157	155	174	19	35	12,0	25,1
Outside the Labour Force	834	829	791	795	822	27	-13	3,4	-1,5
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	69,6	69,7	71,0	70,7	69,6	-1,1	0,0		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	64,5	64,0	65,2	65,0	63,2	-1,8	-1,3		
Inactivity rate	30,4	30,3	29,0	29,3	30,4	1,1	0,0		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	7,3	8,2	8,1	8,1	9,2	1,1	1,9		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	8,5	9,5	8,8	8,9	10,6	1,7	2,1		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	9,2	11,3	10,3	10,0	12,0	2,0	2,8		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	10,4	12,6	10,9	10,8	13,3	2,5	2,9		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 2.2: Labour force characteristics by age group									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
15-64 years									
Population 15-64 years	41 691	41 822	41 948	42 068	42 189	121	498	0,3	1,2
Labour Force	25 015	25 174	25 062	24 935	24 891	-44	-124	-0,2	-0,5
Employed	16 787	16 807	17 055	17 099	16 754	-345	-33	-2,0	-0,2
Unemployed	8 228	8 367	8 007	7 836	8 137	301	-91	3,8	-1,1
Outside the Labour Force	16 676	16 648	16 886	17 134	17 298	164	622	1,0	3,7
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	60,0	60,2	59,7	59,3	59,0	-0,3	-1,0		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	40,3	40,2	40,7	40,6	39,7	-0,9	-0,6		
Inactivity rate	40,0	39,8	40,3	40,7	41,0	0,3	1,0		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	32,9	33,2	31,9	31,4	32,7	1,3	-0,2		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	36,0	36,1	34,9	34,3	35,9	1,6	-0,1		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	43,1	43,0	42,4	42,1	43,7	1,6	0,6		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	45,7	45,4	44,9	44,5	46,3	1,8	0,6		
15-24 years									
Population 15-24 yrs	10 299	10 312	10 325	10 337	10 349	12	50	0,1	0,5
Labour Force	2 710	2 758	2 833	2 657	2 681	24	-29	0,9	-1,1
Employed	1 018	1 043	1 177	1 143	1 049	-94	31	-8,2	3,1
Unemployed	1 692	1 715	1 657	1 513	1 632	118	-61	7,8	-3,6
Outside the Labour Force	7 589	7 554	7 491	7 680	7 668	-12	79	-0,2	1,0
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	26,3	26,7	27,4	25,7	25,9	0,2	-0,4		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	9,9	10,1	11,4	11,1	10,1	-1,0	0,2		
Inactivity rate	73,7	73,3	72,6	74,3	74,1	-0,2	0,4		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	62,4	62,2	58,5	57,0	60,9	3,9	-1,5		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	63,9	64,4	60,7	58,8	62,5	3,7	-1,4		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	72,5	71,8	69,3	68,3	71,9	3,6	-0,6		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	73,6	73,4	70,9	69,6	73,1	3,5	-0,5		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 2.2: Labour force characteristics by age group (continued)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
25-34 years									
Population 25-34 years	10 617	10 621	10 622	10 619	10 616	-3	-1	0,0	0,0
Labour Force	7 802	7 823	7 765	7 745	7 644	-101	-158	-1,3	-2,0
Employed	4 651	4 656	4 787	4 707	4 543	-164	-108	-3,5	-2,3
Unemployed	3 151	3 167	2 978	3 038	3 101	63	-50	2,1	-1,6
Outside the Labour Force	2 815	2 798	2 857	2 874	2 972	98	156	3,4	5,6
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	73,5	73,7	73,1	72,9	72,0	-0,9	-1,5		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	43,8	43,8	45,1	44,3	42,8	-1,5	-1,0		
Inactivity rate	26,5	26,3	26,9	27,1	28,0	0,9	1,5		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	40,4	40,5	38,4	39,2	40,6	1,4	0,2		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	43,4	43,0	41,1	41,7	43,5	1,8	0,1		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	50,1	49,5	48,2	49,1	50,7	1,6	0,6		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	52,7	51,6	50,5	51,2	53,1	1,9	0,4		
35-44 years									
Population 35-44 yrs	9 257	9 295	9 332	9 366	9 400	34	144	0,4	1,6
Labour Force	7 269	7 326	7 250	7 294	7 295	1	26	0,0	0,4
Employed	5 247	5 222	5 234	5 294	5 208	-87	-40	-1,6	-0,8
Unemployed	2 022	2 104	2 017	2 000	2 088	88	66	4,4	3,3
Outside the Labour Force	1 987	1 969	2 082	2 072	2 105	33	118	1,6	5,9
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	78,5	78,8	77,7	77,9	77,6	-0,3	-0,9		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	56,7	56,2	56,1	56,5	55,4	-1,1	-1,3		
Inactivity rate	21,5	21,2	22,3	22,1	22,4	0,3	0,9		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	27,8	28,7	27,8	27,4	28,6	1,2	0,8		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	31,0	31,3	30,8	30,2	31,7	1,5	0,7		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	36,7	37,4	37,1	37,0	38,2	1,2	1,5		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	39,6	39,6	39,6	39,3	40,9	1,6	1,3		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 2.2: Labour force characteristics by age group (concluded)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
45-54 years									
Population 45-54 years	7 020	7 065	7 109	7 149	7 190	41	170	0,6	2,4
Labour Force	5 217	5 241	5 195	5 168	5 205	38	-12	0,7	-0,2
Employed	4 099	4 119	4 102	4 115	4 150	34	50	0,8	1,2
Unemployed	1 118	1 123	1 093	1 052	1 055	3	-62	0,3	-5,6
Outside the Labour Force	1 803	1 824	1 914	1 982	1 985	3	182	0,2	10,1
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	74,3	74,2	73,1	72,3	72,4	0,1	-1,9		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	58,4	58,3	57,7	57,6	57,7	0,1	-0,7		
Inactivity rate	25,7	25,8	26,9	27,7	27,6	-0,1	1,9		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	21,4	21,4	21,0	20,4	20,3	-0,1	-1,1		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	25,0	25,2	24,8	24,0	24,6	0,6	-0,4		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	30,7	30,7	30,9	31,0	31,4	0,4	0,7		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	33,9	34,0	34,3	34,2	35,1	0,9	1,2		
55-64 years									
Population 55-64 yrs	4 498	4 528	4 562	4 598	4 634	36	136	0,8	3,0
Labour Force	2 017	2 025	2 019	2 072	2 066	-6	49	-0,3	2,4
Employed	1 772	1 766	1 755	1 840	1 805	-35	33	-1,9	1,9
Unemployed	245	259	263	232	261	29	16	12,3	6,6
Outside the Labour Force	2 481	2 503	2 543	2 526	2 568	42	87	1,7	3,5
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	44,8	44,7	44,3	45,1	44,6	-0,5	-0,2		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	39,4	39,0	38,5	40,0	38,9	-1,1	-0,5		
Inactivity rate	55,2	55,3	55,7	54,9	55,4	0,5	0,2		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	12,1	12,8	13,0	11,2	12,6	1,4	0,5		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	16,3	16,1	16,1	14,7	16,4	1,7	0,1		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	21,6	22,2	22,2	21,3	22,1	0,8	0,5		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	25,3	25,1	24,9	24,4	25,4	1,0	0,1		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 2.3: Labour force characteristics by province and metro									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
South Africa									
Population 15-64 years	41 691	41 822	41 948	42 068	42 189	121	498	0,3	1,2
Labour Force	25 015	25 174	25 062	24 935	24 891	-44	-124	-0,2	-0,5
Employed	16 787	16 807	17 055	17 099	16 754	-345	-33	-2,0	-0,2
Unemployed	8 228	8 367	8 007	7 836	8 137	301	-91	3,8	-1,1
Outside the Labour Force	16 676	16 648	16 886	17 134	17 298	164	622	1,0	3,7
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	60,0	60,2	59,7	59,3	59,0	-0,3	-1,0		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	40,3	40,2	40,7	40,6	39,7	-0,9	-0,6		
Inactivity rate	40,0	39,8	40,3	40,7	41,0	0,3	1,0		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	32,9	33,2	31,9	31,4	32,7	1,3	-0,2		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	36,0	36,1	34,9	34,3	35,9	1,6	-0,1		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	43,1	43,0	42,4	42,1	43,7	1,6	0,6		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	45,7	45,4	44,9	44,5	46,3	1,8	0,6		
Western Cape									
Population 15-64 years	5 108	5 126	5 143	5 160	5 176	17	68	0,3	1,3
Labour Force	3 558	3 479	3 505	3 548	3 587	39	29	1,1	0,8
Employed	2 861	2 744	2 814	2 907	2 883	-24	22	-0,8	0,8
Unemployed	697	735	692	641	703	62	7	9,7	0,9
Outside the Labour Force	1 550	1 647	1 638	1 612	1 590	-22	39	-1,4	2,5
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	69,6	67,9	68,1	68,8	69,3	0,5	-0,3		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	56,0	53,5	54,7	56,3	55,7	-0,6	-0,3		
Inactivity rate	30,4	32,1	31,9	31,2	30,7	-0,5	0,3		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	19,6	21,1	19,7	18,1	19,6	1,5	0,0		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	22,2	23,6	22,0	20,4	22,6	2,2	0,4		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	24,8	27,0	25,8	23,7	24,8	1,1	0,0		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	27,3	29,3	27,9	25,9	27,6	1,7	0,3		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 2.3: Labour force characteristics by province and metro (continued)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Western Cape - Non metro									
Population 15-64 years	1 854	1 860	1 866	1 872	1 878	6	24	0,3	1,3
Labour Force	1 219	1 150	1 174	1 184	1 218	33	-2	2,8	-0,1
Employed	1 034	958	987	1 012	1 021	9	-13	0,9	-1,3
Unemployed	186	192	187	173	197	24	11	14,1	6,1
Outside the Labour Force	634	710	692	688	660	-28	26	-4,0	4,1
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	65,8	61,8	62,9	63,3	64,8	1,5	-1,0		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	55,8	51,5	52,9	54,0	54,4	0,4	-1,4		
Inactivity rate	34,2	38,2	37,1	36,7	35,2	-1,5	1,0		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	15,2	16,7	15,9	14,6	16,2	1,6	1,0		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	17,7	19,7	18,5	17,3	19,3	2,0	1,6		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	24,8	29,4	28,1	27,1	27,3	0,2	2,5		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	27,0	32,0	30,3	29,4	30,0	0,6	3,0		
Western Cape - City of Cape Town									
Population 15-64 years	3 255	3 266	3 277	3 288	3 298	11	44	0,3	1,3
Labour Force	2 338	2 329	2 331	2 364	2 369	5	31	0,2	1,3
Employed	1 827	1 786	1 826	1 895	1 863	-33	35	-1,7	1,9
Unemployed	511	543	505	469	506	38	-5	8,1	-0,9
Outside the Labour Force	916	937	946	924	929	6	13	0,6	1,4
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	71,8	71,3	71,1	71,9	71,8	-0,1	0,0		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	56,1	54,7	55,7	57,6	56,5	-1,1	0,4		
Inactivity rate	28,2	28,7	28,9	28,1	28,2	0,1	0,0		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	21,9	23,3	21,6	19,8	21,4	1,6	-0,5		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	24,5	25,6	23,8	22,0	24,3	2,3	-0,2		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	24,8	25,6	24,5	21,7	23,3	1,6	-1,5		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	27,4	27,8	26,6	23,8	26,2	2,4	-1,2		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities

Table 2.3: Labour force characteristics by province and metro (continued)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Eastern Cape									
Population 15-64 years	4 592	4 605	4 618	4 629	4 641	12	49	0,3	1,1
Labour Force	2 261	2 418	2 393	2 393	2 405	12	144	0,5	6,4
Employed	1 373	1 462	1 408	1 377	1 333	-43	-39	-3,2	-2,9
Unemployed	889	956	985	1 016	1 072	55	183	5,4	20,6
Outside the Labour Force	2 331	2 187	2 224	2 236	2 236	0	-95	0,0	-4,1
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	49,2	52,5	51,8	51,7	51,8	0,1	2,6		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	29,9	31,7	30,5	29,7	28,7	-1,0	-1,2		
Inactivity rate	50,8	47,5	48,2	48,3	48,2	-0,1	-2,6		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	39,3	39,5	41,2	42,5	44,6	2,1	5,3		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	42,5	43,5	44,1	44,7	48,4	3,7	5,9		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	49,0	47,7	50,2	51,4	54,4	3,0	5,4		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	51,7	51,1	52,7	53,2	57,6	4,4	5,9		
Eastern Cape - Non Metro									
Population 15-64 years	3 126	3 134	3 141	3 148	3 154	7	28	0,2	0,9
Labour Force	1 373	1 453	1 517	1 507	1 520	13	147	0,9	10,7
Employed	743	760	768	731	708	-23	-35	-3,1	-4,7
Unemployed	630	693	749	776	812	36	182	4,6	28,9
Outside the Labour Force	1 753	1 681	1 624	1 640	1 634	-6	-119	-0,4	-6,8
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	43,9	46,4	48,3	47,9	48,2	0,3	4,3		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	23,8	24,3	24,5	23,2	22,5	-0,7	-1,3		
Inactivity rate	56,1	53,6	51,7	52,1	51,8	-0,3	-4,3		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	45,9	47,7	49,4	51,5	53,4	1,9	7,5		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	50,0	50,8	52,8	53,2	57,6	4,4	7,6		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	57,9	56,4	59,4	61,2	63,1	1,9	5,2		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	61,1	59,0	62,1	62,6	66,4	3,8	5,3		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities

Table 2.3: Labour force characteristics by province and metro (continued)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Eastern Cape - Buffalo City									
Population 15-64 years	565	567	569	571	573	2	8	0,3	1,4
Labour Force	402	394	376	385	366	-19	-35	-4,9	-8,8
Employed	252	282	276	286	261	-25	9	-8,7	3,7
Unemployed	150	113	101	99	105	6	-45	6,1	-29,9
Outside the Labour Force	163	173	193	186	207	21	43	11,1	26,4
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	71,1	69,5	66,1	67,4	63,9	-3,5	-7,2		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	44,5	49,6	48,5	50,1	45,6	-4,5	1,1		
Inactivity rate	28,9	30,5	33,9	32,6	36,1	3,5	7,2		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	37,3	28,6	26,7	25,7	28,7	3,0	-8,6		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	38,7	33,8	27,3	29,3	35,3	6,0	-3,4		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	38,5	31,0	30,6	28,4	36,7	8,3	-1,8		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	39,8	36,1	31,2	31,8	42,5	10,7	2,7		
Eastern Cape - Nelson Mandela Bay									
Population 15-64 years	900	904	907	910	913	3	13	0,3	1,4
Labour Force	486	571	500	501	518	18	32	3,5	6,7
Employed	378	420	364	360	364	4	-14	1,2	-3,6
Unemployed	108	151	135	141	154	13	46	9,3	42,5
Outside the Labour Force	414	333	407	410	395	-14	-19	-3,5	-4,7
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	54,0	63,1	55,1	55,0	56,7	1,7	2,7		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	41,9	46,5	40,2	39,5	39,8	0,3	-2,1		
Inactivity rate	46,0	36,9	44,9	45,0	43,3	-1,7	-2,7		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	22,3	26,4	27,1	28,2	29,8	1,6	7,5		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	24,6	31,5	30,2	30,9	30,8	-0,1	6,2		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	27,1	35,0	32,4	34,3	38,7	4,4	11,6		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	29,2	39,5	35,3	36,7	39,6	2,9	10,4		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities

