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Quarterly Labour Force Survey

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IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS



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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 July to September 2025 (Q3: 2025) based on the 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 Q3:2025 estimates on informality cannot be compared to the previous estimates. (Please refer to concepts and definitions on page 17).

2. Highlights of the results

Table A: Key labour market indicators

	Jul-Sep 2024	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand					Percent	
Population 15-64 years	41 431	41 822	41 948	127	518	0,3	1,2
Labour Force	24 957	25 174	25 062	-112	105	-0,4	0,4
Employment	16 946	16 807	17 055	248	109	1,5	0,6
Formal sector*			11 983				
Informal sector*			3 961				
Household sector	1 128	1 106	1 111	5	-17	0,5	-1,5
Unemployment	8 011	8 367	8 007	-360	-3	-4,3	0,0
Outside the Labour Force	16 474	16 648	16 886	239	412	1,4	2,5
Potential Labour Force	4 258	4 299	4 529	230	271	5,4	6,4
Available potential jobseekers	4 220	4 280	4 446	166	226	3,9	5,3
Discouraged jobseekers	3 355	3 445	3 481	36	126	1,0	3,7
Other (available potential jobseekers)	865	836	965	130	100	15,5	11,6
Unavailable jobseekers	38	19	83	64	45	339,9	118,5
Other (Outside the labour force)	12 215	12 348	12 357	8	141	0,1	1,2
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)							
Labour force participation rate	60,2	60,2	59,7	-0,5	-0,5		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	40,9	40,2	40,7	0,5	-0,2		
Inactivity rate	39,8	39,8	40,3	0,5	0,5		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)							
LU1- Unemployment rate	32,1	33,2	31,9	-1,3	-0,2		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	35,2	36,1	34,9	-1,2	-0,3		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	42,0	43,0	42,4	-0,6	0,4		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	44,7	45,4	44,9	-0,5	0,2		

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

* Definition of sector based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy-therefore estimates of Q3:2025 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.

The working-age population grew by 127 000 (0,3%) in the third quarter of 2025 compared with the second quarter. During the same period, the number of employed individuals increased by 248 000 to reach 17,1 million, while the number of unemployed persons declined by 360 000 to 8,0 million. Consequently, the labour force decreased by 112 000 (0,4%) between Q2 and Q3 of 2025. The formal, informal and household sectors employed 12,0 million, 4,0 million and 1,1 million persons, respectively.

Between the second and third quarters of 2025, the number of people outside the labour force rose by 239 000 (1,4%), driven by an increase of 230 000 in the potential labour force and an increase of 8 000 among other outside the labour force. Within the potential labour force, the number of discouraged job-seekers grew by 36 000 (1,0%), while those in the potential labour force for reasons other than discouragement increased by 130 000 (15,5%) and those that were not available but seeking increased by 64 000, resulting in a total net increase of 230 000 in the potential labour force.

An increase in employment and a decrease in unemployment resulted in a decrease of 1,3 percentage points in the unemployment rate to 31,9% in the third quarter of 2025. The labour force participation rate decreased by 0,5 of a percentage point to 59,7%, while the absorption rate increased by 0,5 of a percentage point to 40,7% between Q2: 2025 and Q3: 2025.

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 people in different situations and with different degrees of attachment to the labour market.

The combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment (LU2) was recorded at 34,9% and the combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force (LU3) stood at 42,4% in the third quarter of 2025. The labour underutilisation rate (which is the composite measure of labour underutilisation) decreased by 0,5 of a percentage point compared to Q2:2025, while it increased by 0,2 of a percentage point in Q3:2025 as compared to the same quarter of the previous year.

Compared with Q3: 2024, the working-age population increased by 518 000 or 1,2%. Total employment increased by 109 000 persons (or 0,6%), the number of unemployed persons decreased by 3 000 and the number of persons who were outside the labour force increased by 412 000 (or 2,5%) during the same period.

3. Employment

Figure 1: Quarter-to-quarter changes in employment, Q3: 2020 to Q3: 2025

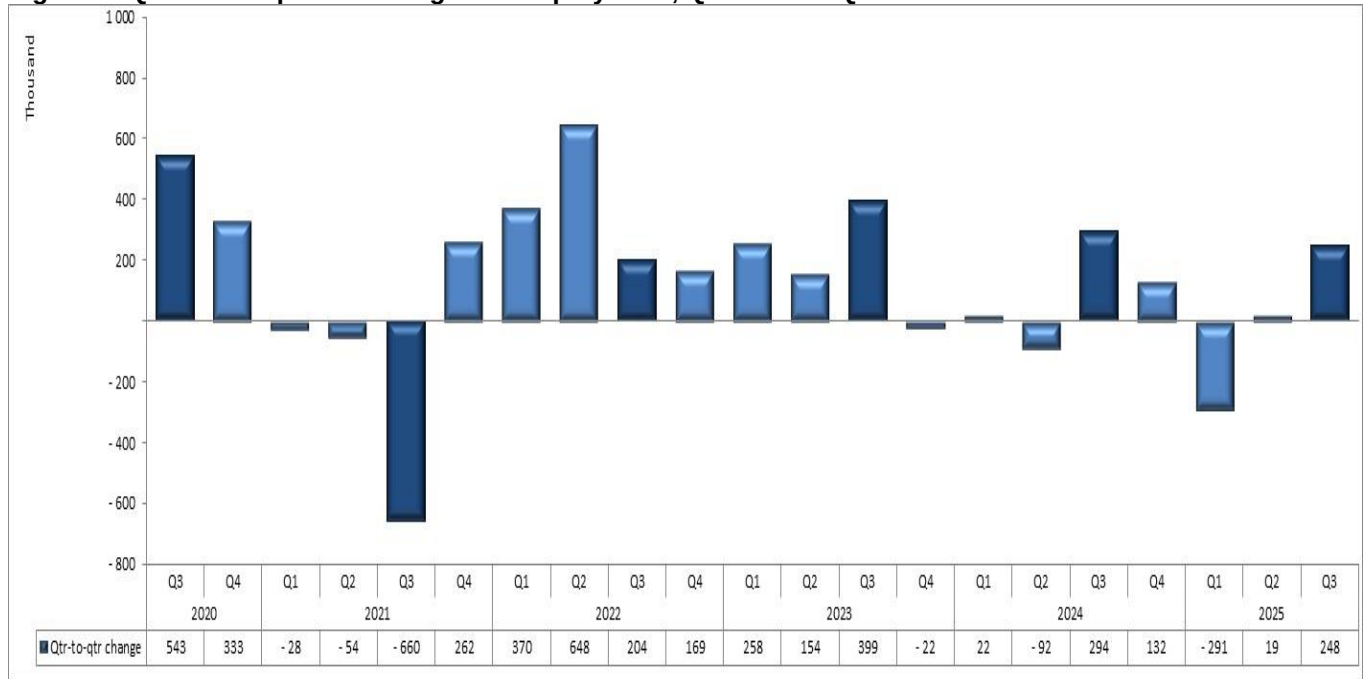


Figure 1 shows that, following an increase of 19 000 in the previous quarter, employment increased by 248 000 in the third quarter of 2025. As depicted in Figure 1, employment has always increased in the third quarter of each year, except for a decrease in 2021.

Table B: Employment by industry

Industry	Jul-Sep 2024	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand				Per cent		
Total*	16 946	16 807	17 055	248	109	1,5	0,6
Agriculture	935	906	920	14	-15	1,6	-1,6
Mining	484	434	449	16	-35	3,6	-7,2
Manufacturing	1 635	1 672	1 610	-62	-25	-3,7	-1,5
Utilities	127	139	109	-30	-18	-21,6	-14,3
Construction	1 381	1 259	1 390	130	9	10,3	0,6
Trade	3 469	3 315	3 424	108	-45	3,3	-1,3
Transport	1 047	1 115	1 113	-3	66	-0,2	6,3
Finance	2 716	2 983	2 930	-54	214	-1,8	7,9
Community and social services	4 021	3 872	3 988	116	-33	3,0	-0,8
Private households	1 128	1 106	1 111	5	-17	0,5	-1,5

*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 shows that between Q2: 2025 and Q3: 2025, the number of employed persons increased in six of the ten industries. The largest increases in employment were recorded in the Construction industry (130 000), followed by the Community and social services (116 000) and Trade (108 000) industries. The decreases in employment were recorded in the Manufacturing (62 000), followed by Finance (54 000), Utilities (30 000) and Transport (3 000) industries.