Table 2.3: Labour force characteristics by province and metro (continued)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Northern Cape									
Population 15-64 years	844	846	847	849	850	1	6	0,2	0,7
Labour Force	486	466	464	462	442	-20	-43	-4,2	-8,9
Employed	343	314	319	337	308	-29	-34	-8,5	-10,1
Unemployed	143	152	145	125	134	9	-9	7,4	-6,3
Outside the Labour Force	359	380	383	387	408	21	49	5,4	13,8
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	57,5	55,1	54,8	54,4	52,0	-2,4	-5,5		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	40,6	37,1	37,7	39,7	36,2	-3,5	-4,4		
Inactivity rate	42,5	44,9	45,2	45,6	48,0	2,4	5,5		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	29,5	32,7	31,2	27,1	30,4	3,3	0,9		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	34,5	35,8	35,0	30,0	34,1	4,1	-0,4		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	43,1	47,0	46,5	42,9	47,0	4,1	3,9		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	47,1	49,4	49,4	45,2	49,9	4,7	2,8		
Free State									
Population 15-64 years	1 942	1 943	1 944	1 944	1 944	0	2	0,0	0,1
Labour Force	1 214	1 245	1 226	1 227	1 221	-6	8	-0,5	0,6
Employed	754	766	782	771	760	-11	6	-1,5	0,8
Unemployed	460	479	444	456	461	5	1	1,1	0,3
Outside the Labour Force	729	698	718	717	723	7	-5	0,9	-0,7
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	62,5	64,1	63,1	63,1	62,8	-0,3	0,3		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	38,8	39,4	40,2	39,7	39,1	-0,6	0,3		
Inactivity rate	37,5	35,9	36,9	36,9	37,2	0,3	-0,3		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	37,9	38,5	36,2	37,2	37,8	0,6	-0,1		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	42,3	42,2	39,7	40,9	41,4	0,5	-0,9		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	44,9	43,8	42,7	44,1	44,3	0,2	-0,6		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	48,8	47,2	45,8	47,3	47,5	0,2	-1,3		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 2.3: Labour force characteristics by province and metro (continued)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Free State - Non Metro									
Population 15-64 years	1 384	1 385	1 385	1 385	1 386	0	2	0,0	0,1
Labour Force	859	877	891	892	902	9	43	1,0	5,0
Employed	506	514	540	548	537	-11	31	-2,0	6,1
Unemployed	353	363	351	344	364	20	12	5,9	3,3
Outside the Labour Force	525	507	494	493	484	-9	-41	-1,8	-7,8
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	62,1	63,4	64,3	64,4	65,1	0,7	3,0		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	36,6	37,1	39,0	39,6	38,8	-0,8	2,2		
Inactivity rate	37,9	36,6	35,7	35,6	34,9	-0,7	-3,0		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	41,0	41,4	39,4	38,6	40,4	1,8	-0,6		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	45,4	44,9	42,8	42,2	43,3	1,1	-2,1		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	48,0	46,5	44,8	44,9	45,8	0,9	-2,2		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	51,9	49,7	47,9	48,2	48,5	0,3	-3,4		
Free State - Mangaung									
Population 15-64 years	558	558	559	559	559	0	1	0,0	0,1
Labour Force	355	368	336	335	320	-15	-35	-4,6	-9,8
Employed	247	252	242	223	223	0	-25	-0,1	-10,0
Unemployed	107	116	93	112	97	-15	-10	-13,5	-9,6
Outside the Labour Force	204	191	223	224	239	15	35	6,9	17,4
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	63,5	65,8	60,1	59,9	57,2	-2,7	-6,3		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	44,3	45,1	43,4	39,9	39,9	0,0	-4,4		
Inactivity rate	36,5	34,2	39,9	40,1	42,8	2,7	6,3		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	30,2	31,5	27,8	33,5	30,3	-3,2	0,1		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	34,9	35,7	31,4	37,2	36,0	-1,2	1,1		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	36,9	37,5	37,3	41,9	40,3	-1,6	3,4		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	41,1	41,3	40,4	45,2	45,1	-0,1	4,0		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 2.3: Labour force characteristics by province and metro (continued)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
KwaZulu-Natal									
Population 15-64 years	7 707	7 732	7 756	7 779	7 802	23	95	0,3	1,2
Labour Force	4 116	4 058	4 035	4 010	3 956	-54	-160	-1,3	-3,9
Employed	2 788	2 702	2 757	2 716	2 722	6	-67	0,2	-2,4
Unemployed	1 328	1 356	1 278	1 294	1 234	-60	-94	-4,6	-7,0
Outside the Labour Force	3 591	3 674	3 721	3 769	3 846	77	255	2,0	7,1
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	53,4	52,5	52,0	51,5	50,7	-0,8	-2,7		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	36,2	35,0	35,5	34,9	34,9	0,0	-1,3		
Inactivity rate	46,6	47,5	48,0	48,5	49,3	0,8	2,7		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	32,3	33,4	31,7	32,3	31,2	-1,1	-1,1		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	35,6	36,3	35,1	34,8	35,2	0,4	-0,4		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	46,9	47,9	46,6	47,1	47,2	0,1	0,3		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	49,5	50,1	49,3	49,1	50,3	1,2	0,8		
KwaZulu-Natal - Non Metro									
Population 15-64 years	5 003	5 018	5 032	5 046	5 059	14	56	0,3	1,1
Labour Force	2 462	2 420	2 365	2 338	2 335	-3	-127	-0,1	-5,1
Employed	1 487	1 503	1 551	1 448	1 462	15	-25	1,0	-1,7
Unemployed	975	917	814	891	873	-18	-102	-2,0	-10,4
Outside the Labour Force	2 541	2 598	2 667	2 707	2 724	17	183	0,6	7,2
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	49,2	48,2	47,0	46,3	46,2	-0,1	-3,0		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	29,7	30,0	30,8	28,7	28,9	0,2	-0,8		
Inactivity rate	50,8	51,8	53,0	53,7	53,8	0,1	3,0		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	39,6	37,9	34,4	38,1	37,4	-0,7	-2,2		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	43,1	40,9	38,1	41,2	41,8	0,6	-1,3		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	52,8	51,8	50,1	52,5	52,4	-0,1	-0,4		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	55,5	54,1	52,9	54,9	55,7	0,8	0,2		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 2.3: Labour force characteristics by province and metro (continued)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
KwaZulu-Natal - eThekweni									
Population 15-64 years	2 704	2 714	2 724	2 733	2 743	9	39	0,3	1,4
Labour Force	1 654	1 638	1 670	1 671	1 621	-51	-34	-3,0	-2,0
Employed	1 301	1 199	1 206	1 268	1 259	-9	-42	-0,7	-3,2
Unemployed	353	439	464	403	362	-42	8	-10,4	2,3
Outside the Labour Force	1 050	1 076	1 054	1 062	1 122	60	72	5,7	6,9
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	61,2	60,3	61,3	61,2	59,1	-2,1	-2,1		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	48,1	44,2	44,3	46,4	45,9	-0,5	-2,2		
Inactivity rate	38,8	39,7	38,7	38,8	40,9	2,1	2,1		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	21,4	26,8	27,8	24,1	22,3	-1,8	0,9		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	24,5	29,4	30,9	26,0	25,7	-0,3	1,2		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	38,0	42,1	41,5	39,2	39,6	0,4	1,6		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	40,5	44,2	44,0	40,7	42,3	1,6	1,8		
North West									
Population 15-64 years	2 826	2 834	2 843	2 851	2 860	8	34	0,3	1,2
Labour Force	1 475	1 493	1 513	1 500	1 382	-118	-93	-7,8	-6,3
Employed	879	895	937	973	894	-80	15	-8,2	1,7
Unemployed	596	599	576	527	489	-38	-107	-7,2	-18,0
Outside the Labour Force	1 351	1 341	1 330	1 352	1 477	126	127	9,3	9,4
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	52,2	52,7	53,2	52,6	48,3	-4,3	-3,9		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	31,1	31,6	33,0	34,1	31,2	-2,9	0,1		
Inactivity rate	47,8	47,3	46,8	47,4	51,7	4,3	3,9		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	40,4	40,1	38,1	35,1	35,3	0,2	-5,1		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	41,2	40,8	39,3	38,1	37,7	-0,4	-3,5		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	56,0	54,7	52,5	50,9	54,8	3,9	-1,2		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	56,6	55,3	53,4	53,2	56,5	3,3	-0,1		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 2.3: Labour force characteristics by province and metro (continued)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Gauteng									
Population 15-64 years	11 399	11 440	11 480	11 518	11 557	39	158	0,3	1,4
Labour Force	7 799	7 831	7 823	7 739	7 760	22	-39	0,3	-0,5
Employed	5 091	5 186	5 237	5 183	5 116	-67	25	-1,3	0,5
Unemployed	2 708	2 645	2 586	2 556	2 644	89	-64	3,5	-2,4
Outside the Labour Force	3 600	3 608	3 657	3 779	3 796	17	197	0,4	5,5
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	68,4	68,5	68,1	67,2	67,2	0,0	-1,2		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	44,7	45,3	45,6	45,0	44,3	-0,7	-0,4		
Inactivity rate	31,6	31,5	31,9	32,8	32,8	0,0	1,2		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	34,7	33,8	33,1	33,0	34,1	1,1	-0,6		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	37,5	36,0	35,5	35,4	36,6	1,2	-0,9		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	40,1	39,2	39,6	39,4	40,6	1,2	0,5		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	42,6	41,2	41,8	41,6	42,9	1,3	0,3		
Gauteng - Non Metro									
Population 15-64 years	1 509	1 515	1 521	1 526	1 532	5	22	0,4	1,5
Labour Force	1 087	1 081	1 062	1 037	1 026	-11	-61	-1,0	-5,6
Employed	633	650	702	707	719	12	86	1,7	13,6
Unemployed	455	431	359	330	308	-23	-147	-6,8	-32,3
Outside the Labour Force	422	434	459	489	505	16	83	3,3	19,6
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	72,0	71,4	69,8	68,0	67,0	-1,0	-5,0		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	41,9	42,9	46,2	46,3	46,9	0,6	5,0		
Inactivity rate	28,0	28,6	30,2	32,0	33,0	1,0	5,0		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	41,8	39,9	33,9	31,8	30,0	-1,8	-11,8		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	43,3	41,4	37,8	33,6	31,3	-2,3	-12,0		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	46,6	45,5	41,7	39,6	38,8	-0,8	-7,8		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	48,0	46,9	45,1	41,1	40,0	-1,1	-8,0		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 2.3: Labour force characteristics by province and metro (continued)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Gauteng - Ekurhuleni									
Population 15-64 years	2 863	2 874	2 884	2 894	2 903	10	40	0,3	1,4
Labour Force	1 779	1 838	1 819	1 838	1 822	-16	43	-0,9	2,4
Employed	1 202	1 200	1 235	1 248	1 231	-17	29	-1,4	2,5
Unemployed	578	638	584	590	591	1	13	0,1	2,3
Outside the Labour Force	1 084	1 036	1 065	1 055	1 081	26	-3	2,5	-0,3
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	62,1	63,9	63,1	63,5	62,8	-0,7	0,7		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	42,0	41,8	42,8	43,1	42,4	-0,7	0,4		
Inactivity rate	37,9	36,1	36,9	36,5	37,2	0,7	-0,7		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	32,5	34,7	32,1	32,1	32,4	0,3	-0,1		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	33,6	36,0	33,5	32,9	33,4	0,5	-0,2		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	41,2	42,7	42,2	41,5	42,8	1,3	1,6		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	42,2	43,8	43,4	42,2	43,6	1,4	1,4		
Gauteng - City of Johannesburg									
Population 15-64 years	4 227	4 242	4 256	4 270	4 284	14	57	0,3	1,4
Labour Force	3 010	2 983	3 001	2 891	2 967	75	-43	2,6	-1,4
Employed	1 977	2 000	1 963	1 915	1 938	23	-40	1,2	-2,0
Unemployed	1 032	983	1 037	976	1 029	52	-4	5,4	-0,3
Outside the Labour Force	1 217	1 259	1 255	1 379	1 317	-61	100	-4,5	8,2
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	71,2	70,3	70,5	67,7	69,3	1,6	-1,9		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	46,8	47,1	46,1	44,8	45,2	0,4	-1,6		
Inactivity rate	28,8	29,7	29,5	32,3	30,7	-1,6	1,9		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	34,3	33,0	34,6	33,8	34,7	0,9	0,4		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	37,7	35,9	37,0	37,4	39,1	1,7	1,4		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	38,0	37,3	39,2	38,9	39,8	0,9	1,8		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	41,3	40,0	41,5	42,2	43,9	1,7	2,6		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 2.3: Labour force characteristics by province and metro (continued)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Gauteng - City of Tshwane									
Population 15-64 years	2 799	2 809	2 819	2 828	2 838	9	39	0,3	1,4
Labour Force	1 923	1 929	1 941	1 972	1 945	-27	22	-1,4	1,2
Employed	1 279	1 336	1 336	1 313	1 229	-85	-51	-6,4	-4,0
Unemployed	644	593	605	659	717	58	73	8,8	11,3
Outside the Labour Force	876	880	878	856	893	36	16	4,2	1,9
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	68,7	68,7	68,9	69,7	68,5	-1,2	-0,2		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	45,7	47,6	47,4	46,4	43,3	-3,1	-2,4		
Inactivity rate	31,3	31,3	31,1	30,3	31,5	1,2	0,2		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	33,5	30,8	31,2	33,4	36,8	3,4	3,3		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	37,3	33,0	33,7	35,7	38,6	2,9	1,3		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	38,4	35,0	36,3	38,1	40,7	2,6	2,3		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	41,9	37,1	38,7	40,2	42,4	2,2	0,5		
Mpumalanga									
Population 15-64 years	3 199	3 209	3 219	3 228	3 237	9	39	0,3	1,2
Labour Force	1 876	1 853	1 889	1 895	1 929	34	53	1,8	2,8
Employed	1 212	1 223	1 246	1 283	1 229	-54	18	-4,2	1,5
Unemployed	664	631	643	611	700	88	36	14,4	5,3
Outside the Labour Force	1 323	1 356	1 330	1 333	1 308	-25	-15	-1,9	-1,1
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	58,6	57,8	58,7	58,7	59,6	0,9	1,0		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	37,9	38,1	38,7	39,8	38,0	-1,8	0,1		
Inactivity rate	41,4	42,2	41,3	41,3	40,4	-0,9	-1,0		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	35,4	34,0	34,0	32,3	36,3	4,0	0,9		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	39,7	37,6	38,6	35,7	39,4	3,7	-0,3		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	49,3	48,4	47,5	46,3	49,6	3,3	0,3		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	52,7	51,2	51,1	49,0	52,1	3,1	-0,6		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 2.3: Labour force characteristics by province and metro (concluded)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Limpopo									
Population 15-64 years	4 074	4 086	4 098	4 110	4 121	11	47	0,3	1,2
Labour Force	2 231	2 329	2 214	2 160	2 208	47	-23	2,2	-1,0
Employed	1 488	1 515	1 555	1 552	1 509	-43	21	-2,8	1,4
Unemployed	743	814	659	609	699	90	-44	14,8	-5,9
Outside the Labour Force	1 843	1 757	1 884	1 949	1 913	-36	70	-1,8	3,8
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	54,8	57,0	54,0	52,6	53,6	1,0	-1,2		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	36,5	37,1	37,9	37,8	36,6	-1,2	0,1		
Inactivity rate	45,2	43,0	46,0	47,4	46,4	-1,0	1,2		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	33,3	35,0	29,8	28,2	31,7	3,5	-1,6		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	37,4	39,4	34,4	33,3	35,6	2,3	-1,8		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	48,6	47,7	45,1	46,1	47,0	0,9	-1,6		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	51,8	51,3	48,7	50,0	50,1	0,1	-1,7		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 3.1: Employed by industry and sex - South Africa									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Both sexes	16 787	16 807	17 055	17 099	16 754	-345	-33	-2,0	-0,2
Agriculture	930	906	920	950	960	10	30	1,0	3,2
Mining	431	434	449	444	476	32	45	7,3	10,6
Manufacturing	1 677	1 672	1 610	1 548	1 587	38	-90	2,5	-5,4
Utilities	145	139	109	134	113	-21	-32	-15,5	-22,3
Construction	1 240	1 259	1 390	1 425	1 314	-110	75	-7,7	6,0
Trade	3 228	3 315	3 424	3 326	3 320	-6	92	-0,2	2,9
Transport	1 131	1 115	1 113	1 140	1 111	-30	-20	-2,6	-1,8
Finance	3 008	2 983	2 930	2 962	2 939	-23	-68	-0,8	-2,3
Community and social services	3 914	3 872	3 988	4 034	3 828	-206	-86	-5,1	-2,2
Private households	1 078	1 106	1 111	1 129	1 101	-28	23	-2,5	2,1
Other	6	4	11	7	6	-1	0	-11,1	-0,4
Women	7 412	7 400	7 429	7 470	7 264	-206	-148	-2,8	-2,0
Agriculture	279	257	272	281	277	-4	-2	-1,6	-0,9
Mining	86	73	72	81	91	9	5	11,7	5,5
Manufacturing	589	570	543	543	531	-12	-58	-2,2	-9,9
Utilities	50	43	30	34	22	-12	-28	-36,7	-56,7
Construction	140	143	142	148	137	-11	-3	-7,5	-2,4
Trade	1 505	1 527	1 606	1 559	1 549	-10	44	-0,6	2,9
Transport	223	183	201	195	173	-21	-49	-10,9	-22,1
Finance	1 279	1 333	1 264	1 260	1 277	17	-2	1,3	-0,2
Community and social services	2 430	2 429	2 478	2 522	2 387	-135	-43	-5,3	-1,8
Private households	830	840	819	844	818	-26	-12	-3,1	-1,5
Other	2	1	3	3	4	0	2	5,3	99,1

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 3.1: Employed by industry and sex - South Africa (concluded)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Men	9 375	9 407	9 625	9 629	9 490	-139	115	-1,4	1,2
Agriculture	651	648	648	669	683	14	32	2,1	4,9
Mining	345	360	377	363	385	23	41	6,3	11,8
Manufacturing	1 088	1 102	1 066	1 006	1 056	50	-32	5,0	-2,9
Utilities	96	96	79	100	91	-8	-4	-8,3	-4,5
Construction	1 099	1 117	1 248	1 276	1 177	-99	78	-7,8	7,1
Trade	1 722	1 788	1 818	1 766	1 770	4	48	0,2	2,8
Transport	908	932	912	946	937	-9	29	-0,9	3,2
Finance	1 729	1 650	1 666	1 702	1 663	-39	-66	-2,3	-3,8
Community and social services	1 484	1 444	1 510	1 513	1 441	-72	-43	-4,7	-2,9
Private households	248	266	292	285	283	-2	35	-0,6	14,1
Other	5	4	8	4	3	-1	-2	-26,5	-40,5

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 3.2: Employed by industry and province									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Agriculture	930	906	920	950	960	10	30	1,0	3,2
Western Cape	244	202	190	215	249	35	5	16,2	2,1
Eastern Cape	78	99	104	83	97	14	19	17,0	24,6
Northern Cape	62	38	42	59	38	-20	-24	-34,9	-38,6
Free State	64	85	71	92	91	-1	27	-0,7	42,1
KwaZulu-Natal	132	118	122	139	123	-16	-9	-11,6	-6,6
North West	58	67	70	65	64	-1	5	-2,1	8,8
Gauteng	38	25	39	42	34	-8	-4	-18,1	-10,6
Mpumalanga	116	126	113	114	107	-8	-9	-6,7	-7,7
Limpopo	138	146	170	142	157	15	19	10,3	13,6
Mining	431	434	449	444	476	32	45	7,3	10,6
Western Cape	6	3	6	5	5	0	-1	1,6	-12,9
Eastern Cape		1							
Northern Cape	37	32	35	28	31	4	-6	12,8	-16,1
Free State	21	25	26	26	28	2	7	6,7	34,8
KwaZulu-Natal	9	6	10	10	7	-3	-1	-29,2	-16,7
North West	110	98	99	100	104	4	-6	4,3	-5,4
Gauteng	81	93	101	100	110	11	29	10,8	36,3
Mpumalanga	55	50	58	63	69	7	15	10,7	27,0
Limpopo	112	126	115	113	121	8	8	7,2	7,3

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 3.2: Employed by industry and province (continued)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Manufacturing	1 677	1 672	1 610	1 548	1 587	38	-90	2,5	-5,4
Western Cape	337	301	296	320	300	-20	-37	-6,3	-11,1
Eastern Cape	135	146	118	112	109	-3	-26	-2,5	-19,3
Northern Cape	11	15	18	8	11	2	0	27,8	-0,3
Free State	62	52	47	47	48	1	-14	1,8	-22,9
KwaZulu-Natal	331	355	364	344	351	7	19	1,9	5,9
North West	48	45	63	67	64	-3	16	-4,9	34,1
Gauteng	548	548	526	491	538	47	-9	9,6	-1,7
Mpumalanga	109	99	83	66	74	8	-35	12,9	-32,2
Limpopo	96	110	95	93	92	-1	-4	-1,2	-4,1
Utilities	145	139	109	134	113	-21	-32	-15,5	-22,3
Western Cape	11	12	9	13	13	-1	2	-3,8	14,7
Eastern Cape	13	9	4	10	6	-5	-7	-43,9	-53,4
Northern Cape	3	4	4	5	3	-2	0	-37,1	-8,0
Free State	4	2	2	2	1	-1	-2	-27,2	-61,7
KwaZulu-Natal	17	19	7	12	8	-3	-9	-28,7	-50,9
North West	1	3	3	3	5	1	4	42,1	368,9
Gauteng	43	41	36	36	27	-9	-16	-24,6	-37,8
Mpumalanga	31	33	31	35	32	-3	1	-9,1	2,1
Limpopo	22	16	13	17	18	1	-5	3,8	-20,2

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 3.2: Employed by industry and province (continued)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Construction	1 240	1 259	1 390	1 425	1 314	-110	75	-7,7	6,0
Western Cape	245	224	259	267	258	-9	13	-3,5	5,2
Eastern Cape	111	132	117	117	110	-7	-1	-5,9	-1,1
Northern Cape	18	19	25	22	21	-1	3	-5,2	16,7
Free State	53	45	60	55	37	-18	-17	-33,1	-31,1
KwaZulu-Natal	200	212	235	235	211	-23	11	-10,0	5,4
North West	65	74	62	73	73	0	8	-0,5	12,4
Gauteng	334	325	372	400	372	-28	38	-6,9	11,5
Mpumalanga	90	97	101	113	98	-16	7	-13,8	8,3
Limpopo	124	131	158	143	136	-7	12	-5,1	9,5
Trade	3 228	3 315	3 424	3 326	3 320	-6	92	-0,2	2,9
Western Cape	492	535	559	557	573	16	81	2,9	16,4
Eastern Cape	232	292	273	296	268	-29	35	-9,7	15,2
Northern Cape	55	57	52	56	48	-7	-6	-13,2	-11,7
Free State	148	144	152	157	152	-4	4	-2,8	2,8
KwaZulu-Natal	579	533	548	501	549	48	-31	9,5	-5,3
North West	153	159	170	172	157	-15	5	-8,6	3,0
Gauteng	1 027	1 062	1 059	986	951	-35	-76	-3,6	-7,4
Mpumalanga	226	223	265	286	274	-12	49	-4,1	21,6
Limpopo	315	311	346	315	348	32	32	10,3	10,2

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 3.2: Employed by industry and province (continued)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Transport	1 131	1 115	1 113	1 140	1 111	-30	-20	-2,6	-1,8
Western Cape	195	181	199	191	188	-4	-7	-1,9	-3,8
Eastern Cape	117	105	86	81	91	10	-26	11,9	-22,1
Northern Cape	5	6	7	10	11	1	7	14,1	140,6
Free State	28	29	42	36	35	-1	7	-2,7	25,3
KwaZulu-Natal	176	181	196	221	216	-4	40	-2,0	22,8
North West	48	44	28	28	35	7	-12	26,2	-25,8
Gauteng	425	430	409	430	411	-19	-14	-4,5	-3,3
Mpumalanga	68	67	62	55	71	15	2	27,6	3,6
Limpopo	69	71	84	88	53	-35	-17	-40,2	-24,0
Finance	3 008	2 983	2 930	2 962	2 939	-23	-68	-0,8	-2,3
Western Cape	595	550	569	573	588	15	-7	2,6	-1,1
Eastern Cape	193	187	193	172	174	3	-19	1,5	-9,6
Northern Cape	42	34	29	37	36	-1	-7	-2,5	-15,8
Free State	101	99	94	80	91	12	-9	14,7	-9,3
KwaZulu-Natal	461	441	395	416	444	28	-17	6,8	-3,6
North West	122	121	130	143	116	-27	-6	-18,8	-4,9
Gauteng	1 193	1 223	1 210	1 202	1 186	-16	-8	-1,3	-0,7
Mpumalanga	157	166	179	184	165	-18	9	-10,0	5,6
Limpopo	145	163	131	156	139	-17	-6	-11,1	-4,0

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 3.2: Employed by industry and province (concluded)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Community and social services	3 914	3 872	3 988	4 034	3 828	-206	-86	-5,1	-2,2
Western Cape	576	571	558	609	546	-63	-30	-10,4	-5,2
Eastern Cape	408	386	421	413	387	-26	-22	-6,3	-5,3
Northern Cape	87	90	88	94	87	-8	0	-8,0	0,1
Free State	201	214	222	205	202	-3	0	-1,4	0,1
KwaZulu-Natal	686	654	676	648	622	-26	-64	-4,0	-9,4
North West	221	235	256	254	219	-35	-2	-13,8	-0,8
Gauteng	1 088	1 111	1 139	1 166	1 175	9	87	0,8	8,0
Mpumalanga	278	275	271	275	254	-21	-24	-7,8	-8,7
Limpopo	370	336	357	371	338	-33	-32	-9,0	-8,6
Private households	1 078	1 106	1 111	1 129	1 101	-28	23	-2,5	2,1
Western Cape	158	165	164	153	162	8	3	5,4	2,0
Eastern Cape	86	106	92	93	92	-1	6	-0,8	7,5
Northern Cape	22	17	21	18	22	3	-1	18,7	-3,8
Free State	72	71	65	72	74	2	2	2,8	2,3
KwaZulu-Natal	197	184	202	191	190	0	-7	-0,2	-3,5
North West	55	49	57	68	57	-11	2	-16,2	4,4
Gauteng	309	324	342	330	310	-19	1	-5,8	0,3
Mpumalanga	82	85	83	92	86	-6	3	-7,0	3,8
Limpopo	96	104	87	113	109	-4	13	-3,7	13,3

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 3.3: Employed by sector and industry - South Africa									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Total employed			17 055	17 099	16 754	-345		-2,0	
Formal and informal sector*			15 944	15 970	15 653	-317		-2,0	
Agriculture			920	950	960	10		1,0	
Mining			449	444	476	32		7,3	
Manufacturing			1 610	1 548	1 587	38		2,5	
Utilities			109	134	113	-21		-15,5	
Construction			1 390	1 425	1 314	-110		-7,7	
Trade			3 424	3 326	3 320	-6		-0,2	
Transport			1 113	1 140	1 111	-30		-2,6	
Finance			2 930	2 962	2 939	-23		-0,8	
Community and social services			3 988	4 034	3 828	-206		-5,1	
Other			11	7	6	-1		-11,1	
Formal sector*			11 983	12 303	12 113	-189		-1,5	
Agriculture			575	683	677	-6		-0,9	
Mining			434	435	470	35		8,1	
Manufacturing			1 300	1 297	1 316	19		1,5	
Utilities			106	131	110	-20		-15,7	
Construction			711	738	714	-25		-3,4	
Trade			2 136	2 138	2 145	7		0,3	
Transport			678	703	679	-24		-3,4	
Finance			2 547	2 618	2 627	8		0,3	
Community and social services			3 490	3 553	3 371	-182		-5,1	
Other			6	6	5	-2		-24,6	