Compared with the same period last year, a net increase of 109 000 in total employment in Q3: 2025 was largely due to increases in the number of people employed in the Finance (214 000), Transport (66 000) and Construction (9 000) industries. All other industries recorded losses in employment, with the largest being Trade (45 000), followed by Mining (35 000), Community and social services (33 000) and Manufacturing (25 000).

Figure 2a: Employment by sector – (based on 15th ICLS resolution, Q2: 2025

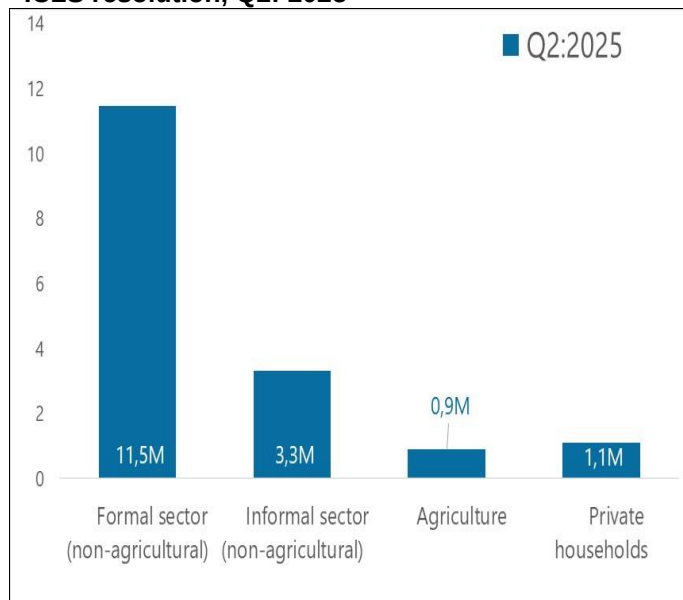
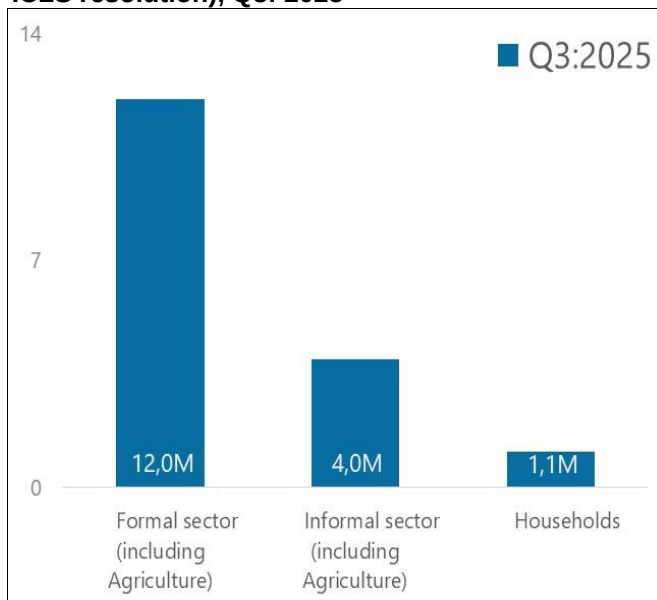


Figure 2b: Employment by sector – (based on 21st ICLS resolution), Q3: 2025



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

**Definition of sector based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy-therefore estimates of Q3:2025 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).*

Figure 2a above shows the different sectors presented as previously classified in Q2 of 2025. Figure 2b indicates the results of Q3: 2025 based on the 21st ICLS resolution which also recommends the three categories of sector, namely formal sector (including Agriculture), informal sector (including Agriculture) and households. The figure shows that with the latest standard the formal sector employed 12,0 million persons, followed by the informal sector with 4,0 million persons and households sector which employed 1,1 million persons.

Table C: Employment by occupation

Occupation	Jul-Sep 2024	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change
	Thousand					Per cent	
Total*	16 946	16 807	17 055	248	109	1,5	0,6
Manager	1 457	1 507	1 453	-54	-4	-3,6	-0,3
Professional	826	983	909	-74	83	-7,5	10,1
Technician	1 504	1 565	1 488	-77	-16	-4,9	-1,0
Clerk	1 841	1 813	1 856	42	15	2,3	0,8
Sales and services	2 992	2 875	3 073	198	81	6,9	2,7
Skilled agriculture	68	47	97	50	29	106,1	41,9
Craft and related trade	1 876	1 858	1 991	132	115	7,1	6,1
Plant and machine operator	1 401	1 396	1 413	17	12	1,2	0,9
Elementary	4 128	3 923	3 903	-20	-225	-0,5	-5,5
Domestic worker	854	839	848	9	-6	1,0	-0,7

*Note: Total includes 'Other' occupations.

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

Six out of the ten occupational categories recorded employment gains in Q3: 2025 compared with Q2: 2025. Increases in employment were observed in Sales and services (198 000), followed by Craft and related trade (132 000), Skilled agriculture (50 000), Clerks (42 000), Plant and machine operator (17 000) and Domestic worker (9 000) occupations. During the same period, employment losses were recorded in Technician (77 000), followed by Professional (74 000), Managerial (54 000) and Elementary (20 000) occupations.

Year-on-year gains in employment were mainly driven by Craft and related occupations (115 000), followed by Professional (83 000) and Sales and services (81 000) occupations. The losses in employment were recorded among Elementary (225 000), Technician (16 000), Domestic worker (6 000) and Managerial (4 000) occupations.

Table D: Employment by province

Province	Jul-Sep 2024	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change
	Thousand					Per cent	
South Africa	16 946	16 807	17 055	248	109	1,5	0,6
Western Cape	2 749	2 744	2 814	70	64	2,5	2,3
Eastern Cape	1 452	1 462	1 408	-53	-43	-3,7	-3,0
Northern Cape	337	314	319	5	-18	1,7	-5,2
Free State	775	766	782	16	7	2,1	0,9
KwaZulu-Natal	2 840	2 702	2 757	54	-83	2,0	-2,9
North West	956	895	937	42	-19	4,7	-2,0
Gauteng	5 037	5 186	5 237	51	200	1,0	4,0
Mpumalanga	1 241	1 223	1 246	23	5	1,9	0,4
Limpopo	1 559	1 515	1 555	40	-4	2,7	-0,3