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q1:2026 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 3.3: Employed by sector and industry - South Africa (concluded)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Informal sector*			3 961	3 667	3 540	-127		-3,5	
Agriculture			346	267	283	16		5,8	
Mining			15	9	6	-3		-35,8	
Manufacturing			309	252	271	19		7,7	
Utilities			3	3	3	0		-8,3	
Construction			679	686	601	-85		-12,4	
Trade			1 288	1 188	1 175	-13		-1,1	
Transport			435	438	432	-6		-1,4	
Finance			383	343	312	-31		-9,0	
Community and social services			498	481	457	-24		-5,0	
Other			6	1	2	1		107,3	
Household sector	1 078	1 106	1 111	1 129	1 101	-28	23	-2,5	2,1

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q1:2026 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 3.4: Employed by province, metro and sector									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
South Africa	16 787	16 807	17 055	17 099	16 754	-345	-33	-2,0	-0,2
Formal sector*			11 983	12 303	12 113	-189		-1,5	
Informal sector*			3 961	3 667	3 540	-127		-3,5	
Household sector	1 078	1 106	1 111	1 129	1 101	-28	23	-2,5	2,1
Western Cape	2 861	2 744	2 814	2 907	2 883	-24	22	-0,8	0,8
Formal sector*			2 165	2 274	2 254	-20		-0,9	
Informal sector*			484	480	467	-12		-2,6	
Household sector	158	165	164	153	162	8	3	5,4	2,0
Western Cape - Non-Metro	1 034	958	987	1 012	1 021	9	-13	0,9	-1,3
Formal sector*			741	783	785	2		0,3	
Informal sector*			188	169	173	4		2,2	
Household sector	58	56	59	59	63	3	5	5,4	8,2
Western Cape - City of Cape Town	1 827	1 786	1 826	1 895	1 863	-33	35	-1,7	1,9
Formal sector*			1 424	1 491	1 469	-22		-1,5	
Informal sector*			297	310	294	-16		-5,2	
Household sector	101	110	105	94	99	5	-2	5,5	-1,6
Eastern Cape	1 373	1 462	1 408	1 377	1 333	-43	-39	-3,2	-2,9
Formal sector*			946	957	884	-73		-7,7	
Informal sector*			371	327	357	31		9,4	
Household sector	86	106	92	93	92	-1	6	-0,8	7,5

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q1:2026 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 3.4: Employed by province, metro and sector (continued)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Eastern Cape - Non-Metro	743	760	768	731	708	-23	-35	-3,1	-4,7
Formal sector*			472	442	391	-51		-11,5	
Informal sector*			236	228	254	26		11,3	
Household sector	57	59	60	62	64	2	7	3,4	11,6
Eastern Cape - Buffalo City	252	282	276	286	261	-25	9	-8,7	3,7
Formal sector*			185	218	191	-27		-12,3	
Informal sector*			78	51	54	3		5,3	
Household sector	9	21	14	17	16	-1	7	-4,6	77,9
Eastern Cape - Nelson Mandela bay	378	420	364	360	364	4	-14	1,2	-3,6
Formal sector*			289	298	302	4		1,5	
Informal sector*			57	47	49	2		4,4	
Household sector	20	25	18	14	12	-2	-7	-14,1	-36,9
Northern Cape	343	314	319	337	308	-29	-34	-8,5	-10,1
Formal sector*			255	287	251	-36		-12,6	
Informal sector*			44	32	36	4		12,5	
Household sector	22	17	21	18	22	3	-1	18,7	-3,8
Free State	754	766	782	771	760	-11	6	-1,5	0,8
Formal sector*			553	541	526	-15		-2,8	
Informal sector*			164	159	161	2		1,3	
Household sector	72	71	65	72	74	2	2	2,8	2,3

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q1:2026 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 3.4: Employed by province, metro and sector (continued)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Free State - Non-Metro	506	514	540	548	537	-11	31	-2,0	6,1
Formal sector*			373	380	376	-4		-1,0	
Informal sector*			120	117	116	-1		-0,8	
Household sector	51	56	46	51	45	-6	-6	-12,4	-12,1
Free State - Mangaung	247	252	242	223	223	0	-25	-0,1	-10,0
Formal sector*			180	161	149	-11		-7,1	
Informal sector*			44	42	45	3		6,9	
Household sector	21	15	18	20	29	8	8	40,9	37,3
KwaZulu Natal	2 788	2 702	2 757	2 716	2 722	6	-67	0,2	-2,4
Formal sector*			1 781	1 832	1 897	66		3,6	
Informal sector*			774	693	634	-59		-8,6	
Household sector	197	184	202	191	190	0	-7	-0,2	-3,5
KwaZulu Natal - Non-Metro	1 487	1 503	1 551	1 448	1 462	15	-25	1,0	-1,7
Formal sector*			982	957	981	24		2,5	
Informal sector*			463	399	370	-29		-7,2	
Household sector	105	97	106	92	111	19	7	21,2	6,2
KwaZulu Natal - eThekweni	1 301	1 199	1 206	1 268	1 259	-9	-42	-0,7	-3,2
Formal sector*			799	875	916	41		4,7	
Informal sector*			311	294	264	-31		-10,4	
Household sector	93	87	96	99	79	-20	-13	-20,0	-14,5

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q1:2026 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 3.4: Employed by province, metro and sector (continued)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
North West	879	895	937	973	894	-80	15	-8,2	1,7
Formal sector*			649	657	634	-23		-3,5	
Informal sector*			231	248	202	-46		-18,5	
Household sector	55	49	57	68	57	-11	2	-16,2	4,4
Gauteng	5 091	5 186	5 237	5 183	5 116	-67	25	-1,3	0,5
Formal sector*			3 871	3 943	3 910	-32		-0,8	
Informal sector*			1 023	911	895	-15		-1,7	
Household sector	309	324	342	330	310	-19	1	-5,8	0,3
Gauteng - Non-Metro	633	650	702	707	719	12	86	1,7	13,6
Formal sector*			555	572	585	13		2,2	
Informal sector*			108	98	100	2		1,9	
Household sector	38	36	40	37	34	-3	-4	-7,9	-10,7
Gauteng - Ekurhuleni	1 202	1 200	1 235	1 248	1 231	-17	29	-1,4	2,5
Formal sector*			969	990	988	-2		-0,2	
Informal sector*			211	207	197	-10		-5,0	
Household sector	62	58	54	51	46	-5	-16	-9,1	-25,3
Gauteng - City of Johannesburg	1 977	2 000	1 963	1 915	1 938	23	-40	1,2	-2,0
Formal sector*			1 341	1 328	1 340	12		0,9	
Informal sector*			473	439	449	9		2,1	
Household sector	128	142	149	147	149	1	20	0,9	15,7

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q1:2026 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 3.4: Employed by province, metro and sector (concluded)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Gauteng - City of Tshwane	1 279	1 336	1 336	1 313	1 229	-85	-51	-6,4	-4,0
Formal sector*			1 006	1 053	997	-55		-5,3	
Informal sector*			231	166	149	-16		-9,9	
Household sector	82	87	99	95	82	-13	0	-13,6	0,5
Mpumalanga	1 212	1 223	1 246	1 283	1 229	-54	18	-4,2	1,5
Formal sector*			838	839	831	-7		-0,9	
Informal sector*			326	353	313	-40		-11,4	
Household sector	82	85	83	92	86	-6	3	-7,0	3,8
Limpopo	1 488	1 515	1 555	1 552	1 509	-43	21	-2,8	1,4
Formal sector*			925	973	925	-48		-4,9	
Informal sector*			542	466	475	9		2,0	
Household sector	96	104	87	113	109	-4	13	-3,7	13,3

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q1:2026 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 3.5: Employed by sex and occupation - South Africa									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Both sexes	16 787	16 807	17 055	17 099	16 754	-345	-33	-2,0	-0,2
Manager	1 430	1 507	1 453	1 433	1 499	65	69	4,6	4,8
Professional	980	983	909	952	950	-2	-30	-0,2	-3,1
Technician	1 503	1 565	1 488	1 575	1 484	-91	-18	-5,8	-1,2
Clerk	1 854	1 813	1 856	1 820	1 791	-29	-63	-1,6	-3,4
Sales and services	2 929	2 875	3 073	3 079	2 934	-145	5	-4,7	0,2
Skilled agriculture	62	47	97	60	95	35	33	58,8	53,5
Craft and related trade	1 862	1 858	1 991	1 943	1 851	-91	-10	-4,7	-0,5
Plant and machine operator	1 386	1 396	1 413	1 427	1 459	31	73	2,2	5,3
Elementary	3 964	3 923	3 903	3 916	3 844	-72	-120	-1,8	-3,0
Domestic worker	818	839	848	855	844	-10	26	-1,2	3,2
Other			25	39	3	-35		-91,4	
Women	7 412	7 400	7 429	7 470	7 264	-206	-148	-2,8	-2,0
Manager	480	501	508	497	518	21	38	4,3	7,9
Professional	517	563	495	550	513	-37	-4	-6,8	-0,9
Technician	758	784	726	807	760	-48	1	-5,9	0,2
Clerk	1 321	1 299	1 341	1 312	1 264	-48	-57	-3,7	-4,3
Sales and services	1 466	1 422	1 550	1 546	1 447	-99	-19	-6,4	-1,3
Skilled agriculture	14	11	25	24	22	-1	9	-5,2	65,6
Craft and related trade	243	258	257	234	211	-24	-33	-10,2	-13,4
Plant and machine operator	196	166	180	165	175	10	-20	6,3	-10,4
Elementary	1 637	1 593	1 539	1 509	1 562	53	-75	3,5	-4,6
Domestic worker	780	802	798	813	791	-22	11	-2,7	1,4
Other			10	14	2	-12		-86,6	

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 3.5: Employed by sex and occupation - South Africa (concluded)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Men	9 375	9 407	9 625	9 629	9 490	-139	115	-1,4	1,2
Manager	950	1 007	945	937	981	44	31	4,7	3,2
Professional	463	420	414	402	437	35	-26	8,8	-5,6
Technician	744	781	762	768	725	-43	-20	-5,6	-2,7
Clerk	533	514	515	508	527	19	-6	3,7	-1,1
Sales and services	1 462	1 452	1 523	1 533	1 487	-47	24	-3,1	1,7
Skilled agriculture	48	36	72	36	72	36	24	101,0	50,0
Craft and related trade	1 618	1 601	1 734	1 709	1 641	-68	23	-4,0	1,4
Plant and machine operator	1 190	1 230	1 233	1 263	1 283	21	93	1,6	7,8
Elementary	2 327	2 330	2 363	2 407	2 282	-125	-45	-5,2	-1,9
Domestic worker	38	37	50	42	54	12	16	28,2	40,9
Other			15	25	1	-23		-94,2	

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 3.6: Employed by sex and status in employment 19th ICLS (ICSE-93) - South Africa									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Both sexes	16 787	16 807	17 055	17 099	16 754	-345	-33	-2,0	-0,2
Employee	13 797	13 836	14 093	14 269	13 834	-435	37	-3,0	0,3
Employer	953	947	776	805	819	15	-134	1,8	-14,1
Own-account worker	1 926	1 926	2 069	1 931	1 995	64	69	3,3	3,6
Unpaid household member	111	97	117	94	106	12	-4	12,5	-4,0
Women	7 412	7 400	7 429	7 470	7 264	-206	-148	-2,8	-2,0
Employee	6 372	6 351	6 385	6 513	6 276	-238	-96	-3,6	-1,5
Employer	224	220	172	164	179	15	-45	9,2	-20,1
Own-account worker	755	781	816	748	758	11	3	1,4	0,4
Unpaid household member	61	49	57	45	51	6	-10	13,5	-16,2
Men	9 375	9 407	9 625	9 629	9 490	-139	115	-1,4	1,2
Employee	7 425	7 486	7 709	7 755	7 558	-197	133	-2,5	1,8
Employer	729	728	603	640	640	-1	-89	-0,1	-12,2
Own-account worker	1 171	1 145	1 254	1 183	1 237	53	66	4,5	5,6
Unpaid household member	50	48	60	50	55	6	5	11,5	10,8

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 3.6b: Employed by sex and status in employment (ICSE-18 Type of authority) - South Africa									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Both sexes			17 055	17 099	16 754	-345		-2,0	
Employers			788	825	838	13		1,5	
Independent workers without employees			1 738	1 611	1 692	81		5,0	
Dependent contractors			642	540	503	-37		-6,8	
Employees			13 826	14 084	13 682	-402		-2,9	
Contributing family workers			61	39	40	1		1,5	
Women			7 429	7 470	7 264	-206		-2,8	
Employers			179	177	191	14		7,7	
Independent workers without employees			704	640	660	20		3,1	
Dependent contractors			208	176	164	-12		-6,9	
Employees			6 311	6 460	6 229	-231		-3,6	
Contributing family workers			28	17	20	4		20,9	
Men			9 625	9 629	9 490	-139		-1,4	
Employers			608	648	647	-1		-0,1	
Independent workers without employees			1 034	971	1 032	61		6,3	
Dependent contractors			434	363	339	-25		-6,8	
Employees			7 516	7 624	7 453	-171		-2,2	
Contributing family workers			33	22	19	-3		-13,2	

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 36c: Employed by sex and status in employment (ICSE-18 detailed) - South Africa									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Both sexes			17 055	17 099	16 754	-345		-2,0	
Employers in corporations			195	173	198	25		14,3	
Employers in household market units			593	652	640	-12		-1,8	
Owners-operators of corporations without employees			96	78	61	-17		-21,3	
Own-account workers in household market units			1 642	1 533	1 631	97		6,3	
Dependent contractors			642	540	503	-37		-6,8	
Permanent employees			11 616	12 022	11 845	-177		-1,5	
Fixed-term employees			1 559	1 491	1 326	-165		-11,1	
Short term and casual employees			291	291	282	-9		-3,1	
Paid apprentices, trainees and interns			87	66	71	5		8,0	
Employees not elsewhere classified			274	214	159	-55		-25,8	
Contributing family workers			61	39	40	1		1,5	
Women			7 429	7 470	7 264	-206		-2,8	
Employers in corporations			49	55	59	4		7,5	
Employers in household market units			131	122	132	10		7,8	
Owners-operators of corporations without employees			28	21	24	3		15,9	
Own-account workers in household market units			676	620	636	16		2,7	
Dependent contractors			208	176	164	-12		-6,9	
Permanent employees			5 257	5 478	5 362	-117		-2,1	
Fixed-term employees			796	747	655	-92		-12,3	
Short term and casual employees			99	121	108	-13		-11,1	
Paid apprentices, trainees and interns			50	40	41	1		1,9	
Employees not elsewhere classified			108	73	64	-10		-13,3	
Contributing family workers			28	17	20	4		20,9	

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 36c: Employed by sex and status in employment (ICSE-18 detailed) - South Africa (concluded)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Men			9 593	9 606	9 471	-136		-1,4	
Employees not elsewhere classified			166	141	95	-46		-32,3	
Employers in corporations			146	118	139	21		17,4	
Employers in household market units			462	530	508	-22		-4,1	
Owners-operators of corporations without employees			67	57	37	-20		-34,8	
Own-account workers in household market units			967	914	994	81		8,8	
Dependent contractors			434	363	339	-25		-6,8	
Permanent employees			6 359	6 544	6 483	-60		-0,9	
Fixed-term employees			762	744	670	-74		-9,9	
Short term and casual employees			192	170	175	4		2,5	
Paid apprentices, trainees and interns			37	25	30	4		17,6	
Contributing family workers			33	22	19	-3		-13,2	

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 3.7: Employed by sex and usual hours of work - South Africa									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Both sexes	16 787	16 807	17 055	17 099	16 754	-345	-33	-2,0	-0,2
Working less than 15 hours per week	518	496	585	433	461	28	-57	6,5	-11,0
Working 15-29 hours per week	1 230	1 179	1 111	1 073	1 095	22	-135	2,0	-11,0
Working 30-39 hours per week	1 195	1 079	1 176	1 168	1 097	-70	-97	-6,0	-8,1
Working 40-45 hours per week	9 375	9 402	9 556	9 858	9 542	-316	168	-3,2	1,8
Working more than 45 hours per week	4 470	4 650	4 626	4 566	4 559	-7	89	-0,2	2,0
Women	7 412	7 400	7 429	7 470	7 264	-206	-148	-2,8	-2,0
Working less than 15 hours per week	277	283	327	219	241	21	-36	9,8	-12,9
Working 15-29 hours per week	751	729	647	650	671	21	-80	3,2	-10,7
Working 30-39 hours per week	677	597	657	701	629	-72	-47	-10,3	-7,0
Working 40-45 hours per week	4 240	4 248	4 352	4 453	4 259	-194	18	-4,4	0,4
Working more than 45 hours per week	1 468	1 542	1 446	1 445	1 465	20	-3	1,4	-0,2
Men	9 375	9 407	9 625	9 629	9 490	-139	115	-1,4	1,2
Working less than 15 hours per week	242	212	258	214	221	7	-21	3,1	-8,7
Working 15-29 hours per week	479	450	464	424	424	1	-55	0,2	-11,5
Working 30-39 hours per week	518	482	519	466	468	2	-50	0,4	-9,6
Working 40-45 hours per week	5 134	5 154	5 204	5 405	5 284	-121	149	-2,2	2,9
Working more than 45 hours per week	3 002	3 108	3 180	3 120	3 094	-27	92	-0,9	3,1

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 3.8: Conditions of employment based on ICSE-93 - South Africa									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Pension/retirement fund contribution									
Both sexes	13 797	13 836	14 093	14 269	13 834	-435	37	-3,0	0,3
Yes	6 290	6 194	6 180	6 337	6 423	86	132	1,4	2,1
No	7 107	7 236	7 433	7 487	6 994	-494	-114	-6,6	-1,6
Don't know	400	407	481	445	418	-27	18	-6,1	4,5
Women	6 372	6 351	6 385	6 513	6 276	-238	-96	-3,6	-1,5
Yes	2 846	2 825	2 837	2 907	2 873	-34	27	-1,2	1,0
No	3 340	3 340	3 325	3 424	3 240	-184	-100	-5,4	-3,0
Don't know	186	185	222	183	163	-20	-23	-10,9	-12,4
Men	7 425	7 486	7 709	7 755	7 558	-197	133	-2,5	1,8
Yes	3 445	3 368	3 343	3 430	3 550	120	105	3,5	3,1
No	3 767	3 896	4 108	4 064	3 754	-310	-13	-7,6	-0,4
Don't know	214	222	258	262	255	-7	41	-2,7	19,1
Entitled to any paid leave									
Both sexes	13 797	13 836	14 093	14 269	13 834	-435	37	-3,0	0,3
Yes	9 352	9 219	9 166	9 562	9 481	-81	129	-0,8	1,4
No	4 278	4 437	4 722	4 498	4 204	-294	-74	-6,5	-1,7
Don't know	167	181	205	209	149	-60	-18	-28,9	-11,1
Women	6 372	6 351	6 385	6 513	6 276	-238	-96	-3,6	-1,5
Yes	4 350	4 311	4 260	4 438	4 323	-115	-27	-2,6	-0,6
No	1 964	1 967	2 021	1 997	1 892	-104	-71	-5,2	-3,6
Don't know	59	73	104	79	61	-18	2	-22,9	3,6
Men	7 425	7 486	7 709	7 755	7 558	-197	133	-2,5	1,8
Yes	5 002	4 909	4 906	5 124	5 158	35	156	0,7	3,1
No	2 314	2 469	2 702	2 501	2 312	-189	-2	-7,6	-0,1
Don't know	109	108	101	130	88	-42	-21	-32,5	-18,9

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 3.8: Conditions of employment based on ICSE-93 - South Africa (concluded)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Entitled to paid sick leave									
Both sexes	13 797	13 836	14 093	14 269	13 834	-435	37	-3,0	0,3
Yes	10 052	9 982	10 078	10 483	10 326	-157	275	-1,5	2,7
No	3 578	3 687	3 820	3 569	3 364	-205	-214	-5,7	-6,0
Don't know	168	167	196	217	144	-73	-23	-33,6	-14,0
Women	6 372	6 351	6 385	6 513	6 276	-238	-96	-3,6	-1,5
Yes	4 678	4 619	4 648	4 841	4 665	-176	-13	-3,6	-0,3
No	1 636	1 661	1 645	1 584	1 554	-29	-82	-1,8	-5,0
Don't know	58	71	92	89	56	-33	-2	-37,1	-3,1
Men	7 425	7 486	7 709	7 755	7 558	-197	133	-2,5	1,8
Yes	5 373	5 364	5 430	5 642	5 661	19	288	0,3	5,4
No	1 942	2 026	2 175	1 985	1 809	-176	-133	-8,9	-6,8
Don't know	110	96	104	128	88	-40	-22	-31,3	-19,7
Entitled to maternity/paternity leave									
Both sexes	13 797	13 836	14 093	14 269	13 834	-435	37	-3,0	0,3
Yes	7 805	7 725	7 892	8 131	8 094	-37	289	-0,4	3,7
No	5 635	5 762	5 807	5 697	5 394	-303	-241	-5,3	-4,3
Don't know	357	349	394	441	346	-96	-11	-21,7	-3,1
Women	6 372	6 351	6 385	6 513	6 276	-238	-96	-3,6	-1,5
Yes	3 817	3 773	3 874	3 971	3 889	-81	73	-2,0	1,9
No	2 425	2 447	2 343	2 369	2 263	-106	-161	-4,5	-6,6
Don't know	131	130	168	174	123	-51	-8	-29,3	-6,0
Men	7 425	7 486	7 709	7 755	7 558	-197	133	-2,5	1,8
Yes	3 988	3 951	4 019	4 160	4 205	45	216	1,1	5,4
No	3 211	3 315	3 464	3 328	3 131	-197	-80	-5,9	-2,5
Don't know	226	219	226	268	223	-45	-3	-16,8	-1,5

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Quarter 1: 2026

Table 3.8b: Conditions of employment based on ICSE-93 - South Africa									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
UIF contribution									
Both sexes	13 797	13 836	14 093	14 269	13 834	-435	37	-3,0	0,3
Yes	8 446	8 532	8 737	8 937	8 808	-129	362	-1,4	4,3
No	5 042	4 993	4 993	4 962	4 749	-213	-293	-4,3	-5,8
Don't know	309	312	364	370	277	-93	-32	-25,2	-10,4
Women	6 372	6 351	6 385	6 513	6 276	-238	-96	-3,6	-1,5
Yes	3 735	3 760	3 833	3 923	3 752	-171	18	-4,3	0,5
No	2 494	2 447	2 367	2 423	2 382	-40	-112	-1,7	-4,5
Don't know	143	143	184	168	141	-27	-2	-16,1	-1,4
Men	7 425	7 486	7 709	7 755	7 558	-197	133	-2,5	1,8
Yes	4 711	4 772	4 904	5 014	5 055	42	344	0,8	7,3
No	2 548	2 546	2 626	2 539	2 367	-173	-181	-6,8	-7,1
Don't know	166	168	179	203	136	-66	-30	-32,7	-18,1
Medical aid benefits									
Both sexes	13 797	13 836	14 093	14 269	13 834	-435	37	-3,0	0,3
Yes	4 220	4 191	4 292	4 364	4 454	90	234	2,1	5,5
No	9 378	9 451	9 525	9 640	9 154	-486	-224	-5,0	-2,4
Don't know	199	194	276	265	226	-39	27	-14,8	13,5
Women	6 372	6 351	6 385	6 513	6 276	-238	-96	-3,6	-1,5
Yes	1 987	1 961	2 046	2 065	2 035	-30	48	-1,5	2,4
No	4 290	4 302	4 199	4 322	4 140	-182	-149	-4,2	-3,5
Don't know	95	88	140	126	100	-25	5	-20,1	5,5
Men	7 425	7 486	7 709	7 755	7 558	-197	133	-2,5	1,8
Yes	2 233	2 230	2 246	2 299	2 419	121	186	5,2	8,3
No	5 088	5 149	5 327	5 317	5 014	-304	-75	-5,7	-1,5
Don't know	104	107	136	140	125	-14	22	-10,1	20,9

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.
Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 3.8b: Conditions of employment based on ICSE-93 - South Africa (concluded)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Income tax (PAYE/ SITE) deduction									
Both sexes	13 797	13 836	14 093	14 269	13 834	-435	37	-3,0	0,3
Yes	7 679	7 630	7 951	8 128	8 238	110	559	1,4	7,3
No	5 705	5 774	5 698	5 697	5 188	-509	-517	-8,9	-9,1
Don't know	414	432	444	444	408	-36	-6	-8,1	-1,3
Women	6 372	6 351	6 385	6 513	6 276	-238	-96	-3,6	-1,5
Yes	3 465	3 492	3 622	3 735	3 693	-42	227	-1,1	6,6
No	2 745	2 673	2 550	2 590	2 406	-183	-339	-7,1	-12,3
Don't know	161	185	213	188	176	-12	15	-6,4	9,3
Men	7 425	7 486	7 709	7 755	7 558	-197	133	-2,5	1,8
Yes	4 214	4 138	4 329	4 392	4 545	153	332	3,5	7,9
No	2 959	3 101	3 148	3 107	2 781	-326	-178	-10,5	-6,0
Don't know	252	247	231	256	232	-24	-21	-9,3	-8,2
Condition of employment									
Both sexes	13 797	13 836	14 093	14 269	13 834	-435	37	-3,0	0,3
Written contract	11 329	11 364	11 548	11 849	11 525	-324	196	-2,7	1,7
Verbal agreement	2 468	2 473	2 545	2 420	2 309	-111	-160	-4,6	-6,5
Women	6 372	6 351	6 385	6 513	6 276	-238	-96	-3,6	-1,5
Written contract	5 360	5 350	5 382	5 528	5 289	-239	-70	-4,3	-1,3
Verbal agreement	1 012	1 001	1 003	985	986	1	-26	0,1	-2,6
Men	7 425	7 486	7 709	7 755	7 558	-197	133	-2,5	1,8
Written contract	5 970	6 014	6 166	6 321	6 236	-85	266	-1,3	4,5
Verbal agreement	1 456	1 472	1 542	1 434	1 322	-112	-134	-7,8	-9,2

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 3.8c: Conditions of employment based on ICSE-93 - South Africa									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Nature of contract/agreement (Both sexes)									
Both sexes	13 797	13 836	14 093	14 269	13 834	-435	37	-3,0	0,3
For a specified period of time			1 869	1 770	1 570	-200		-11,3	-27,3
Until the date a task is completed			340	298	229	-69		-23,3	-97,2
Permanent or until retirement			7 881	8 128	8 086	-42		-0,5	143,3
Ongoing with no specified end date			3 902	3 994	3 860	-134		-3,4	
Don't know			101	79	90	10		13,0	
Women	6 372	6 351	6 385	6 513	6 276	-238	-96	-3,6	-1,5
For a specified period of time			920	888	773	-115		-12,9	
Until the date a task is completed			95	83	70	-13		-15,9	
Permanent or until retirement			3 616	3 740	3 643	-97		-2,6	
Ongoing with no specified end date			1 697	1 776	1 757	-18		-1,0	
Don't know			56	26	32	5		20,4	
Men	7 425	7 486	7 709	7 755	7 558	-197	133	-2,5	1,8
For a specified period of time			949	882	797	-85		-9,6	
Until the date a task is completed			245	215	159	-56		-26,1	
Permanent or until retirement			4 264	4 387	4 442	55		1,3	
Ongoing with no specified end date			2 205	2 218	2 103	-116		-5,2	
Don't know			44	53	58	5		9,4	
Trade union membership (Both sexes)									
Both sexes	13 797	13 836	14 093	14 269	13 834	-435	37	-3,0	0,3
Yes	3 871	3 998	3 908	3 973	3 935	-37	65	-0,9	1,7
No	9 405	9 292	9 564	9 709	9 369	-340	-36	-3,5	-0,4
Don't know	522	546	622	587	530	-57	7	-9,8	1,4

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 3.8c: Conditions of employment based on ICSE-93 - South Africa (continued)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Women	6 372	6 351	6 385	6 513	6 276	-238	-96	-3,6	-1,5
Yes	1 744	1 822	1 773	1 828	1 797	-31	53	-1,7	3,0
No	4 409	4 278	4 329	4 426	4 271	-155	-137	-3,5	-3,1
Don't know	219	250	283	259	208	-52	-12	-19,9	-5,4
Men	7 425	7 486	7 709	7 755	7 558	-197	133	-2,5	1,8
Yes	2 127	2 176	2 135	2 145	2 139	-6	12	-0,3	0,6
No	4 996	5 014	5 235	5 283	5 098	-185	102	-3,5	2,0
Don't know	303	296	339	328	322	-6	19	-1,7	6,4
How annual salary increment is negotiated									
Both sexes	13 797	13 836	14 093	14 269	13 834	-435	37	-3,0	0,3
Individual and employer	1 090	1 010	1 066	1 116	1 006	-111	-84	-9,9	-7,7
Union and employer	2 764	2 890	2 838	2 769	2 719	-49	-45	-1,8	-1,6
Bargaining council	1 437	1 359	1 274	1 436	1 431	-5	-6	-0,3	-0,4
Employer only	7 693	7 752	7 931	7 929	7 751	-178	59	-2,2	0,8
No regular increment	780	773	930	968	879	-89	99	-9,2	12,6
Other	33	52	54	50	48	-2	15	-4,5	44,4
Women	6 372	6 351	6 385	6 513	6 276	-238	-96	-3,6	-1,5
Individual and employer	464	429	452	471	430	-40	-34	-8,6	-7,2
Union and employer	1 186	1 270	1 223	1 201	1 179	-21	-7	-1,8	-0,6
Bargaining council	757	713	684	738	737	-1	-20	-0,1	-2,7
Employer only	3 578	3 564	3 581	3 645	3 545	-100	-32	-2,7	-0,9
No regular increment	370	351	421	438	369	-69	-2	-15,8	-0,4
Other	17	23	23	21	15	-6	-2	-29,0	-10,9

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.
Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 3.8c: Conditions of employment based on ICSE-93 - South Africa (concluded)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Men	7 425	7 486	7 709	7 755	7 558	-197	133	-2,5	1,8
Individual and employer	626	581	614	646	575	-70	-51	-10,9	-8,1
Union and employer	1 578	1 621	1 614	1 568	1 540	-28	-38	-1,8	-2,4
Bargaining council	680	646	590	698	694	-4	14	-0,5	2,1
Employer only	4 115	4 188	4 350	4 285	4 206	-78	91	-1,8	2,2
No regular increment	410	422	510	530	510	-20	100	-3,8	24,4
Other	17	29	31	29	33	4	17	13,0	99,8

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 3.9: Time-related underemployment - South Africa									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Both sexes	781	710	747	705	795	90	14	12,8	1,8
Women	410	382	397	378	447	69	37	18,2	9,1
Men	372	328	350	327	349	21	-23	6,5	-6,2
As percentage of the labour force (Both sexes)	3,1	2,8	3,0	2,8	3,2	0,4	0,1		
Women	3,6	3,3	3,5	3,3	3,9	0,6	0,3		
Men	2,7	2,4	2,6	2,4	2,6	0,2	-0,1		
As percentage of total employment (Both sexes)	4,7	4,2	4,4	4,1	4,7	0,6	0,0		
Women	5,5	5,2	5,3	5,1	6,2	1,1	0,7		
Men	4,0	3,5	3,6	3,4	3,7	0,3	-0,3		

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.
Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 3.9: Time-related underemployment - South Africa (concluded)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Industry	781	710	747	705	795	90	14	12,8	1,8
Agriculture	28	18	21	22	32	10	4	46,5	12,9
Mining	1		1		2		2		349,2
Manufacturing	37	23	38	31	27	-4	-10	-12,7	-27,5
Utilities	2								
Construction	95	68	86	83	83	1	-11	0,8	-11,8
Trade	115	136	142	102	123	21	8	20,6	6,8
Transport	27	33	23	20	32	12	6	60,3	21,1
Finance	83	74	72	75	71	-4	-12	-5,0	-14,5
Community and social services	203	181	193	177	211	34	8	19,4	3,8
Private households	191	177	170	196	213	17	23	8,7	11,9
Other			1						
Occupation	781	710	747	705	795	90	14	12,8	1,8
Manager	26	23	17	23	34	11	8	47,8	31,6
Professional	23	14	9	12	7	-5	-15	-40,6	-67,4
Technician	38	41	35	36	35	-1	-4	-3,7	-9,7
Clerk	31	15	19	16	34	18	3	117,8	11,4
Sales and services	89	83	96	90	91	1	2	1,6	2,5
Skilled agriculture	6	2	5	7	11	4	5	64,9	82,4
Craft and related trade	100	87	110	92	86	-6	-14	-6,3	-13,9
Plant and machine operator	18	26	26	17	25	8	7	47,6	40,1
Elementary	318	295	311	270	313	44	-5	16,2	-1,6
Domestic worker	132	124	117	142	158	16	26	11,2	19,7
Other			1	1					

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.
Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 3 10: Formal and informal employment									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Employed (Both sexes)			17 055	17 099	16 754	-345		-2,0	
Formal employment*			11 032	11 377	11 336	-41		-0,4	
Informal employment*			6 023	5 722	5 419	-303		-5,3	
Employed (Women)			7 429	7 470	7 264	-206		-2,8	
Formal employment*			4 934	5 081	4 963	-119		-2,3	
Informal employment*			2 495	2 389	2 302	-87		-3,6	
Employed (Men)			9 625	9 629	9 490	-139		-1,4	
Formal employment*			6 098	6 295	6 373	78		1,2	
Informal employment*			3 528	3 333	3 117	-216		-6,5	
Formal employment*			11 032	11 377	11 336	-41		-0,4	
15-24 yrs			603	566	550	-15		-2,7	
25-34 yrs			2 992	3 010	2 980	-30		-1,0	
35-44 yrs			3 440	3 623	3 642	19		0,5	
45-54 yrs			2 801	2 894	2 924	30		1,0	
55-64 yrs			1 197	1 284	1 239	-45		-3,5	
Informal employment*			6 023	5 722	5 419	-303		-5,3	
15-24 yrs			574	578	498	-79		-13,7	
25-34 yrs			1 795	1 697	1 563	-134		-7,9	
35-44 yrs			1 794	1 671	1 566	-105		-6,3	
45-54 yrs			1 301	1 221	1 226	4		0,4	
55-64 yrs			559	556	566	10		1,9	

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates. Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q1:2026 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 3 10: Formal and informal employment (continued)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Formal employment*			11 032	11 377	11 336	-41		-0,4	
No schooling			67	88	74	-14		-16,2	
Less than primary completed			276	299	309	10		3,3	
Primary completed			188	217	207	-10		-4,5	
Secondary not completed			2 720	2 804	2 853	50		1,8	
Secondary completed			4 372	4 427	4 440	13		0,3	
Tertiary			3 241	3 371	3 302	-69		-2,1	
Other			168	171	150	-20		-11,9	
Informal employment*			6 023	5 722	5 419	-303		-5,3	
No schooling			86	81	70	-11		-13,5	
Less than primary completed			359	287	307	21		7,2	
Primary completed			248	226	211	-15		-6,7	
Secondary not completed			2 414	2 196	2 208	12		0,5	
Secondary completed			2 009	2 011	1 807	-205		-10,2	
Tertiary			766	819	739	-81		-9,9	
Other			141	101	77	-24		-23,8	

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q1:2026 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 3.10b: Formal and informal employment (continued)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Formal employment*			11 032	11 377	11 336	-41		-0,40	
Agriculture			401	490	487	-3		-0,70	
Mining			400	417	445	28		6,70	
Manufacturing			1 245	1 194	1 229	35		2,90	
Utilities			98	119	102	-17		-14,10	
Construction			634	729	711	-19		-2,60	
Trade			2 331	2 317	2 351	34		1,50	
Transport			600	623	640	17		2,70	
Finance			2 173	2 191	2 271	79		3,60	
Community and social services			2 954	3 038	2 875	-164		-5,40	
Private households			195	251	221	-30		-12,00	
Other			13	36	5	-31		-125,80	
Informal employment*			6 023	5 722	5 419	-303		-5,30	
Agriculture			519	460	473	13		2,80	
Mining			49	26	31	4		15,90	
Manufacturing			365	355	358	3		0,90	
Utilities			12	14	11	-4		-26,70	
Construction			756	695	604	-92		-13,20	
Trade			1 093	1 008	968	-40		-4,00	
Transport			513	517	470	-47		-9,10	
Finance			757	770	668	-102		-13,20	
Community and social services			1 035	996	953	-43		-4,30	
Private households			916	878	880	2		0,20	
Other			23	9	5	-5		-33,10	

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q1:2026 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 3.10b: Formal and informal employment (concluded)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Formal employment*			11 032	11 377	11 336	-41		-0,40	
Manager			957	958	954	-4		-0,40	
Professional			766	788	812	24		3,00	
Technician			1 248	1 318	1 259	-59		-4,50	
Clerk			1 513	1 513	1 522	9		0,60	
Sales and services			2 097	2 121	2 090	-31		-1,40	
Skilled agriculture			38	32	38	6		18,30	
Craft and related trade			1 242	1 260	1 258	-2		-0,20	
Plant and machine operator			878	920	976	55		6,00	
Elementary			2 120	2 234	2 248	14		0,60	
Domestic worker			162	202	178	-23		-11,60	
Informal employment*			6 023	5 722	5 419	-303		-5,30	
Manager			496	476	545	70		14,60	
Professional			143	163	138	-25		-15,60	
Technician			240	258	226	-32		-12,30	
Clerk			342	307	269	-38		-12,40	
Sales and services			976	959	844	-115		-12,00	
Skilled agriculture			59	27	56	29		106,70	
Craft and related trade			749	683	594	-89		-13,10	
Plant and machine operator			536	507	483	-24		-4,80	
Elementary			1 783	1 682	1 596	-86		-5,10	
Domestic worker			685	653	666	13		2,00	

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q1:2026 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 4: Characteristics of the unemployed - South Africa									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Unemployed	8 228	8 367	8 007	7 836	8 137	301	-91	3,8	-1,1
Job losers	2 165	2 106	1 961	2 006	2 109	103	-56	5,1	-2,6
Job leavers	214	244	247	184	235	51	21	27,6	9,7
New entrants	3 547	3 611	3 472	3 317	3 375	58	-171	1,8	-4,8
Re-entrants	325	323	281	325	307	-18	-18	-5,4	-5,4
Other	1 977	2 083	2 047	2 003	2 110	107	133	5,3	6,7
Unemployed	8 228	8 367	8 007	7 836	8 137	301	-91	3,8	-1,1
Long-term unemployment (1 year and more)	6 295	6 411	6 163	6 247	6 301	54	6	0,9	0,1
Short-term unemployment (less than 1 year)	1 933	1 956	1 845	1 588	1 836	247	-97	15,6	-5,0
Long-term unemployment (%)									
Proportion of the labour force	25,2	25,5	24,6	25,1	25,3	0,2	0,1		
Proportion of the unemployed	76,5	76,6	77,0	79,7	77,4	-2,3	0,9		
Those who have worked in the past 5 years									
Previous occupation	2 704	2 673	2 489	2 515	2 651	136	-53	5,4	-1,9
Manager	55	56	47	57	61	3	6	5,8	10,1
Professional	57	75	51	57	70	13	13	23,6	22,5
Technician	134	117	136	142	149	8	15	5,3	11,2
Clerk	327	304	279	270	283	14	-43	5,1	-13,2
Sales and services	515	511	479	512	541	29	26	5,7	5,0
Skilled agriculture	8	11	8	11	7	-4	-2	-39,1	-19,9
Craft and related trade	406	391	324	346	363	17	-43	4,8	-10,5
Plant and machine operator	172	186	181	158	175	17	3	10,7	1,7
Elementary	856	873	837	793	842	49	-13	6,2	-1,6
Domestic worker	174	149	141	160	160	-1	-14	-0,4	-8,1
Other			6	9					

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.
Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 4: Characteristics of the unemployed - South Africa (concluded)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Previous industry	2 704	2 673	2 489	2 515	2 651	136	-53	5,4	-1,9
Agriculture	167	170	163	162	194	32	27	19,9	16,2
Mining	63	63	37	41	32	-9	-31	-21,0	-49,0
Manufacturing	222	256	239	215	231	16	9	7,2	4,0
Utilities	16	11	18	14	15	1	-1	8,1	-8,5
Construction	388	379	327	336	357	21	-31	6,2	-7,9
Trade	562	578	537	536	550	14	-11	2,6	-2,0
Transport	150	143	141	149	137	-11	-13	-7,7	-8,6
Finance	376	341	340	352	365	13	-11	3,6	-3,0
Community and social services	525	504	462	495	546	51	21	10,4	4,1
Private households	235	229	217	210	222	12	-13	5,9	-5,4
Other			5	6	2	-4		-72,2	

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates. Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals

Table 5: Characteristics of Outside the Labour Force - South Africa									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Outside the Labour Force	16 676	16 648	16 886	17 134	17 298	164	622	1,0	3,7
Student	5 939	6 090	6 038	6 281	6 017	-264	79	-4,2	1,3
Home-maker	2 245	2 373	2 417	2 403	2 370	-33	125	-1,4	5,6
Illness/disability	1 587	1 600	1 724	1 668	1 687	19	100	1,1	6,3
Too old/young to work	1 796	1 762	1 801	1 770	1 811	41	15	2,3	0,8
Discouraged work seekers	3 473	3 445	3 481	3 714	3 893	178	420	4,8	12,1
Other	1 636	1 379	1 426	1 298	1 520	222	-116	17,1	-7,1
Inactivity rate by age (Both sexes)	40,0	39,8	40,3	40,7	41,0	0,3	1,0		
15-24 years	73,7	73,3	72,6	74,3	74,1	-0,2	0,4		
25-54 years	24,6	24,4	25,3	25,5	26,0	0,5	1,4		
55-64 years	55,2	55,3	55,7	54,9	55,4	0,5	0,2		
Inactivity rate by age (Women)	45,2	45,1	45,7	46,0	46,2	0,2	1,0		
15-24 years	76,1	75,4	75,0	76,8	76,4	-0,4	0,3		
25-54 years	30,4	30,3	31,5	31,2	31,5	0,3	1,1		
55-64 years	61,4	62,0	62,2	62,6	62,7	0,1	1,3		
Inactivity rate by age (Men)	34,7	34,4	34,7	35,4	35,8	0,4	1,1		
15-24 years	71,3	71,1	70,1	71,8	71,8	0,0	0,5		
25-54 years	18,8	18,6	19,3	20,0	20,5	0,5	1,7		
55-64 years	47,5	47,0	47,8	45,5	46,5	1,0	-1,0		