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

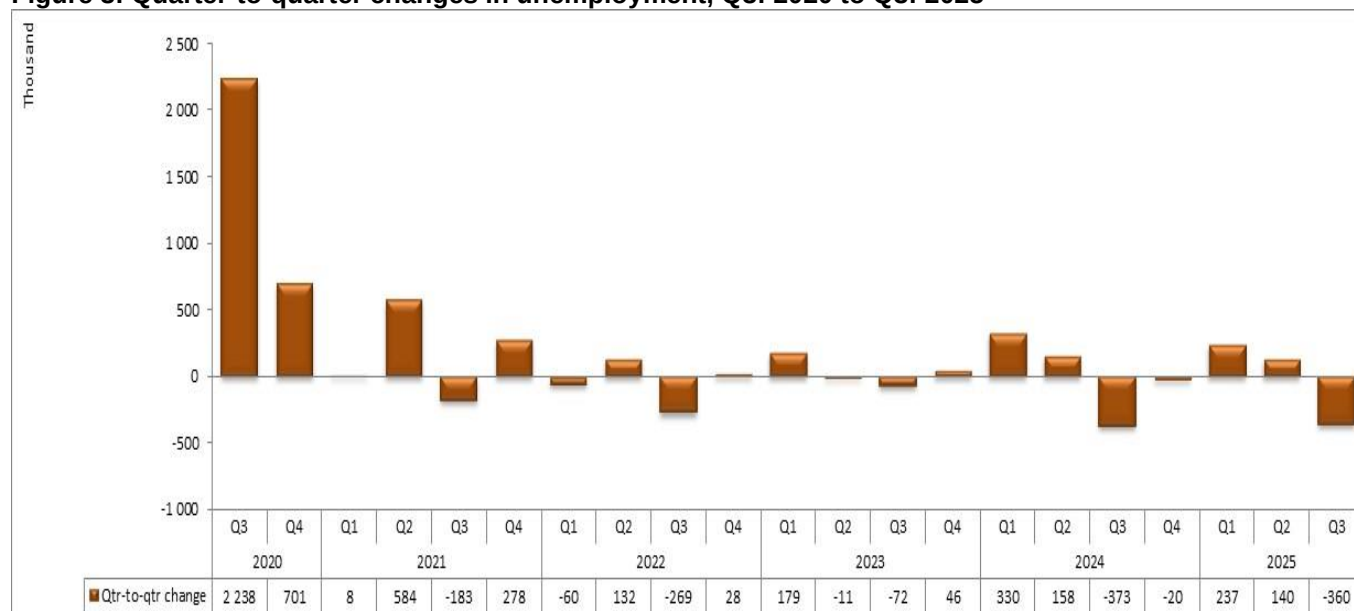
Table D shows that the number of employed persons increased in eight provinces between Q2: 2025 and Q3: 2025. The largest employment gains were recorded in Western Cape (70 000), KwaZulu-Natal (54 000), Gauteng (51 000), North West (42 000) and Limpopo (40 000). Employment loss was only recorded in Eastern Cape (53 000) during the same period.

Compared with Q3: 2024, the increases in employment were recorded in Gauteng (200 000), Western Cape (64 000), Free State (7 000) and Mpumalanga (5 000). The decreases in employment were recorded in KwaZulu-Natal (83 000), followed by Eastern Cape (43 000), North West (19 000), Northern Cape (18 000) and Limpopo (4 000).

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

4.1 Unemployment

Figure 3: Quarter-to-quarter changes in unemployment, Q3: 2020 to Q3: 2025



Unemployed persons decreased by 360 000 in Q3: 2025 following an increase of 140 000 in the previous quarter. Notably, Figure 3 shows that unemployment has always decreased in the third quarter of each year, except for the increase observed in 2020.

Figure 4a: Unemployment rate by education level, Q2: 2025 and Q3: 2025

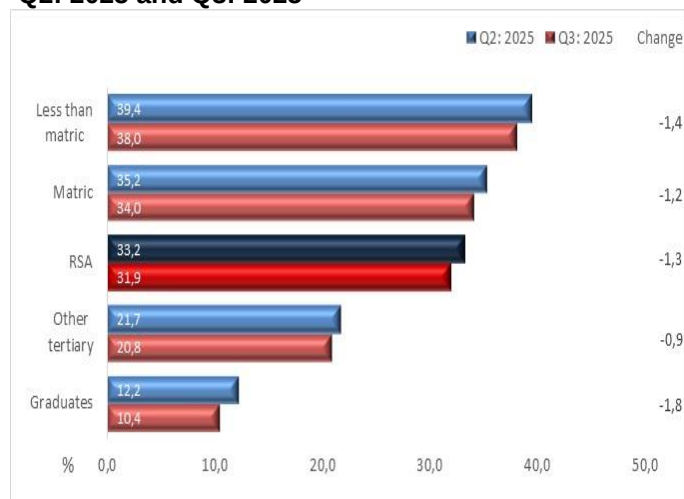
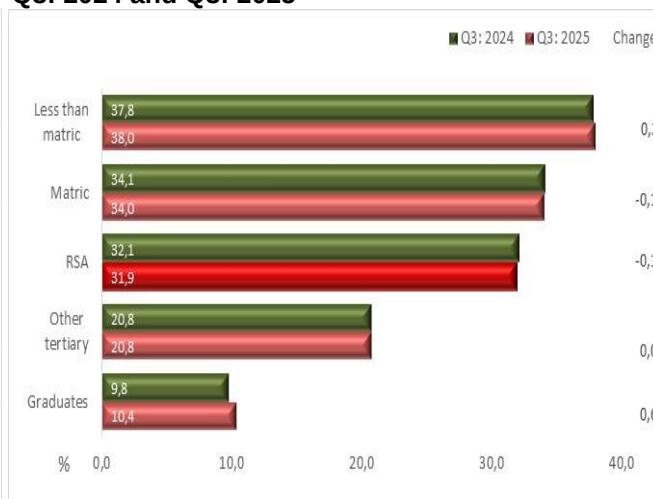


Figure 4b: Unemployment rate by education level, Q3: 2024 and Q3: 2025



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

Figures 4a and 4b show that in Q3: 2025, individuals without matric recorded an unemployment rate of 38,0% (down by 1,4 percentage points), while graduates had a rate of 10,4% (down 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 matric but increased among graduates and those without matric, while the rate for those with other tertiary education levels remained unchanged.

Table E: Unemployment rate by province

	Official unemployment rate					Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force				
	Jul-Sep 2024	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Jul-Sep 2024	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Per cent			Percentage points		Per cent			Percentage points	
South Africa	32,1	33,2	31,9	-1,3	-0,2	42,0	43,0	42,4	-0,6	0,4
Western Cape	19,6	21,1	19,7	-1,4	0,1	25,7	27,0	25,8	-1,2	0,1
Eastern Cape	37,2	39,5	41,2	1,7	4,0	47,6	47,7	50,2	2,5	2,6
Northern Cape	30,4	32,7	31,2	-1,5	0,8	43,1	47,0	46,5	-0,5	3,4
Free State	36,0	38,5	36,2	-2,3	0,2	43,3	43,8	42,7	-1,1	-0,6
KwaZulu-Natal	31,2	33,4	31,7	-1,7	0,5	45,7	47,9	46,6	-1,3	0,9
North West	36,8	40,1	38,1	-2,0	1,3	51,5	54,7	52,5	-2,2	1,0
Gauteng	34,0	33,8	33,1	-0,7	-0,9	39,3	39,2	39,6	0,4	0,3
Mpumalanga	36,2	34,0	34,0	0,0	-2,2	47,8	48,4	47,5	-0,9	-0,3
Limpopo	32,6	35,0	29,8	-5,2	-2,8	46,3	47,7	45,1	-2,6	-1,2

The official unemployment rate decreased by 1,3 percentage points to 31,9% in Q3: 2025 compared with Q2: 2025. The official unemployment rate decreased in seven of the nine provinces. The largest decreases were recorded in Limpopo (5,2 percentage points), followed by Free State (2,3 percentage points) and North West (2,0 percentage points). An increase in the unemployment rate was recorded in the Eastern Cape (1,7 percentage points), while Mpumalanga remained unchanged.

Year-on-year, the official unemployment rate decreased by 0,2 of a percentage point. The official unemployment rate decreased in three provinces. The decreases in the unemployment rate were recorded in Limpopo (2,8 percentage points), followed by Mpumalanga (2,2 percentage points), and Gauteng (0,9 of a percentage point). The increases in the unemployment rate were recorded in Eastern Cape (4,0 percentage points), North West (1,3 percentage points), Northern Cape (0,8 of a percentage point), KwaZulu-Natal (0,5 of a percentage point), Free State (0,2 of a percentage point) and Western Cape (0,1 of a percentage point).