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.
Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 6: Socio-demographic characteristics - South Africa									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Age group of the employed	16 787	16 807	17 055	17 099	16 754	-345	-33	-2,0	-0,2
15-24 years	1 018	1 043	1 177	1 143	1 049	-94	31	-8,2	3,1
25-34 years	4 651	4 656	4 787	4 707	4 543	-164	-108	-3,5	-2,3
35-44 years	5 247	5 222	5 234	5 294	5 208	-87	-40	-1,6	-0,8
45-54 years	4 099	4 119	4 102	4 115	4 150	34	50	0,8	1,2
55-64 years	1 772	1 766	1 755	1 840	1 805	-35	33	-1,9	1,9
Age group of the unemployed	8 228	8 367	8 007	7 836	8 137	301	-91	3,8	-1,1
15-24 years	1 692	1 715	1 657	1 513	1 632	118	-61	7,8	-3,6
25-34 years	3 151	3 167	2 978	3 038	3 101	63	-50	2,1	-1,6
35-44 years	2 022	2 104	2 017	2 000	2 088	88	66	4,4	3,3
45-54 years	1 118	1 123	1 093	1 052	1 055	3	-62	0,3	-5,6
55-64 years	245	259	263	232	261	29	16	12,3	6,6
Age group of Outside the Labour Force	16 676	16 648	16 886	17 134	17 298	164	622	1,0	3,7
15-24 years	7 589	7 554	7 491	7 680	7 668	-12	79	-0,2	1,0
25-34 years	2 815	2 798	2 857	2 874	2 972	98	156	3,4	5,6
35-44 years	1 987	1 969	2 082	2 072	2 105	33	118	1,6	5,9
45-54 years	1 803	1 824	1 914	1 982	1 985	3	182	0,2	10,1
55-64 years	2 481	2 503	2 543	2 526	2 568	42	87	1,7	3,5
Highest level of education of the employed	16 787	16 807	17 055	17 099	16 754	-345	-33	-2,0	-0,2
No schooling	169	153	154	169	144	-25	-25	-14,9	-14,5
Less than primary completed	651	603	635	586	616	31	-35	5,2	-5,4
Primary completed	466	432	436	443	418	-25	-48	-5,7	-10,2
Secondary not completed	4 979	5 087	5 134	5 000	5 061	61	82	1,2	1,7
Secondary completed	6 167	6 230	6 381	6 439	6 247	-192	80	-3,0	1,3
Tertiary	4 046	4 016	4 007	4 190	4 040	-150	-5	-3,6	-0,1
Other	310	287	309	272	227	-44	-83	-16,3	-26,6

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 6: Socio-demographic characteristics - South Africa (continued)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Highest level of education of the unemployed	8 228	8 367	8 007	7 836	8 137	301	-91	3,8	-1,1
No schooling	56	52	66	52	44	-7	-11	-14,3	-20,3
Less than primary completed	321	298	282	280	256	-24	-65	-8,7	-20,2
Primary completed	234	234	240	202	206	4	-28	1,9	-12,2
Secondary not completed	3 381	3 493	3 292	3 195	3 253	58	-128	1,8	-3,8
Secondary completed	3 313	3 385	3 294	3 274	3 462	188	149	5,7	4,5
Tertiary	856	844	766	769	856	87	1	11,3	0,1
Other	68	61	68	63	59	-4	-9	-5,9	-12,8
Highest level of education of Outside the Labour Force	16 676	16 648	16 886	17 134	17 298	164	622	1,0	3,7
No schooling	478	495	470	454	477	22	-1	4,9	-0,2
Less than primary completed	1 074	1 098	1 161	1 115	1 117	3	43	0,2	4,0
Primary completed	791	875	920	981	853	-128	62	-13,1	7,8
Secondary not completed	8 579	8 562	8 844	8 963	8 691	-271	112	-3,0	1,3
Secondary completed	4 705	4 604	4 446	4 538	5 107	569	402	12,5	8,5
Tertiary	810	805	834	844	837	-7	26	-0,9	3,3
Other	239	209	213	240	217	-23	-22	-9,5	-9,2
Employed	16 787	16 807	17 055	17 099	16 754	-345	-33	-2,0	-0,2
Attending educational institution	332	343	339	302	282	-20	-49	-6,6	-14,9
Not attending educational institution	16 456	16 464	16 716	16 797	16 472	-325	16	-1,9	0,1
Unemployed	8 228	8 367	8 007	7 836	8 137	301	-91	3,8	-1,1
Attending educational institution	139	143	117	117	122	4	-17	3,7	-12,5
Not attending educational institution	8 089	8 225	7 890	7 718	8 015	297	-74	3,8	-0,9
Outside the Labour Force	16 676	16 648	16 886	17 134	17 298	164	622	1,0	3,7
Attending educational institution	5 734	5 949	5 977	5 994	5 759	-235	26	-3,9	0,4
Not attending educational institution	10 942	10 699	10 909	11 140	11 538	399	596	3,6	5,4

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.
Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 6b: Socio-demographic characteristics - South Africa (concluded)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Current marital status of the employed	16 787	16 807	17 055	17 099	16 754	-345	-33	-2,0	-0,2
Married	5 896	5 826	5 766	5 834	5 690	-145	-206	-2,5	-3,5
Living together like husband and wife	2 169	2 111	2 110	2 240	2 145	-95	-24	-4,2	-1,1
Widow/widower	364	373	381	366	375	9	11	2,5	3,0
Divorced or separated	472	470	479	460	470	10	-2	2,1	-0,5
Never married	7 887	8 026	8 318	8 199	8 075	-124	188	-1,5	2,4
Current marital status of the unemployed	8 228	8 367	8 007	7 836	8 137	301	-91	3,8	-1,1
Married	974	958	994	912	965	53	-9	5,8	-0,9
Living together like husband and wife	851	821	751	729	771	43	-80	5,9	-9,4
Widow/widower	83	72	62	57	76	19	-7	32,4	-8,7
Divorced or separated	152	118	113	124	120	-5	-32	-3,8	-21,1
Never married	6 169	6 398	6 087	6 014	6 205	191	37	3,2	0,6
Current marital status of Outside the Labour Force	16 676	16 648	16 886	17 134	17 298	164	622	1,0	3,7
Married	2 498	2 563	2 586	2 451	2 438	-13	-60	-0,5	-2,4
Living together like husband and wife	1 016	982	982	1 068	1 056	-12	40	-1,1	4,0
Widow/widower	567	580	537	554	545	-9	-22	-1,6	-3,9
Divorced or separated	264	273	317	308	290	-17	26	-5,6	9,8
Never married	12 331	12 250	12 464	12 752	12 968	216	637	1,7	5,2

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 7: Profile of Youth (15-24 years) not in Employment Education or Training (NEET) - South Africa									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Both sexes	3 825	3 625	3 497	3 515	3 891	376	66	10,7	1,7
Women	1 927	1 880	1 828	1 850	2 022	172	95	9,3	4,9
Men	1 897	1 745	1 669	1 665	1 869	204	-28	12,3	-1,5
Population groups	3 825	3 625	3 497	3 515	3 891	376	66	10,7	1,7
Black/African	3 378	3 152	3 069	3 096	3 431	335	53	10,8	1,6
Coloured	315	331	310	306	308	2	-7	0,6	-2,1
Indian/Asian	44	48	45	43	35	-8	-9	-19,4	-20,4
White	88	95	73	70	117	48	29	68,5	33,0
South Africa	3 825	3 625	3 497	3 515	3 891	376	66	10,7	1,7
Western Cape	314	361	344	321	357	36	44	11,2	14,0
Eastern Cape	508	477	481	465	538	73	30	15,8	6,0
Northern Cape	87	90	81	87	100	14	13	15,7	14,6
Free State	186	171	163	163	186	23	0	14,2	0,0
KwaZulu-Natal	840	733	715	733	816	83	-24	11,3	-2,9
North West	351	333	314	319	345	26	-6	8,1	-1,7
Gauteng	829	777	778	805	843	38	14	4,7	1,7
Mpumalanga	328	316	277	284	339	56	11	19,6	3,4
Limpopo	382	368	345	338	366	28	-16	8,4	-4,1

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.
Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 7b: NEET Rate Among Youth (15-24 years) Not in Employment, Education or Training - South Africa									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Both sexes	37,1	35,2	33,9	34,0	37,6	3,6	0,5		
Women	37,5	36,6	35,5	35,9	39,2	3,3	1,7		
Men	36,7	33,7	32,2	32,1	36,0	3,9	-0,7		
Population group	37,1	35,2	33,9	34,0	37,6	3,6	0,5		
Balck/African	38,7	36,1	35,0	35,3	39,0	3,7	0,3		
Coloured	36,6	38,6	36,1	35,8	36,1	0,3	-0,5		
Indian/Asian	22,2	24,2	23,1	21,8	17,5	-4,3	-4,7		
White	17,1	18,4	14,2	13,6	22,9	9,3	5,8		
South Africa	37,1	35,2	33,9	34,0	37,6	3,6	0,5		
Western Cape	29,0	32,2	30,3	29,3	32,5	3,2	3,5		
Eastern Cape	37,1	34,5	35,6	35,0	39,5	4,5	2,4		
Northern Cape	42,8	42,6	40,5	44,5	48,8	4,3	6,0		
Free State	36,2	34,1	32,5	33,0	37,0	4,0	0,8		
KwaZulu-Natal	40,9	36,4	35,7	36,0	40,7	4,7	-0,2		
North West	45,9	42,8	39,9	39,7	44,4	4,7	-1,5		
Gauteng	34,4	32,5	31,5	32,1	33,4	1,3	-1,0		
Mpumalanga	38,6	37,7	34,4	35,2	42,0	6,8	3,4		
Limpopo	36,3	34,1	31,9	31,7	34,4	2,7	-1,9		

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.
Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 7c: Profile of Youth (15-34 years) not in Employment Education or Training (NEET) - South Africa									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Both sexes	9 440	9 200	8 947	9 069	9 567	499	127	5,5	1,3
Women	4 992	4 907	4 803	4 878	5 104	226	113	4,6	2,3
Men	4 449	4 293	4 144	4 190	4 463	273	14	6,5	0,3
Population groups	9 440	9 200	8 947	9 069	9 567	499	127	5,5	1,3
Black/African	8 448	8 167	7 975	8 126	8 559	434	111	5,3	1,3
Coloured	676	699	660	640	670	30	-6	4,7	-0,9
Indian/Asian	137	136	143	140	111	-29	-26	-20,6	-19,0
White	179	198	169	163	226	64	48	39,3	26,6
South Africa	9 440	9 200	8 947	9 069	9 567	499	127	5,5	1,3
Western Cape	736	791	755	721	782	61	46	8,5	6,2
Eastern Cape	1 252	1 154	1 194	1 190	1 259	69	7	5,8	0,5
Northern Cape	202	217	214	218	228	10	25	4,4	12,5
Free State	433	423	405	433	451	18	18	4,1	4,2
KwaZulu-Natal	2 065	2 008	1 962	2 011	2 133	122	67	6,1	3,3
North West	786	742	691	687	765	78	-21	11,4	-2,6
Gauteng	2 197	2 142	2 085	2 144	2 185	41	-12	1,9	-0,5
Mpumalanga	794	775	747	751	822	70	28	9,4	3,5
Limpopo	975	950	895	913	942	29	-32	3,2	-3,3

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals

Table 7d: NEET Rate Among Youth (15-34 years) Not in Employment, Education or Training - South Africa									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Both sexes	45,1	43,9	42,7	43,3	45,6	2,4	0,5		
Women	48,1	47,2	46,2	46,9	49,1	2,2	1,0		
Men	42,2	40,7	39,3	39,7	42,3	2,6	0,0		
Population groups	45,1	43,9	42,7	43,3	45,6	2,4	0,5		
Black/African	47,6	46,0	44,9	45,7	48,1	2,4	0,5		
Coloured	39,5	40,9	38,6	37,5	39,3	1,8	-0,3		
Indian/Asian	31,9	31,6	33,2	32,6	25,9	-6,7	-6,0		
White	17,1	19,0	16,3	15,7	21,9	6,2	4,8		
South Africa	45,1	43,9	42,7	43,3	45,6	2,4	0,5		
Western Cape	31,4	33,6	32,0	30,5	33,1	2,6	1,7		
Eastern Cape	49,7	45,8	47,4	47,3	50,1	2,8	0,4		
Northern Cape	47,2	50,6	50,0	50,9	53,1	2,3	6,0		
Free State	44,2	43,2	41,5	44,5	46,5	2,0	2,3		
KwaZulu-Natal	49,2	47,7	46,6	47,7	50,6	2,8	1,4		
North West	55,5	52,4	48,7	48,4	53,9	5,5	-1,7		
Gauteng	42,2	41,1	39,9	41,0	41,7	0,7	-0,5		
Mpumalanga	47,5	46,4	44,7	45,0	49,2	4,2	1,7		
Limpopo	45,3	44,2	41,7	42,7	44,1	1,4	-1,2		

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals

Table 8: Involvement in non-market activities and labour market status by province									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
South Africa									
Subsistence farming	2 456	2 007	2 014	2 364	2 348	-16	-107	-0,7	-4,4
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	3 652	3 766	4 383	3 982	3 958	-24	306	-0,6	8,4
Produce other goods for household use	284	293	358	296	318	22	33	7,5	11,7
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	364	306	301	265	324	59	-39	22,3	-10,8
Hunting or fishing for household use	41	39	32	32	40	8	-2	23,2	-3,7
Involvement in at least one activity	5 507	5 300	5 934	5 688	5 615	-73	108	-1,3	2,0
Employed	1 467	1 448	1 524	1 492	1 421	-71	-46	-4,8	-3,2
Unemployed	1 357	1 263	1 506	1 323	1 354	31	-4	2,3	-0,3
Outside the Labour Force	2 683	2 590	2 904	2 873	2 840	-32	158	-1,1	5,9
Western Cape									
Subsistence farming	78	82	73	75	71	-4	-7	-5,7	-8,6
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	150	117	99	119	143	24	-7	20,6	-4,5
Produce other goods for household use			11	4	1	-3		-83,9	
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	3	10	3						
Hunting or fishing for household use					2				
Involvement in at least one activity	224	208	180	185	208	23	-17	12,3	-7,4
Employed	117	95	95	92	110	18	-7	20,2	-6,1
Unemployed	45	49	43	36	46	10	1	28,7	1,5
Outside the Labour Force	62	64	42	58	52	-6	-10	-10,5	-16,4
Eastern Cape									
Subsistence farming	681	417	477	596	504	-92	-178	-15,5	-26,1
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	700	771	913	813	733	-81	32	-9,9	4,6
Produce other goods for household use	105	48	50	8	17	9	-88	101,8	-84,0
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	132	92	99	67	110	43	-22	64,2	-16,3
Hunting or fishing for household use	7	9	9	12	7	-5	1	-40,1	8,1
Involvement in at least one activity	1 280	1 120	1 210	1 243	1 108	-135	-172	-10,9	-13,5
Employed	230	235	182	195	173	-22	-57	-11,3	-24,7
Unemployed	359	325	419	421	380	-41	21	-9,7	5,8
Outside the Labour Force	691	560	609	627	555	-72	-137	-11,5	-19,7

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates. Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 8: Involvement in non-market activities and labour market status by province									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Northern Cape									
Subsistence farming	41	32	14	10	7	-3	-34	-26,7	-81,9
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	125	128	123	135	159	24	33	17,5	26,6
Produce other goods for household use	3	4	4		1		-2		-62,0
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	2	0	4	3	6	4	4	124,7	211,1
Hunting or fishing for household use	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	-21,5	-22,5
Involvement in at least one activity	154	153	136	143	164	21	10	14,3	6,3
Employed	49	36	33	34	34	-1	-15	-2,0	-30,7
Unemployed	33	33	31	27	32	5	-1	18,8	-3,3
Outside the Labour Force	72	84	71	82	98	16	26	19,7	35,9
Free State									
Subsistence farming	118	110	106	120	97	-23	-21	-18,9	-17,5
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	61	64	105	49	31	-18	-30	-36,4	-49,1
Produce other goods for household use	8	5	5	1	2	1	-6	68,5	-77,9
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	28	35	30	14	18	3	-10	23,2	-36,8
Hunting or fishing for household use	7	6	9	8	6	-3	-2	-33,2	-25,5
Involvement in at least one activity	180	175	207	165	137	-28	-43	-17,2	-23,9
Employed	81	85	82	62	59	-2	-21	-4,0	-26,6
Unemployed	47	53	63	50	39	-11	-8	-22,1	-17,1
Outside the Labour Force	52	37	62	53	38	-15	-14	-28,0	-26,1
KwaZulu-Natal									
Subsistence farming	999	912	880	979	1 092	113	93	11,5	9,3
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	1 410	1 437	1 474	1 490	1 540	50	130	3,3	9,2
Produce other goods for household use	157	188	254	251	267	16	110	6,2	69,6
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	133	116	102	132	157	25	24	19,2	17,9
Hunting or fishing for household use	13	10	10	9	17	8	4	92,4	30,5
Involvement in at least one activity	2 074	2 058	2 162	2 116	2 249	133	175	6,3	8,4
Employed	544	542	541	523	557	34	13	6,5	2,3
Unemployed	510	468	511	425	441	16	-69	3,9	-13,5
Outside the Labour Force	1 020	1 048	1 110	1 168	1 251	83	232	7,1	22,7

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates. Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 8: Involvement in non-market activities and labour market status by province									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
North West									
Subsistence farming	35	61	39	67	69	2	34	3,0	96,7
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	394	381	460	403	432	30	38	7,4	9,6
Produce other goods for household use	3	4	1	4	6	2	3	61,1	110,7
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	3		2		1		-3		-82,9
Hunting or fishing for household use									
Involvement in at least one activity	422	414	487	445	472	27	51	6,2	12,0
Employed	77	78	122	135	98	-37	21	-27,1	27,7
Unemployed	46	58	55	42	36	-7	-11	-16,0	-23,3
Outside the Labour Force	298	278	311	267	338	71	40	26,5	13,5
Gauteng									
Subsistence farming	34	34	49	34	56	22	22	63,4	65,9
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	86	68	239	140	97	-43	11	-30,9	12,4
Produce other goods for household use		6	2	1	3	2		207,6	
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	16	12	13	7	10	3	-7	47,2	-40,4
Hunting or fishing for household use	1	6			4		3		288,7
Involvement in at least one activity	126	116	291	175	160	-14	35	-8,3	27,7
Employed	65	59	113	80	73	-7	8	-8,9	13,0
Unemployed	45	39	99	48	54	7	9	13,8	20,0
Outside the Labour Force	16	19	78	47	33	-14	17	-29,6	109,9
Mpumalanga									
Subsistence farming	122	120	160	189	154	-35	32	-18,5	26,5
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	396	408	452	420	407	-12	11	-2,9	2,9
Produce other goods for household use	4	28	24	20	18	-2	14	-10,7	306,6
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	4	4	5	9	7	-2	2	-25,4	51,1
Hunting or fishing for household use	8	1	0	2	1	-1	-8	-46,3	-90,2
Involvement in at least one activity	481	505	580	585	531	-53	50	-9,1	10,4
Employed	123	122	151	156	135	-21	13	-13,3	10,4
Unemployed	140	131	172	139	170	31	30	22,2	21,1
Outside the Labour Force	218	252	258	290	226	-63	8	-21,9	3,7

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates. Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 8: Involvement in non-market activities and labour market status by province (concluded)									
	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Limpopo									
Subsistence farming	347	239	218	293	297	4	-50	1,5	-14,4
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	329	392	517	414	417	3	87	0,6	26,5
Produce other goods for household use	3	10	7	6	3	-3	0	-45,3	-5,2
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	42	38	44	34	16	-17	-26	-51,5	-61,0
Hunting or fishing for household use	3	5	3		3		-1		-19,7
Involvement in at least one activity	567	552	680	631	586	-46	19	-7,3	3,3
Employed	182	196	203	215	181	-34	-1	-15,8	-0,6
Unemployed	130	109	112	136	156	20	25	14,7	19,5
Outside the Labour Force	254	247	365	281	249	-32	-5	-11,4	-2,1

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates. Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Appendix 2

Table 2A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by sex						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Both sexes						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,6	0,7	-44	-332	244	0,77
Employed	0,8	0,8	-345	-540	-150	0,00
Formal sector (non-agriculture)*	1,0	1,1	-189	-388	9	0,06
Informal sector (non-agriculture)*	2,3	2,3	-127	-281	26	0,10
Household sector	3,7	3,3	-28	-93	37	0,40
Unemployed	1,7	1,9	301	45	557	0,02
Outside the Labour Force	0,9	1,0	164	-124	452	0,26
Potential Labour Force	2,7	3,2	240	-3	482	0,05
Available job-seekers	2,7	3,2	233	-8	475	0,06
Discouraged work-seekers	3,2	3,9	178	-66	423	0,15
Other Potential Labour Force	4,8	5,0	55	-37	147	0,24
Unavailable job-seekers	19,5	18,2	6	-15	27	0,57
Other (Outside the Labour Force)	0,9	1,0	-75	-287	137	0,48
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	0,6	0,7	-0,3	-1,0	0,4	0,43
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,8	0,8	-0,9	-1,4	-0,5	0,00
Inactivity rate	0,9	1,0	0,3	-0,4	1,0	0,43
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,4	1,5	1,3	0,5	2,1	0,00
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,4	1,3	1,6	0,8	2,5	0,00
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	0,9	0,9	1,5	0,9	2,2	0,00
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	0,9	0,9	1,8	1,1	2,5	0,00

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 2A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by sex (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Women						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,8	1,0	-1	-183	182	0,99
Employed	1,1	1,1	-206	-335	-77	0,00
Formal sector (non-agriculture)*	1,4	1,4	-115	-239	10	0,07
Informal sector (non-agriculture)*	3,4	3,5	-65	-146	16	0,12
Household sector	3,7	3,7	-26	-80	27	0,33
Unemployed	2,2	2,3	205	36	374	0,02
Outside the Labour Force	1,0	1,1	57	-126	239	0,54
Potential Labour Force	3,0	3,4	155	6	304	0,04
Available job-seekers	3,1	3,5	153	4	301	0,04
Discouraged work-seekers	3,7	4,3	130	-17	276	0,08
Other Potential Labour Force	5,1	5,3	23	-43	89	0,49
Unavailable job-seekers	23,9	23,7	2	-13	18	0,77
Other (Outside the Labour Force)	1,1	1,2	-98	-246	49	0,19
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	0,8	1,0	-0,1	-1,0	0,7	0,74
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,1	1,1	-1,1	-1,7	-0,5	0,00
Inactivity rate	1,0	1,1	0,1	-0,7	1,0	0,74
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,8	1,7	1,8	0,7	2,9	0,00
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,7	1,6	2,4	1,2	3,6	0,00
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	1,1	1,0	2,0	1,1	3,0	0,00
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	1,1	1,0	2,5	1,5	3,5	0,00

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 2A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by sex (concluded)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Men						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,7	0,7	-43	-218	132	0,63
Employed	0,9	0,9	-139	-306	28	0,10
Formal sector (non-agriculture)*	1,3	1,3	-75	-220	71	0,31
Informal sector (non-agriculture)*	2,5	2,6	-62	-182	57	0,30
Household sector	7,2	7,2	-2	-35	32	0,92
Unemployed	2,0	2,1	96	-81	272	0,29
Outside the Labour Force	1,2	1,3	108	-67	282	0,23
Potential Labour Force	3,1	3,5	85	-57	227	0,24
Available job-seekers	3,2	3,6	81	-61	223	0,26
Discouraged work-seekers	3,5	4,1	49	-90	188	0,49
Other Potential Labour Force	7,6	7,5	32	-23	87	0,26
Unavailable job-seekers	31,1	26,1	4	-9	17	0,57
Other (Outside the Labour Force)	1,2	1,4	23	-104	150	0,72
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	0,7	0,7	-0,4	-1,2	0,4	0,34
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,9	0,9	-0,8	-1,6	0,0	0,05
Inactivity rate	1,2	1,3	0,4	-0,4	1,2	0,34
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,8	1,8	0,8	-0,3	1,9	0,17
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,7	1,6	1,0	-0,2	2,1	0,10
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	1,3	1,3	1,1	0,0	2,1	0,05
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	1,3	1,2	1,2	0,1	2,2	0,03

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 2.1A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by population group						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
South Africa						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,6	0,7	-44	-332	244	0,77
Employed	0,8	0,8	-345	-540	-150	0,00
Unemployed	1,7	1,9	301	45	557	0,02
Outside the Labour Force	0,9	1,0	164	-124	452	0,26
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	0,6	0,7	-0,3	-1,0	0,4	0,43
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,8	0,8	-0,9	-1,4	-0,5	0,00
Inactivity rate	0,9	1,0	0,3	-0,4	1,0	0,43
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,4	1,5	1,3	0,5	2,1	0,00
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,4	1,3	1,6	0,8	2,5	0,00
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	0,9	0,9	1,5	0,9	2,2	0,00
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	0,9	0,9	1,8	1,1	2,5	0,00
Black/African						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,7	0,8	-7	-288	273	0,96
Employed	0,9	0,9	-236	-408	-64	0,01
Unemployed	1,8	2,0	229	-18	476	0,07
Outside the Labour Force	1,0	1,1	131	-150	411	0,36
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	0,7	0,8	-0,2	-1,0	0,6	0,58
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,9	0,9	-0,8	-1,3	-0,3	0,00
Inactivity rate	1,0	1,1	0,2	-0,6	1,0	0,58
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,4	1,5	1,1	0,3	2,0	0,01
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,4	1,3	1,5	0,6	2,4	0,00
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	0,9	0,9	1,5	0,7	2,2	0,00
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	0,9	0,9	1,8	1,0	2,5	0,00

Table 2.1A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by population group (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Coloured						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,9	1,7	6	-58	71	0,85
Employed	2,4	2,8	-55	-123	14	0,12
Unemployed	6,2	7,1	61	8	114	0,02
Outside the Labour Force	2,9	2,6	-2	-67	62	0,94
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,9	1,7	0,1	-1,7	1,9	0,90
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,4	2,8	-1,6	-3,4	0,3	0,11
Inactivity rate	2,9	2,6	-0,1	-1,9	1,7	0,90
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	5,8	7,0	2,7	0,4	5,0	0,02
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,9	6,5	2,7	0,3	5,1	0,03
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,7	4,9	1,8	-0,5	4,2	0,13
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,5	4,7	1,8	-0,7	4,4	0,15
Indian/Asian						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	3,0	3,8	-7	-46	32	0,74
Employed	4,0	3,7	1	-43	44	0,98
Unemployed	15,8	11,6	-7	-33	19	0,58
Outside the Labour Force	4,2	5,1	9	-31	48	0,67
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	3,0	3,8	-0,7	-4,4	2,9	0,70
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	4,0	3,7	0,0	-4,1	4,1	0,99
Inactivity rate	4,2	5,1	0,7	-2,9	4,4	0,70
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	15,4	10,0	-1,0	-5,2	3,1	0,63
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	15,6	9,9	-0,5	-4,8	3,9	0,83
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	12,1	7,4	-1,4	-6,4	3,5	0,56
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	12,6	7,5	-1,0	-6,1	4,2	0,72

Table 2.1A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by population group (concluded)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
White						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,7	1,7	-36	-79	6	0,09
Employed	1,8	2,0	-55	-105	-5	0,03
Unemployed	10,7	10,7	19	-12	50	0,24
Outside the Labour Force	4,1	3,9	27	-15	70	0,21
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,7	1,7	-1,1	-2,7	0,5	0,17
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,8	2,0	-1,8	-3,7	0,0	0,06
Inactivity rate	4,1	3,9	1,1	-0,5	2,7	0,17
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	10,4	10,6	1,1	-0,5	2,8	0,17
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	9,5	9,3	1,7	0,2	3,2	0,03
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	8,8	10,8	2,0	-0,1	4,1	0,07
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	8,2	9,3	2,5	0,5	4,4	0,01

Table 2.3A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
South Africa						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,6	0,7	-44	-332	244	0,77
Employed	0,8	0,8	-345	-540	-150	0,00
Unemployed	1,7	1,9	301	45	557	0,02
Outside the Labour Force	0,9	1,0	164	-124	452	0,26
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	0,6	0,7	-0,3	-1,0	0,4	0,43
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,8	0,8	-0,9	-1,4	-0,5	0,00
Inactivity rate	0,9	1,0	0,3	-0,4	1,0	0,43
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,4	1,5	1,3	0,5	2,1	0,00
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,4	1,3	1,6	0,8	2,5	0,00
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	0,9	0,9	1,5	0,9	2,2	0,00
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	0,9	0,9	1,8	1,1	2,5	0,00
Western Cape						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,4	1,1	39	-46	123	0,37
Employed	1,5	1,5	-24	-104	57	0,56
Unemployed	6,3	5,3	62	-8	132	0,08
Outside the Labour Force	3,1	2,6	-22	-106	62	0,61
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,4	1,1	0,5	-1,1	2,2	0,53
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,5	1,5	-0,6	-2,2	0,9	0,42
Inactivity rate	3,1	2,6	-0,5	-2,2	1,1	0,53
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	5,7	5,0	1,5	-0,3	3,3	0,09
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,7	4,6	2,2	0,3	4,0	0,03
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,0	4,3	1,1	-1,0	3,2	0,30
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,3	4,0	1,7	-0,4	3,7	0,11

Table 2.3A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Western Cape - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	3,1	2,6	33	-26	92	0,27
Employed	2,0	2,8	9	-61	79	0,80
Unemployed	12,5	13,7	24	-8	57	0,14
Outside the Labour Force	5,4	4,8	-28	-87	32	0,36
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	3,1	2,6	1,6	-1,6	4,7	0,32
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,0	2,8	0,3	-3,4	4,1	0,87
Inactivity rate	5,4	4,8	-1,6	-4,7	1,6	0,32
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	9,9	12,5	1,6	-1,2	4,4	0,26
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	8,2	11,6	1,9	-1,9	5,8	0,32
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,4	7,7	0,2	-3,8	4,2	0,92
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,8	7,5	0,5	-3,8	4,9	0,81
Western Cape - City of Cape Town						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,5	1,0	5	-60	71	0,88
Employed	2,2	1,7	-33	-82	17	0,19
Unemployed	7,4	5,1	38	-24	100	0,23
Outside the Labour Force	3,8	2,7	6	-60	71	0,87
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,5	1,0	-0,1	-2,1	1,9	0,94
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,2	1,7	-1,2	-2,7	0,3	0,12
Inactivity rate	3,8	2,7	0,1	-1,9	2,1	0,94
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	7,1	5,1	1,6	-0,7	3,8	0,18
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	5,9	4,5	2,3	0,3	4,3	0,03
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	6,3	4,7	1,6	-0,8	4,0	0,19
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	5,1	4,2	2,3	0,2	4,5	0,04

Table 2.3A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Eastern Cape						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,7	2,1	12	-75	98	0,79
Employed	3,5	3,7	-43	-116	29	0,24
Unemployed	4,5	5,7	55	-40	151	0,25
Outside the Labour Force	1,9	2,2	0	-87	86	1,00
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,7	2,1	0,1	-1,7	2,0	0,90
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,5	3,7	-1,0	-2,6	0,6	0,20
Inactivity rate	1,9	2,2	-0,1	-2,0	1,7	0,90
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,1	4,7	2,1	-1,0	5,2	0,19
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,1	4,0	3,7	0,9	6,5	0,01
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,8	3,1	3,0	0,4	5,7	0,02
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,8	2,7	4,3	2,0	6,6	0,00
Eastern Cape - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,2	2,6	13	-56	82	0,71
Employed	4,0	5,4	-23	-72	26	0,35
Unemployed	5,0	6,6	36	-36	108	0,32
Outside the Labour Force	2,0	2,4	-6	-75	62	0,85
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,2	2,6	0,3	-1,9	2,5	0,78
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	4,0	5,4	-0,8	-2,3	0,8	0,32
Inactivity rate	2,0	2,4	-0,3	-2,5	1,9	0,78
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	3,9	5,1	1,9	-1,4	5,2	0,25
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,0	4,2	4,4	1,8	6,9	0,00
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,4	3,3	1,9	-0,9	4,7	0,19
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,5	2,8	3,8	1,7	5,9	0,00

Table 2.3A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Eastern Cape - Buffalo City						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,8	1,6	-19	-42	5	0,12
Employed	7,5	5,0	-25	-53	4	0,09
Unemployed	18,1	13,8	6	-20	32	0,65
Outside the Labour Force	5,9	2,8	21	-3	44	0,08
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,8	1,6	-3,5	-7,6	0,6	0,10
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	7,5	5,0	-4,5	-9,5	0,5	0,08
Inactivity rate	5,9	2,8	3,5	-0,6	7,6	0,10
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	18,4	13,2	3,0	-3,4	9,4	0,36
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	15,3	11,5	6,0	-0,4	12,3	0,07
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	16,4	9,4	8,3	1,9	14,7	0,01
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	13,7	8,7	10,7	4,9	16,5	0,00
Eastern Cape - Nelson Mandela Bay						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	4,5	5,6	18	-28	63	0,45
Employed	8,8	7,6	4	-41	50	0,85
Unemployed	11,9	16,9	13	-43	70	0,65
Outside the Labour Force	5,5	7,3	-14	-60	31	0,53
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	4,5	5,6	1,7	-3,3	6,7	0,49
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	8,8	7,6	0,3	-4,7	5,4	0,89
Inactivity rate	5,5	7,3	-1,7	-6,7	3,3	0,49
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	14,0	15,1	1,6	-8,2	11,3	0,75
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	13,1	13,6	-0,1	-10,0	9,9	0,99
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	11,0	10,2	4,4	-3,1	11,9	0,25
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	10,7	9,5	2,8	-5,1	10,8	0,48

Table 2.3A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Northern cape						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	3,7	6,0	-20	-57	18	0,31
Employed	5,3	8,9	-29	-62	5	0,09
Unemployed	5,0	3,9	9	-1	20	0,09
Outside the Labour Force	4,4	6,5	21	-17	59	0,28
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	3,7	6,0	-2,4	-6,8	2,0	0,29
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	5,3	8,9	-3,4	-7,4	0,5	0,09
Inactivity rate	4,4	6,5	2,4	-2,0	6,8	0,29
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	6,0	7,5	3,3	0,7	5,8	0,01
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	6,2	6,3	4,0	1,5	6,5	0,00
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,6	5,9	4,1	0,8	7,5	0,02
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	4,3	5,2	4,7	1,5	7,8	0,00
Free State						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,9	2,4	-6	-42	29	0,73
Employed	3,3	4,7	-11	-46	24	0,53
Unemployed	5,3	5,0	5	-22	32	0,71
Outside the Labour Force	3,3	4,1	7	-29	42	0,72
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,9	2,4	-0,3	-2,2	1,5	0,72
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,3	4,7	-0,6	-2,4	1,2	0,52
Inactivity rate	3,3	4,1	0,3	-1,5	2,2	0,72
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,8	5,4	0,6	-1,4	2,6	0,56
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,5	5,2	0,5	-2,0	3,0	0,68
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,3	5,1	0,3	-2,0	2,5	0,83
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	4,0	5,0	0,2	-2,2	2,6	0,86

Table 2.3A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Free State - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,5	2,7	9	-18	36	0,50
Employed	4,5	5,9	-11	-37	15	0,40
Unemployed	6,8	6,0	20	-6	46	0,13
Outside the Labour Force	4,5	5,1	-9	-36	18	0,51
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,5	2,7	0,6	-1,3	2,6	0,51
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	4,5	5,9	-0,8	-2,7	1,0	0,39
Inactivity rate	4,5	5,1	-0,6	-2,6	1,3	0,51
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	6,2	6,4	1,9	-0,7	4,4	0,15
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	5,7	6,4	1,1	-2,1	4,3	0,49
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	5,5	6,5	0,9	-1,3	3,2	0,41
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	5,0	6,5	0,3	-2,4	3,0	0,83
Free State - Mangaung						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,3	5,1	-15	-39	8	0,20
Employed	3,0	7,7	0	-24	24	0,99
Unemployed	4,9	7,3	-15	-20	-10	0,00
Outside the Labour Force	3,4	6,8	15	-8	39	0,19
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,3	5,1	-2,7	-6,9	1,4	0,19
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,0	7,7	0,0	-4,4	4,3	0,99
Inactivity rate	3,4	6,8	2,7	-1,4	6,9	0,19
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,1	8,5	-3,1	-6,1	-0,2	0,03
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	5,1	7,8	-1,3	-4,7	2,1	0,46
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	5,8	5,7	-1,6	-7,1	3,8	0,56
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	6,6	5,7	-0,1	-5,0	4,8	0,97

Table 2.3A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
KwaZulu-Natal						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,1	2,6	-54	-229	121	0,54
Employed	2,3	2,2	6	-95	107	0,91
Unemployed	5,6	6,5	-60	-189	69	0,36
Outside the Labour Force	2,2	2,7	77	-98	252	0,39
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,1	2,6	-0,8	-3,1	1,4	0,46
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,3	2,2	0,0	-1,3	1,3	0,97
Inactivity rate	2,2	2,7	0,8	-1,4	3,1	0,46
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,4	4,6	-1,1	-3,3	1,2	0,35
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,9	4,0	0,4	-2,0	2,8	0,76
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,3	2,4	0,1	-2,0	2,3	0,93
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,3	2,5	1,2	-1,1	3,4	0,31
KwaZulu-Natal - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	3,4	3,5	-3	-135	128	0,96
Employed	3,3	3,0	15	-45	74	0,63
Unemployed	7,6	7,5	-18	-129	93	0,75
Outside the Labour Force	2,9	3,0	17	-115	148	0,80
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	3,4	3,5	-0,2	-2,8	2,4	0,89
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,3	3,0	0,2	-1,0	1,4	0,72
Inactivity rate	2,9	3,0	0,2	-2,4	2,8	0,89
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	5,3	5,0	-0,7	-3,8	2,3	0,64
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,5	4,4	0,7	-2,7	4,0	0,69
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,6	2,9	-0,2	-2,3	2,0	0,89
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,7	3,1	0,9	-1,7	3,4	0,49

Table 2.3A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
KwaZulu-Natal - eThekweni						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,8	4,1	-51	-168	66	0,39
Employed	3,0	3,2	-9	-90	72	0,83
Unemployed	6,7	13,0	-42	-108	24	0,21
Outside the Labour Force	2,9	5,9	60	-57	177	0,31
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,8	4,1	-2,1	-6,3	2,2	0,34
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,0	3,2	-0,5	-3,5	2,5	0,75
Inactivity rate	2,9	5,9	2,1	-2,2	6,3	0,34
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	6,7	10,0	-1,8	-4,9	1,2	0,24
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	6,4	8,5	-0,3	-3,3	2,7	0,83
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,5	4,2	0,4	-3,7	4,6	0,84
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	4,3	4,0	1,5	-2,6	5,6	0,46
North West						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,5	4,2	-118	-237	2	0,05
Employed	4,2	4,0	-80	-134	-25	0,00
Unemployed	8,8	10,7	-38	-143	67	0,48
Outside the Labour Force	2,7	3,9	126	6	245	0,04
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,5	4,2	-4,3	-8,4	-0,1	0,05
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	4,2	4,0	-2,9	-4,8	-1,0	0,00
Inactivity rate	2,7	3,9	4,3	0,1	8,4	0,05
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	7,8	7,8	0,2	-4,6	5,1	0,92
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	6,9	6,8	-0,4	-5,1	4,3	0,87
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,7	2,9	4,0	1,8	6,1	0,00
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,3	2,6	3,3	1,2	5,5	0,00

Table 2.3A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Gauteng						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,1	1,4	22	-123	167	0,77
Employed	1,4	1,6	-67	-180	46	0,24
Unemployed	3,0	2,9	89	-35	212	0,16
Outside the Labour Force	2,3	2,9	17	-128	162	0,82
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,1	1,4	0,0	-1,3	1,2	0,95
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,4	1,6	-0,7	-1,7	0,2	0,14
Inactivity rate	2,3	2,9	0,0	-1,2	1,3	0,95
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	2,5	2,3	1,0	-0,2	2,3	0,10
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	2,6	2,1	1,2	-0,3	2,7	0,11
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,0	1,8	1,2	0,1	2,3	0,04
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,1	1,8	1,3	0,0	2,7	0,06
Gauteng - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	4,4	4,7	-11	-58	36	0,65
Employed	3,9	4,3	12	-33	57	0,61
Unemployed	10,5	11,2	-23	-70	25	0,35
Outside the Labour Force	9,3	9,5	16	-31	63	0,50
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	4,4	4,7	-0,9	-4,0	2,1	0,55
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,9	4,3	0,6	-2,3	3,6	0,69
Inactivity rate	9,3	9,5	0,9	-2,1	4,0	0,55
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	7,5	8,1	-1,9	-5,9	2,1	0,36
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	7,4	8,9	-2,3	-6,7	2,2	0,32
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	5,5	5,5	-0,7	-4,4	2,9	0,70
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	6,0	5,8	-1,1	-5,4	3,2	0,62

Table 2.3A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Gauteng - Ekurhuleni						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,2	2,6	-16	-82	49	0,62
Employed	2,4	2,5	-17	-61	27	0,45
Unemployed	6,3	7,0	1	-56	58	0,98
Outside the Labour Force	3,8	4,3	26	-39	92	0,43
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,2	2,6	-0,8	-3,0	1,5	0,50
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,4	2,5	-0,7	-2,3	0,8	0,35
Inactivity rate	3,8	4,3	0,8	-1,5	3,0	0,50
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	5,0	5,3	0,3	-2,1	2,7	0,79
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	5,0	5,0	0,4	-2,1	2,9	0,75
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,3	2,7	1,4	-0,1	2,8	0,07
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,3	2,5	1,4	-0,1	3,0	0,07
Gauteng - City of Johannesburg						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,8	2,8	75	-43	194	0,21
Employed	3,0	3,6	23	-65	111	0,61
Unemployed	4,7	4,8	52	-35	139	0,24
Outside the Labour Force	3,9	6,3	-61	-180	57	0,31
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,8	2,8	1,5	-1,2	4,3	0,27
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,0	3,6	0,4	-1,7	2,4	0,71
Inactivity rate	3,9	6,3	-1,5	-4,3	1,2	0,27
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,4	4,0	0,9	-1,4	3,2	0,43
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,7	3,4	1,7	-1,0	4,4	0,22
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,2	4,0	0,9	-1,4	3,2	0,43
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	4,3	3,7	1,6	-1,2	4,4	0,26

Table 2.3A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Gauteng - City of Tshwane						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,1	1,6	-27	-68	15	0,21
Employed	2,3	2,5	-85	-130	-39	0,00
Unemployed	5,8	4,3	58	9	107	0,02
Outside the Labour Force	4,8	3,4	36	-5	78	0,09
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,1	1,6	-1,2	-2,6	0,3	0,12
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,3	2,5	-3,1	-4,7	-1,5	0,00
Inactivity rate	4,8	3,4	1,2	-0,3	2,6	0,12
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,6	3,8	3,4	1,2	5,7	0,00
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,7	3,7	2,9	0,2	5,7	0,04
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,5	3,4	2,6	0,4	4,7	0,02
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,7	3,4	2,1	-0,4	4,7	0,10
Mpumalanga						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,0	1,8	34	-30	99	0,29
Employed	2,5	2,6	-54	-88	-19	0,00
Unemployed	4,4	5,6	88	21	155	0,01
Outside the Labour Force	2,8	2,6	-25	-89	39	0,44
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,0	1,8	0,9	-1,1	2,9	0,38
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,5	2,6	-1,8	-2,8	-0,7	0,00
Inactivity rate	2,8	2,6	-0,9	-2,9	1,1	0,38
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	3,7	4,7	4,0	1,5	6,5	0,00
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,5	4,3	3,7	1,0	6,4	0,01
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,5	2,7	3,3	1,6	5,0	0,00
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,4	2,5	3,1	1,3	4,9	0,00

Table 2.3A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (concluded)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Limpopo						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,3	2,6	47	-39	134	0,28
Employed	2,7	3,0	-43	-104	19	0,17
Unemployed	5,2	6,9	90	2	178	0,04
Outside the Labour Force	2,6	3,0	-36	-123	51	0,42
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,3	2,6	1,0	-1,1	3,1	0,35
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,7	3,0	-1,1	-2,6	0,4	0,13
Inactivity rate	2,6	3,0	-1,0	-3,1	1,1	0,35
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,4	5,6	3,5	0,3	6,6	0,03
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,8	4,4	2,2	-1,0	5,5	0,18
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,8	2,9	0,9	-0,8	2,6	0,29
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,0	2,6	0,1	-1,6	1,8	0,93