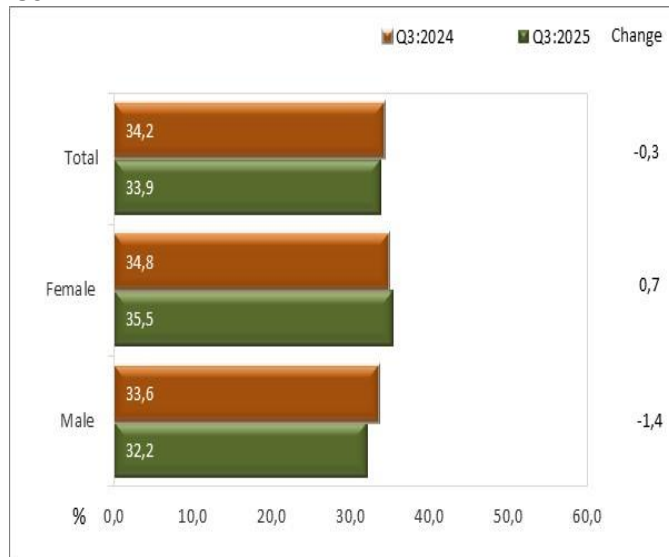
The combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force decreased by 0,6 of a percentage point in Q3: 2025 compared with Q2: 2025. The combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force decreased in seven provinces. The largest decreases were recorded in Limpopo (2,6 percentage points), followed by North West (2,2 percentage points) and KwaZulu-Natal (1,3 percentage points). The increases were recorded in Eastern Cape (2,5 percentage points) and Gauteng (0,4 of a percentage point).

Compared with the same period last year, the combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force increased by 0,4 of a percentage point in Q3: 2025. Six out of the 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 Northern Cape (3,4 percentage points), followed by Eastern Cape (2,6 percentage points) and North West (1,0 percentage point). Decreases in the combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force were recorded in Limpopo (1,2 percentage points), Free State (0,6 of a percentage point) and Mpumalanga (0,3 of a percentage point).

4.2 Not in employment, education or training (NEET)

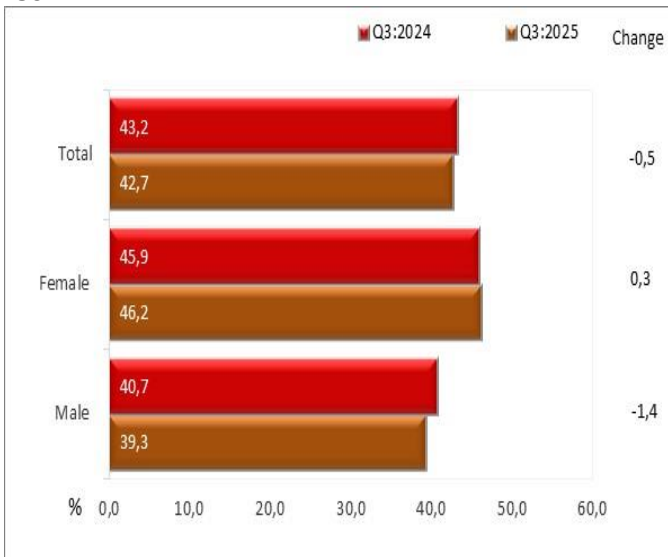
Some young people have been disengaged from the labour market, and they are also not building on their skills base through education and training – they are not in employment, education or training (NEET). The NEET rate serves as an important additional labour market indicator for young people.