Table 3.1A: Sampling variability for the employed by industry and sex						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Both sexes	0,8	0,8	-345	-540	-150	0,00
Agriculture	4,5	5,3	10	-76	95	0,82
Mining	9,1	9,5	32	-3	67	0,07
Manufacturing	3,2	3,3	38	-64	140	0,46
Utilities	13,5	10,9	-21	-50	8	0,16
Construction	3,2	3,7	-110	-201	-19	0,02
Trade	2,2	2,2	-6	-136	123	0,93
Transport	3,6	3,5	-30	-107	48	0,45
Finance	2,4	2,3	-23	-147	102	0,72
Community and social services	2,0	2,1	-206	-334	-79	0,00
Private households	3,7	3,3	-28	-93	37	0,40
Women	1,1	1,1	-206	-335	-77	0,00
Agriculture	6,9	8,0	-4	-43	34	0,82
Mining	19,6	13,7	9	-11	30	0,37
Manufacturing	4,7	5,7	-12	-66	42	0,66
Utilities	23,8	22,7	-12	-28	3	0,11
Construction	9,7	9,3	-11	-42	20	0,48
Trade	2,7	2,9	-10	-91	71	0,81
Transport	8,5	9,0	-21	-54	12	0,21
Finance	3,3	3,1	17	-56	89	0,65
Community and social services	2,2	2,3	-135	-232	-37	0,01
Private households	3,7	3,7	-26	-80	27	0,33
Men	0,9	0,9	-139	-306	28	0,10
Agriculture	5,3	5,6	14	-55	83	0,69
Mining	9,9	10,7	23	-12	57	0,20
Manufacturing	4,1	3,6	50	-31	132	0,23
Utilities	14,2	13,0	-8	-32	15	0,49
Construction	3,3	3,9	-99	-183	-15	0,02
Trade	2,9	3,0	4	-91	98	0,94
Transport	3,7	3,6	-9	-76	59	0,80
Finance	2,9	2,8	-39	-134	56	0,42
Community and social services	3,2	3,2	-72	-157	14	0,10
Private households	7,2	7,2	-2	-35	32	0,92

Table 3.4 A: Sampling variability for the employed by province and sector						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
South Africa	0,8	0,8	-345	-540	-150	0,00
Formal sector*	1,0	1,1	-189	-388	9	0,06
Informal sector*	2,3	2,3	-127	-281	26	0,10
Households	3,7	3,3	-28	-93	37	0,40
Western Cape	1,5	1,5	-24	-104	57	0,56
Formal sector*	2,3	2,3	-20	-111	72	0,67
Informal sector*	7,2	8,0	-12	-77	53	0,71
Households	11,6	10,6	8	-9	26	0,34
Western Cape – Non-metro	2,0	2,8	9	-61	79	0,80
Formal sector*	1,9	3,4	2	-63	67	0,95
Informal sector*	8,5	16,3	4	-38	46	0,86
Households	17,8	18,9	3	-8	14	0,56
Western Cape – City of Cape Town	2,2	1,7	-33	-82	17	0,19
Formal sector*	3,3	3,0	-22	-90	46	0,53
Informal sector*	10,2	8,5	-16	-66	34	0,53
Households	14,8	12,0	5	-8	19	0,45
Eastern Cape	3,5	3,7	-43	-116	29	0,24
Formal sector*	4,1	4,6	-73	-142	-5	0,04
Informal sector*	7,7	6,6	31	-22	83	0,25
Households	11,2	10,5	-1	-18	16	0,93
Eastern Cape – Non-metro	4,0	5,4	-23	-72	26	0,35
Formal sector*	5,2	7,4	-51	-108	7	0,08
Informal sector*	8,9	8,5	26	-14	66	0,21
Households	13,3	11,9	2	-11	15	0,76
Eastern Cape – Buffalo City	7,5	5,0	-25	-53	4	0,09
Formal sector*	9,4	10,1	-27	-48	-5	0,01
Informal sector*	17,2	11,7	3	-23	29	0,84
Households	30,0	30,3	-1	-11	9	0,88

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 3.4A: Sampling variability for the employed by province and sector (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Eastern Cape – Nelson Mandela Bay	8,8	7,6	4	-41	50	0,85
Formal sector*	8,0	7,3	4	-26	35	0,78
Informal sector*	25,9	14,2	2	-19	23	0,85
Households	25,7	28,2	-2	-6	2	0,26
Northern Cape	5,3	8,9	-29	-62	5	0,09
Formal sector*	6,3	11,1	-36	-66	-6	0,02
Informal sector*	18,4	16,9	4	-9	17	0,56
Households	17,5	20,5	3	-5	12	0,41
Free State	3,3	4,7	-11	-46	24	0,53
Formal sector*	5,3	5,6	-15	-47	16	0,34
Informal sector*	9,5	11,4	2	-21	25	0,87
Households	12,1	12,2	2	-21	25	0,87
Free State – Non-metro	4,5	5,9	-11	-37	15	0,40
Formal sector*	7,1	6,9	-4	-28	20	0,76
Informal sector*	12,2	15,6	-1	-21	20	0,93
Households	14,3	15,0	-6	-20	8	0,37
Free State – Mangaung	3,0	7,7	0	-24	24	0,99
Formal sector*	5,9	9,5	-11	-32	10	0,28
Informal sector*	11,5	6,6	3	-8	13	0,59
Households	22,6	20,8	8	-10	26	0,36
KwaZulu-Natal	2,3	2,2	6	-95	107	0,91
Formal sector*	2,9	3,3	66	-23	154	0,14
Informal sector*	6,5	4,5	-59	-125	6	0,08
Households	8,6	9,7	0	-23	23	0,97
KwaZulu-Natal – Non-metro	3,3	3,0	15	-45	74	0,63
Formal sector*	3,7	3,6	24	-32	80	0,39
Informal sector*	8,7	7,0	-29	-77	20	0,24
Households	14,4	12,2	19	2	37	0,03

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 3.4A: Sampling variability for the employed by province and sector (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
KwaZulu-Natal – eThekweni	3,0	3,2	-9	-90	72	0,83
Formal sector*	4,5	5,6	41	-26	109	0,23
Informal sector*	9,7	4,7	-31	-74	13	0,17
Households	10,0	16,1	-20	-35	-5	0,01
North West	4,2	4,0	-80	-134	-25	0,00
Formal sector*	5,2	4,4	-23	-76	30	0,40
Informal sector*	7,5	7,7	-46	-88	-4	0,03
Households	9,4	14,4	-11	-27	5	0,19
Gauteng	1,4	1,6	-67	-180	46	0,24
Formal sector*	2,1	2,4	-32	-160	95	0,62
Informal sector*	4,5	4,5	-15	-92	61	0,69
Households	7,5	5,3	-19	-59	20	0,34
Gauteng – Non-metro	3,9	4,3	12	-33	57	0,61
Formal sector*	4,0	4,5	13	-35	61	0,60
Informal sector*	10,8	15,3	2	-15	19	0,83
Households	20,1	19,9	-3	-13	7	0,56
Gauteng – Ekurhuleni	2,4	2,5	-17	-61	27	0,45
Formal sector*	3,4	3,5	-2	-52	48	0,93
Informal sector*	10,0	9,3	-10	-48	27	0,59
Households	15,5	12,5	-5	-18	9	0,50
Gauteng – City of Johannesburg	3,0	3,6	23	-65	111	0,61
Formal sector*	5,5	6,1	12	-88	112	0,81
Informal sector*	6,7	6,6	9	-45	64	0,73
Households	10,4	6,3	1	-25	28	0,92
Gauteng – City of Tshwane	2,3	2,5	-85	-130	-39	0,00
Formal sector*	2,6	2,9	-55	-106	-5	0,03
Informal sector*	10,3	9,7	-16	-51	18	0,35
Households	17,4	12,2	-13	-37	11	0,29

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 3.4A: Sampling variability for the employed by province and sector (concluded)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Mpumalanga	2,5	2,6	-54	-88	-19	0,00
Formal sector*	4,1	3,8	-7	-54	39	0,75
Informal sector*	6,4	6,2	-40	-69	-11	0,01
Households	13,1	10,6	-6	-23	11	0,46
Limpopo	2,7	3,0	-43	-104	19	0,17
Formal sector*	3,5	3,3	-48	-89	-7	0,02
Informal sector*	5,4	7,2	9	-50	68	0,76
Households	11,9	10,5	-4	-26	18	0,71

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 3.5A: Sampling variability for the employed by sex and occupation						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Both sexes	0,8	0,8	-345	-540	-150	0,00
Manager	3,8	3,6	65	-19	150	0,13
Professional	4,4	4,7	-2	-68	65	0,96
Technician	2,7	3,1	-91	-189	8	0,07
Clerk	2,8	2,6	-29	-132	74	0,58
Sales and services	2,3	2,3	-145	-265	-26	0,02
Skilled agriculture	14,7	11,2	35	12	59	0,00
Craft and related trade	2,8	3,1	-91	-192	9	0,08
Plant and machine operator	3,5	3,3	31	-50	112	0,45
Elementary	1,8	1,9	-72	-206	62	0,29
Domestic worker	3,5	3,6	-10	-65	45	0,71
Women	1,1	1,1	-206	-335	-77	0,00
Manager	6,1	6,0	21	-27	69	0,38
Professional	5,7	6,3	-37	-88	13	0,15
Technician	3,5	4,3	-48	-117	22	0,18
Clerk	3,4	3,4	-48	-136	40	0,28
Sales and services	3,1	2,9	-99	-187	-10	0,03
Skilled agriculture	21,3	22,2	-1	-12	10	0,83
Craft and related trade	7,4	7,4	-24	-61	13	0,21
Plant and machine operator	10,4	9,2	10	-23	43	0,53
Elementary	2,9	2,8	53	-24	130	0,17
Domestic worker	3,7	3,7	-22	-75	30	0,41
Men	0,9	0,9	-139	-306	28	0,10
Manager	4,1	3,7	44	-22	110	0,19
Professional	5,7	5,2	35	-7	78	0,10
Technician	3,9	4,5	-43	-107	21	0,19
Clerk	5,1	4,8	19	-31	69	0,46
Sales and services	3,1	3,1	-47	-128	34	0,26
Skilled agriculture	19,7	13,5	36	15	58	0,00
Craft and related trade	3,0	3,2	-68	-164	29	0,17
Plant and machine operator	3,7	3,6	21	-54	96	0,59
Elementary	2,3	2,3	-125	-235	-16	0,02
Domestic worker	17,8	15,3	12	-2	25	0,09

Table 2B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by sex						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Both sexes						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,6	0,7	-124	-516	268	0,53
Employed	0,8	0,8	-33	-378	312	0,85
Formal sector (non-agriculture)*	-	1,1	-	-	-	-
Informal sector (non-agriculture)*	-	2,3	-	-	-	-
Household sector	-	3,3	-	-	-	-
Unemployed	1,9	1,9	-91	-426	244	0,59
Outside the Labour Force	0,9	1,0	622	230	1 014	0,00
Potential Labour Force	3,2	3,2	371	68	674	0,02
Available job-seekers	3,2	3,2	338	31	645	0,03
Discouraged work-seekers	3,6	3,9	420	136	703	0,00
Other Potential Labour Force	5,3	5,0	-82	-198	35	0,17
Unavailable job-seekers	28,8	18,2	33	13	53	0,00
Other (Outside the Labour Force)	1,0	1,0	251	-60	561	0,11
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	0,6	0,7	-1,0	-1,9	-0,1	0,04
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,8	0,8	-0,6	-1,4	0,3	0,19
Inactivity rate	0,9	1,0	1,0	0,1	1,9	0,04
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,6	1,5	-0,2	-1,3	0,9	0,73
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,5	1,3	-0,1	-1,3	1,0	0,83
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	1,0	0,9	0,6	-0,4	1,6	0,25
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	0,9	0,9	0,6	-0,4	1,6	0,25

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 2B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by sex (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Women						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,9	1,0	-72	-333	189	0,59
Employed	1,1	1,1	-148	-365	69	0,18
Formal sector (non-agriculture)*	-	1,4	-	-	-	-
Informal sector (non-agriculture)*	-	3,5	-	-	-	-
Household sector	-	3,7	-	-	-	-
Unemployed	2,3	2,3	76	-142	293	0,49
Outside the Labour Force	1,1	1,1	304	44	565	0,02
Potential Labour Force	3,6	3,4	208	22	393	0,03
Available job-seekers	3,6	3,5	185	-3	372	0,05
Discouraged work-seekers	4,2	4,3	217	47	386	0,01
Other Potential Labour Force	5,5	5,3	-32	-113	49	0,44
Unavailable job-seekers	35,8	23,7	23	8	38	0,00
Other (Outside the Labour Force)	1,2	1,2	97	-122	315	0,38
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	0,9	1,0	-0,9	-2,2	0,3	0,14
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,1	1,1	-1,1	-2,1	-0,1	0,04
Inactivity rate	1,1	1,1	0,9	-0,3	2,2	0,14
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,8	1,7	0,9	-0,7	2,4	0,26
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,7	1,6	1,2	-0,4	2,8	0,13
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	1,2	1,0	1,6	0,2	2,9	0,02
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	1,1	1,0	1,8	0,4	3,2	0,01

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 2B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by sex (concluded)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Men						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,6	0,7	-52	-276	172	0,65
Employed	0,9	0,9	115	-106	336	0,31
Formal sector (non-agriculture)*	-	1,3	-	-	-	-
Informal sector (non-agriculture)*	-	2,6	-	-	-	-
Household sector	-	7,2	-	-	-	-
Unemployed	2,2	2,1	-167	-373	39	0,11
Outside the Labour Force	1,1	1,3	318	94	542	0,01
Potential Labour Force	3,6	3,5	164	-3	330	0,05
Available job-seekers	3,6	3,6	153	-16	322	0,08
Discouraged work-seekers	4,0	4,1	203	46	360	0,01
Other Potential Labour Force	7,4	7,5	-50	-116	17	0,14
Unavailable job-seekers	43,7	26,1	10	-3	23	0,12
Other (Outside the Labour Force)	1,3	1,4	154	-29	337	0,10
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	0,6	0,7	-1,1	-2,1	0,0	0,05
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,9	0,9	0,0	-1,1	1,0	0,96
Inactivity rate	1,1	1,3	1,1	0,0	2,1	0,05
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	2,0	1,8	-1,1	-2,5	0,2	0,11
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,9	1,6	-1,3	-2,7	0,1	0,07
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	1,3	1,3	-0,3	-1,6	1,0	0,64
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	1,3	1,2	-0,5	-1,7	0,8	0,46

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 2.1A: Table 2.1B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by population group						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
South Africa						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,6	0,7	-124	-516	268	0,53
Employed	0,8	0,8	-33	-378	312	0,85
Unemployed	1,9	1,9	-91	-426	244	0,59
Outside the Labour Force	0,9	1,0	622	230	1 014	0,00
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	0,6	0,7	-1,0	-1,9	-0,1	0,04
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,8	0,8	-0,6	-1,4	0,3	0,19
Inactivity rate	0,9	1,0	1,0	0,1	1,9	0,04
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,6	1,5	-0,2	-1,3	0,9	0,73
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,5	1,3	-0,1	-1,3	1,0	0,83
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	1,0	0,9	0,6	-0,4	1,6	0,25
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	0,9	0,9	0,6	-0,4	1,6	0,25
Black/African						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,7	0,8	-24	-388	340	0,90
Employed	0,9	0,9	96	-210	402	0,54
Unemployed	2,0	2,0	-120	-433	193	0,45
Outside the Labour Force	1,0	1,1	533	169	897	0,00
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	0,7	0,8	-0,9	-2,0	0,1	0,08
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,9	0,9	-0,3	-1,2	0,6	0,55
Inactivity rate	1,0	1,1	0,9	-0,1	2,0	0,08
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,6	1,5	-0,6	-1,8	0,7	0,39
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,5	1,3	-0,5	-1,7	0,8	0,47
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	1,0	0,9	0,3	-0,9	1,4	0,65
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	0,9	0,9	0,3	-0,9	1,4	0,62

Table 2.1A: Table 2.1B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by population group (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Coloured						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,2	1,7	-42	-117	33	0,27
Employed	2,1	2,8	-39	-145	68	0,47
Unemployed	5,7	7,1	-3	-99	93	0,95
Outside the Labour Force	2,1	2,6	58	-17	133	0,13
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,2	1,7	-1,4	-3,5	0,6	0,17
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,1	2,8	-1,3	-4,2	1,6	0,39
Inactivity rate	2,1	2,6	1,4	-0,6	3,5	0,17
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	5,6	7,0	0,3	-3,9	4,5	0,89
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	5,3	6,5	0,0	-4,2	4,1	1,00
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,6	4,9	0,8	-3,3	4,9	0,69
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	4,4	4,7	0,5	-3,5	4,6	0,80
Indian/Asian						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,2	3,8	-35	-93	22	0,23
Employed	3,3	3,7	-32	-81	17	0,19
Unemployed	14,8	11,6	-3	-38	32	0,88
Outside the Labour Force	3,5	5,1	43	-14	101	0,14
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,2	3,8	-3,7	-9,1	1,7	0,17
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,3	3,7	-3,4	-8,0	1,2	0,14
Inactivity rate	3,5	5,1	3,7	-1,7	9,1	0,17
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	14,8	10,0	0,3	-4,6	5,2	0,90
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	14,7	9,9	1,0	-4,1	6,1	0,71
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	14,2	7,4	1,9	-4,2	8,0	0,54
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	13,5	7,5	2,5	-3,5	8,5	0,42

Table 2.1A: Table 2.1B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by population group (concluded)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
White						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,5	1,7	-23	-105	59	0,58
Employed	1,7	2,0	-58	-138	22	0,16
Unemployed	15,3	10,7	35	-19	89	0,21
Outside the Labour Force	3,5	3,9	-13	-95	70	0,76
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,5	1,7	0,1	-3,0	3,1	0,97
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,7	2,0	-1,3	-4,2	1,7	0,39
Inactivity rate	3,5	3,9	-0,1	-3,1	3,0	0,97
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	14,9	10,6	1,9	-0,8	4,7	0,17
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	11,8	9,3	2,1	-0,7	4,9	0,14
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	14,0	10,8	2,7	-0,3	5,7	0,08
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	11,7	9,3	2,9	-0,2	5,9	0,07

Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
South Africa						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,6	0,7	-124	-516	268	0,53
Employed	0,8	0,8	-33	-378	312	0,85
Unemployed	1,9	1,9	-91	-426	244	0,59
Outside the Labour Force	0,9	1,0	622	230	1 014	0,00
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	0,6	0,7	-1,0	-1,9	-0,1	0,04
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,8	0,8	-0,6	-1,4	0,3	0,19
Inactivity rate	0,9	1,0	1,0	0,1	1,9	0,04
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,6	1,5	-0,2	-1,3	0,9	0,73
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,5	1,3	-0,1	-1,3	1,0	0,83
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	1,0	0,9	0,6	-0,4	1,6	0,25
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	0,9	0,9	0,6	-0,4	1,6	0,25
Western Cape						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,0	1,1	29	-76	134	0,59
Employed	1,5	1,5	22	-96	140	0,71
Unemployed	5,1	5,3	7	-88	101	0,89
Outside the Labour Force	2,4	2,6	39	-66	145	0,46
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,0	1,1	-0,4	-2,4	1,7	0,73
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,5	1,5	-0,3	-2,6	2,0	0,79
Inactivity rate	2,4	2,6	0,4	-1,7	2,4	0,73
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,9	5,0	0,0	-2,5	2,6	0,98
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,3	4,6	0,4	-2,3	3,1	0,77
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,4	4,3	0,0	-2,8	2,7	0,98
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	4,0	4,0	0,3	-2,6	3,2	0,83

Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Western Cape - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,4	2,6	-2	-75	72	0,96
Employed	3,0	2,8	-13	-92	66	0,75
Unemployed	12,7	13,7	11	-62	85	0,76
Outside the Labour Force	4,6	4,8	26	-48	100	0,49
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,4	2,6	-0,9	-4,9	3,0	0,64
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,0	2,8	-1,4	-5,7	2,8	0,51
Inactivity rate	4,6	4,8	0,9	-3,0	4,9	0,64
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	12,2	12,5	0,9	-4,7	6,6	0,74
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	12,3	11,6	1,6	-5,0	8,1	0,64
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	9,6	7,7	2,5	-3,6	8,6	0,43
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	9,3	7,5	3,0	-3,8	9,7	0,39
Western Cape - City of Cape Town						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,0	1,0	31	-43	104	0,41
Employed	1,4	1,7	35	-50	121	0,42
Unemployed	5,0	5,1	-5	-61	52	0,87
Outside the Labour Force	2,5	2,7	13	-60	87	0,72
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,0	1,0	0,0	-2,3	2,2	0,98
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,4	1,7	0,3	-2,3	2,9	0,81
Inactivity rate	2,5	2,7	0,0	-2,2	2,3	0,98
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,7	5,1	-0,5	-2,9	1,9	0,69
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,4	4,5	-0,2	-2,5	2,0	0,84
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,8	4,7	-1,5	-3,8	0,8	0,20
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,2	4,2	-1,2	-3,5	1,0	0,29

Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Eastern Cape						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,9	2,1	144	57	231	0,00
Employed	2,8	3,7	-39	-137	59	0,43
Unemployed	4,4	5,7	183	64	302	0,00
Outside the Labour Force	1,9	2,2	-95	-182	-8	0,03
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,9	2,1	2,6	0,7	4,5	0,01
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,8	3,7	-1,2	-3,3	1,0	0,28
Inactivity rate	1,9	2,2	-2,6	-4,5	-0,7	0,01
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	3,6	4,7	5,3	1,0	9,6	0,02
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,4	4,0	5,9	1,8	10,0	0,00
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,2	3,1	5,4	1,9	8,8	0,00
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,3	2,7	5,8	2,6	9,0	0,00
Eastern Cape - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,7	2,6	147	70	224	0,00
Employed	4,0	5,4	-35	-112	42	0,37
Unemployed	5,6	6,6	182	84	280	0,00
Outside the Labour Force	2,2	2,4	-119	-196	-42	0,00
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,7	2,6	4,3	1,8	6,7	0,00
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	4,0	5,4	-1,3	-3,8	1,1	0,29
Inactivity rate	2,2	2,4	-4,3	-6,7	-1,8	0,00
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,3	5,1	7,5	2,3	12,8	0,00
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,9	4,2	7,6	2,8	12,4	0,00
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,4	3,3	5,2	0,9	9,4	0,02
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,4	2,8	5,3	1,6	8,9	0,00

Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Eastern Cape - Buffalo City						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	3,0	1,6	-35	-67	-4	0,03
Employed	5,8	5,0	9	-8	27	0,29
Unemployed	3,8	13,8	-45	-69	-21	0,00
Outside the Labour Force	7,3	2,8	43	12	75	0,01
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	3,0	1,6	-7,1	-12,7	-1,6	0,01
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	5,8	5,0	1,0	-2,0	4,1	0,50
Inactivity rate	7,3	2,8	7,1	1,6	12,7	0,01
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	5,5	13,2	-8,6	-13,1	-4,2	0,00
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	5,7	11,5	-3,4	-8,6	1,7	0,19
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	5,9	9,4	-1,8	-5,6	2,0	0,35
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	6,0	8,7	2,7	-1,7	7,1	0,23
Eastern Cape - Nelson Mandela Bay						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	4,2	5,6	32	9	56	0,01
Employed	4,9	7,6	-14	-71	44	0,64
Unemployed	14,2	16,9	46	-18	110	0,16
Outside the Labour Force	4,9	7,3	-19	-43	4	0,11
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	4,2	5,6	2,8	0,2	5,3	0,03
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	4,9	7,6	-2,1	-8,4	4,2	0,51
Inactivity rate	4,9	7,3	-2,8	-5,3	-0,2	0,03
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	12,8	15,1	7,5	-4,8	19,8	0,23
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	11,6	13,6	6,3	-6,1	18,6	0,32
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	7,7	10,2	11,6	2,1	21,1	0,02
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	9,0	9,5	10,4	0,7	20,1	0,04

Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Northern cape						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	3,6	6,0	-43	-95	8	0,10
Employed	5,2	8,9	-34	-75	6	0,10
Unemployed	7,8	3,9	-9	-31	13	0,41
Outside the Labour Force	4,8	6,5	49	-2	101	0,06
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	3,6	6,0	-5,5	-11,5	0,5	0,07
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	5,2	8,9	-4,3	-9,2	0,5	0,08
Inactivity rate	4,8	6,5	5,5	-0,5	11,5	0,07
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	7,6	7,5	0,9	-2,7	4,5	0,64
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	6,9	6,3	-0,5	-4,2	3,2	0,81
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	5,3	5,9	4,0	0,8	7,1	0,01
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	5,2	5,2	2,7	-0,5	5,9	0,09
Free State						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,9	2,4	8	-55	71	0,81
Employed	2,9	4,7	6	-55	68	0,84
Unemployed	4,3	5,0	1	-50	53	0,95
Outside the Labour Force	3,1	4,1	-5	-68	58	0,87
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,9	2,4	0,3	-2,9	3,6	0,85
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,9	4,7	0,3	-2,9	3,4	0,87
Inactivity rate	3,1	4,1	-0,3	-3,6	2,9	0,85
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	3,8	5,4	-0,1	-3,9	3,7	0,95
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,5	5,2	-0,9	-5,1	3,2	0,66
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,2	5,1	-0,6	-4,8	3,7	0,80
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,0	5,0	-1,3	-5,8	3,3	0,59

Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Free State - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,3	2,7	43	5	81	0,03
Employed	4,2	5,9	31	-20	82	0,24
Unemployed	4,2	6,0	12	-24	47	0,51
Outside the Labour Force	3,7	5,1	-41	-79	-3	0,03
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,3	2,7	3,0	0,3	5,7	0,03
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	4,2	5,9	2,2	-1,5	5,9	0,25
Inactivity rate	3,7	5,1	-3,0	-5,7	-0,3	0,03
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,2	6,4	-0,6	-4,9	3,6	0,77
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,0	6,4	-2,1	-7,2	3,0	0,42
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,0	6,5	-2,2	-7,7	3,2	0,42
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,7	6,5	-3,4	-9,5	2,6	0,27
Free State - Mangaung						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	3,3	5,1	-35	-85	15	0,17
Employed	1,4	7,7	-25	-59	10	0,16
Unemployed	12,3	7,3	-10	-48	27	0,59
Outside the Labour Force	5,7	6,8	35	-15	86	0,17
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	3,3	5,1	-6,3	-15,3	2,7	0,17
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,4	7,7	-4,5	-10,7	1,8	0,16
Inactivity rate	5,7	6,8	6,3	-2,7	15,3	0,17
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	9,2	8,5	0,1	-8,4	8,6	0,98
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	7,7	7,8	1,1	-6,5	8,7	0,78
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,6	5,7	3,3	-1,9	8,6	0,21
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	4,9	5,7	4,0	-0,3	8,3	0,07

Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
KwaZulu-Natal						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,4	2,6	-160	-395	75	0,18
Employed	2,2	2,2	-67	-233	100	0,43
Unemployed	6,4	6,5	-94	-260	72	0,27
Outside the Labour Force	2,7	2,7	255	20	490	0,03
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,4	2,6	-2,7	-5,7	0,3	0,08
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,2	2,2	-1,3	-3,4	0,9	0,24
Inactivity rate	2,7	2,7	2,7	-0,3	5,7	0,08
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,8	4,6	-1,1	-4,1	2,0	0,50
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,7	4,0	-0,4	-3,5	2,6	0,79
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,2	2,4	0,3	-2,1	2,8	0,78
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,4	2,5	0,8	-1,8	3,4	0,55
KwaZulu-Natal - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	3,6	3,5	-127	-279	26	0,10
Employed	3,3	3,0	-25	-158	108	0,71
Unemployed	8,0	7,5	-102	-227	23	0,11
Outside the Labour Force	3,5	3,0	183	30	335	0,02
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	3,6	3,5	-3,0	-6,1	0,0	0,05
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,3	3,0	-0,8	-3,5	1,8	0,54
Inactivity rate	3,5	3,0	3,0	0,0	6,1	0,05
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	5,3	5,0	-2,2	-6,5	2,1	0,31
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	5,3	4,4	-1,3	-5,6	3,1	0,57
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,7	2,9	-0,4	-3,4	2,6	0,79
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,9	3,1	0,2	-2,9	3,4	0,88

Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
KwaZulu-Natal - eThekweni						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,4	4,1	-34	-213	146	0,71
Employed	2,8	3,2	-42	-142	59	0,41
Unemployed	9,4	13,0	8	-101	118	0,88
Outside the Labour Force	3,8	5,9	72	-107	252	0,43
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,4	4,1	-2,1	-8,7	4,5	0,53
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,8	3,2	-2,2	-5,9	1,5	0,24
Inactivity rate	3,8	5,9	2,1	-4,5	8,7	0,53
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	8,5	10,0	1,0	-3,8	5,7	0,69
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	7,6	8,5	1,2	-3,2	5,5	0,60
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,6	4,2	1,6	-2,5	5,8	0,44
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,8	4,0	1,8	-2,8	6,3	0,45
North West						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	3,2	4,2	-93	-218	32	0,15
Employed	4,5	4,0	15	-88	117	0,78
Unemployed	10,7	10,7	-107	-245	30	0,13
Outside the Labour Force	3,5	3,9	127	2	252	0,05
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	3,2	4,2	-3,9	-8,2	0,5	0,08
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	4,5	4,0	0,1	-3,5	3,8	0,94
Inactivity rate	3,5	3,9	3,9	-0,5	8,2	0,08
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	8,4	7,8	-5,1	-12,7	2,5	0,19
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	8,2	6,8	-3,5	-10,9	4,0	0,36
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,1	2,9	-1,2	-6,4	4,0	0,65
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	4,1	2,6	-0,1	-5,2	4,9	0,96

Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Gauteng						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,0	1,4	-39	-260	182	0,73
Employed	1,5	1,6	25	-172	222	0,80
Unemployed	3,2	2,9	-64	-217	89	0,41
Outside the Labour Force	2,2	2,9	197	-24	418	0,08
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,0	1,4	-1,3	-3,2	0,6	0,19
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,5	1,6	-0,4	-2,1	1,3	0,65
Inactivity rate	2,2	2,9	1,3	-0,6	3,2	0,19
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	2,8	2,3	-0,7	-2,4	1,1	0,45
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	2,5	2,1	-0,9	-2,7	1,0	0,37
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,1	1,8	0,6	-1,3	2,4	0,56
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	1,9	1,8	0,3	-1,7	2,4	0,75
Gauteng - Non Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	3,3	4,7	-61	-120	-2	0,04
Employed	5,1	4,3	86	8	164	0,03
Unemployed	7,7	11,2	-147	-194	-100	0,00
Outside the Labour Force	8,6	9,5	83	24	142	0,01
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	3,3	4,7	-5,0	-8,9	-1,1	0,01
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	5,1	4,3	5,0	-0,1	10,1	0,06
Inactivity rate	8,6	9,5	5,0	1,1	8,9	0,01
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	6,3	8,1	-11,8	-16,7	-6,9	0,00
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	6,6	8,9	-12,0	-17,8	-6,2	0,00
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,8	5,5	-7,8	-13,1	-2,6	0,00
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	4,9	5,8	-8,0	-14,0	-2,0	0,01

Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Gauteng - Ekurhuleni						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,2	2,6	43	-36	122	0,29
Employed	2,2	2,5	29	-48	107	0,46
Unemployed	9,6	7,0	13	-66	93	0,74
Outside the Labour Force	3,6	4,3	-3	-82	77	0,95
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,2	2,6	0,6	-2,1	3,4	0,66
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,2	2,5	0,4	-2,3	3,1	0,75
Inactivity rate	3,6	4,3	-0,6	-3,4	2,1	0,66
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	7,7	5,3	0,0	-3,9	3,9	0,99
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	7,1	5,0	-0,3	-4,2	3,7	0,89
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,5	2,7	1,6	-2,1	5,4	0,39
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	4,2	2,5	1,4	-2,3	5,0	0,46
Gauteng - City of Johannesburg						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,3	2,8	-43	-230	144	0,65
Employed	2,4	3,6	-40	-194	115	0,61
Unemployed	4,4	4,8	-4	-112	105	0,95
Outside the Labour Force	3,3	6,3	100	-87	287	0,29
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,3	2,8	-2,0	-6,3	2,4	0,38
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,4	3,6	-1,6	-5,2	2,1	0,40
Inactivity rate	3,3	6,3	2,0	-2,4	6,3	0,38
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,0	4,0	0,4	-2,6	3,4	0,80
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,7	3,4	1,3	-2,2	4,9	0,46
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,5	4,0	1,8	-1,9	5,5	0,34
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,3	3,7	2,6	-1,6	6,8	0,22

Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Gauteng - City of Tshwane						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,5	1,6	22	-53	98	0,56
Employed	3,6	2,5	-51	-115	14	0,12
Unemployed	6,2	4,3	73	10	136	0,02
Outside the Labour Force	5,5	3,4	16	-59	92	0,67
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,5	1,6	-0,2	-2,9	2,6	0,91
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,6	2,5	-2,4	-4,7	-0,1	0,04
Inactivity rate	5,5	3,4	0,2	-2,6	2,9	0,91
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	5,6	3,8	3,4	0,6	6,1	0,02
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,4	3,7	1,4	-0,7	3,5	0,19
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,1	3,4	2,3	-0,4	5,0	0,09
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,4	3,4	0,5	-1,8	2,8	0,67
Mpumalanga						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,5	1,8	53	-39	145	0,25
Employed	3,4	2,6	18	-70	106	0,69
Unemployed	6,3	5,6	36	-81	152	0,55
Outside the Labour Force	3,5	2,6	-15	-107	77	0,75
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,5	1,8	0,9	-1,9	3,8	0,52
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,4	2,6	0,1	-2,6	2,8	0,94
Inactivity rate	3,5	2,6	-0,9	-3,8	1,9	0,52
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	5,3	4,7	0,9	-4,3	6,0	0,74
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,6	4,3	-0,3	-5,0	4,5	0,91
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,6	2,7	0,2	-3,0	3,5	0,89
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,3	2,5	-0,6	-3,6	2,3	0,67

Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (concluded)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Limpopo						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,2	2,6	-23	-141	96	0,71
Employed	3,0	3,0	21	-87	129	0,70
Unemployed	5,1	6,9	-44	-140	53	0,37
Outside the Labour Force	2,7	3,0	70	-48	189	0,24
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,2	2,6	-1,2	-4,1	1,7	0,42
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,0	3,0	0,1	-2,5	2,7	0,95
Inactivity rate	2,7	3,0	1,2	-1,7	4,1	0,42
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,4	5,6	-1,6	-5,4	2,2	0,40
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,1	4,4	-1,9	-5,2	1,4	0,26
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,8	2,9	-1,6	-4,3	1,1	0,26
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,7	2,6	-1,7	-4,3	0,8	0,18

Table 3.1B: Sampling variability for the employed by industry and sex						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Both sexes	0,8	0,8	-33	-378	312	0,85
Agriculture	5,6	5,3	30	-122	181	0,70
Mining	9,3	9,5	45	-10	100	0,11
Manufacturing	2,7	3,3	-90	-225	45	0,19
Utilities	10,9	10,9	-32	-67	2	0,06
Construction	3,9	3,7	75	-63	212	0,29
Trade	2,2	2,2	92	-112	296	0,37
Transport	3,8	3,5	-20	-134	94	0,73
Finance	2,7	2,3	-68	-258	121	0,48
Community and social services	2,0	2,1	-86	-297	124	0,42
Private households	3,4	3,3	23	-70	116	0,63
Women	1,1	1,1	-148	-365	69	0,18
Agriculture	9,9	8,0	-2	-78	73	0,95
Mining	13,5	13,7	5	-24	33	0,74
Manufacturing	4,5	5,7	-58	-136	19	0,14
Utilities	15,4	22,7	-28	-45	-12	0,00
Construction	9,5	9,3	-3	-40	33	0,86
Trade	2,9	2,9	44	-77	165	0,48
Transport	8,2	9,0	-49	-99	0	0,05
Finance	3,4	3,1	-2	-110	106	0,97
Community and social services	2,3	2,3	-43	-197	111	0,58
Private households	3,8	3,7	-12	-94	70	0,77
Men	0,9	0,9	115	-106	336	0,31
Agriculture	4,9	5,6	32	-67	131	0,52
Mining	10,3	10,7	41	-8	90	0,10
Manufacturing	3,7	3,6	-32	-147	83	0,58
Utilities	12,7	13,0	-4	-34	26	0,78
Construction	3,9	3,9	78	-52	208	0,24
Trade	2,9	3,0	48	-100	196	0,52
Transport	3,9	3,6	29	-67	126	0,55
Finance	3,2	2,8	-66	-200	68	0,33
Community and social services	3,0	3,2	-43	-163	76	0,47
Private households	6,6	7,2	35	-16	86	0,17

Table 3.4B: Sampling variability for the employed by province and sector						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
South Africa	0,8	0,8	-33	-378	312	0,85
Formal sector*	-	1,1	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	2,3	-	-	-	-
Households	-	3,3	-	-	-	-
Western Cape	1,5	1,5	22	-96	140	0,71
Formal sector*	-	2,3	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	8,0	-	-	-	-
Households	-	10,6	-	-	-	-
Western Cape – Non-Metro	3,0	2,8	-13	-92	66	0,75
Formal sector*	-	3,4	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	16,3	-	-	-	-
Households	-	18,9	-	-	-	-
Western Cape – City of Cape Town	1,4	1,7	35	-50	121	0,42
Formal sector*	-	3,0	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	8,5	-	-	-	-
Households	-	12,0	-	-	-	-
Eastern Cape	2,8	3,7	-39	-137	59	0,43
Formal sector*	-	4,6	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	6,6	-	-	-	-
Households	-	10,5	-	-	-	-
Eastern Cape – Non-Metro	4,0	5,4	-35	-112	42	0,37
Formal sector*	-	7,4	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	8,5	-	-	-	-
Households	-	11,9	-	-	-	-
Eastern Cape – Buffalo City	5,8	5,0	9	-8	27	0,29
Formal sector*	-	10,1	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	11,7	-	-	-	-
Households	-	30,3	-	-	-	-

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 3.4B: Sampling variability for the employed by province and sector (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Eastern Cape - Nelson Mandela bay	4,9	7,6	-14	-71	44	0,64
Formal sector*	-	7,3	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	14,2	-	-	-	-
Households	-	28,2	-	-	-	-
Northern Cape	5,2	8,9	-34	-75	6	0,10
Formal sector*	-	11,1	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	16,9	-	-	-	-
Households	-	20,5	-	-	-	-
Free State	2,9	4,7	6	-55	68	0,84
Formal sector*	-	5,6	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	11,4	-	-	-	-
Households	-	12,2	-	-	-	-
Free State - Non-Metro	4,2	5,9	31	-20	82	0,24
Formal sector*	-	6,9	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	15,6	-	-	-	-
Households	-	15,0	-	-	-	-
Free State - Mangaung	1,4	7,7	-25	-59	10	0,16
Formal sector*	-	9,5	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	6,6	-	-	-	-
Households	-	20,8	-	-	-	-
KwaZulu-Natal	2,2	2,2	-67	-233	100	0,43
Formal sector*	-	3,3	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	4,5	-	-	-	-
Households	-	9,7	-	-	-	-
KwaZulu-Natal - Non-Metro	3,3	3,0	-25	-158	108	0,71
Formal sector*	-	3,6	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	7,0	-	-	-	-
Households	-	12,2	-	-	-	-

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 3.4B: Sampling variability for the employed by province and sector (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
KwaZulu-Natal - eThekweni	2,8	3,2	-42	-142	59	0,41
Formal sector*	-	5,6	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	4,7	-	-	-	-
Households	-	16,1	-	-	-	-
North West	4,5	4,0	15	-88	117	0,78
Formal sector*	-	4,4	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	7,7	-	-	-	-
Households	-	14,4	-	-	-	-
Gauteng	1,5	1,6	25	-172	222	0,80
Formal sector*	-	2,4	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	4,5	-	-	-	-
Households	-	5,3	-	-	-	-
Gauteng - Non-Metro	5,1	4,3	86	8	164	0,03
Formal sector*	-	4,5	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	15,3	-	-	-	-
Households	-	19,9	-	-	-	-
Gauteng - Ekurhuleni	2,2	2,5	29	-48	107	0,46
Formal sector*	-	3,5	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	9,3	-	-	-	-
Households	-	12,5	-	-	-	-
Gauteng - City of Johannesburg	2,4	3,6	-40	-194	115	0,61
Formal sector*	-	6,1	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	6,6	-	-	-	-
Households	-	6,3	-	-	-	-
Gauteng - City of Tshwane	3,6	2,5	-51	-115	14	0,12
Formal sector*	-	2,9	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	9,7	-	-	-	-
Households	-	12,2	-	-	-	-

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 3.4B: Sampling variability for the employed by province and sector (concluded)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Mpumalanga	3,4	2,6	18	-70	106	0,69
Formal sector*	-	3,8	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	6,2	-	-	-	-
Households	-	10,6	-	-	-	-
Limpopo	3,0	3,0	21	-87	129	0,70
Formal sector*	-	3,3	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	7,2	-	-	-	-
Households	-	10,5	-	-	-	-

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 3.5B: Sampling variability for the employed by sex and occupation						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jan-Mar 2025	Jan-Mar 2026				
Both sexes	0,8	0,8	-33	-378	312	0,85
Manager	3,8	3,6	69	-59	196	0,29
Professional	4,4	4,7	-30	-142	81	0,59
Technician	3,1	3,1	-18	-143	106	0,77
Clerk	3,1	2,6	-63	-210	84	0,40
Sales and services	2,1	2,3	5	-161	171	0,95
Skilled agriculture	14,0	11,2	33	5	60	0,02
Craft and related trade	2,7	3,1	-10	-153	133	0,89
Plant and machine operator	3,4	3,3	73	-47	193	0,23
Elementary	2,1	1,9	-120	-327	86	0,25
Domestic worker	3,7	3,6	26	-54	107	0,52
Women	1,1	1,1	-148	-365	69	0,18
Manager	5,5	6,0	38	-26	102	0,24
Professional	5,2	6,3	-4	-82	73	0,91
Technician	3,9	4,3	1	-83	86	0,98
Clerk	3,3	3,4	-57	-176	62	0,35
Sales and services	3,0	2,9	-19	-135	97	0,75
Skilled agriculture	30,9	22,2	9	-5	23	0,20
Craft and related trade	6,6	7,4	-33	-74	8	0,12
Plant and machine operator	7,2	9,2	-20	-60	20	0,32
Elementary	2,9	2,8	-75	-199	49	0,23
Domestic worker	3,9	3,7	11	-70	91	0,79
Men	0,9	0,9	115	-106	336	0,31
Manager	3,9	3,7	31	-70	131	0,55
Professional	6,4	5,2	-26	-93	42	0,45
Technician	4,0	4,5	-20	-103	63	0,64
Clerk	5,4	4,8	-6	-84	72	0,88
Sales and services	2,9	3,1	24	-90	139	0,68
Skilled agriculture	14,9	13,5	24	0	48	0,05
Craft and related trade	2,9	3,2	23	-112	157	0,74
Plant and machine operator	3,7	3,6	93	-21	208	0,11
Elementary	2,4	2,3	-45	-184	94	0,52
Domestic worker	17,5	15,3	16	-6	37	0,15