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



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

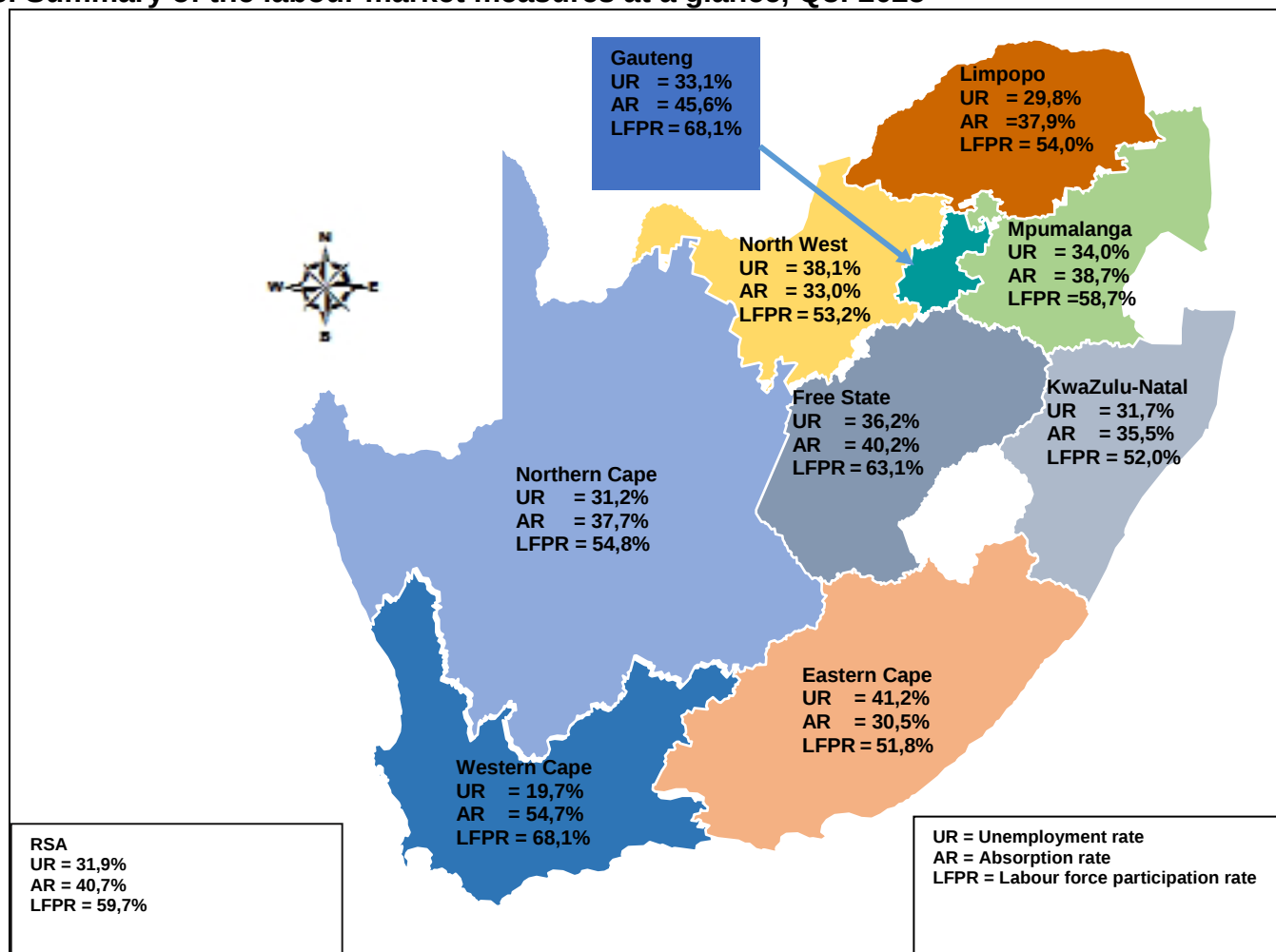
Figure 5b: NEET rate for youth aged 15–34 years by sex



There were about 10,3 million young people aged 15–24 years in Q3: 2025, of which 33,9% were not in employment, education or training. This is 0,3 of a percentage point lower than the NEET rate in Q3: 2024. In this age group, the NEET rate for females increased by 0,7 of a percentage point while the rate for males decreased by 1,4 percentage points. The NEET rate for females was higher than that of their male counterparts in both years (Figure 5a).

Compared with Q3: 2024, the percentage of young persons aged 15–34 years who were NEET decreased by 0,5 of a percentage point from 43,2% to 42,7% in Q3: 2025. The NEET rate for males decreased by 1,4 percentage points, while for females, the rate increased by 0,3 of a percentage point. In both Q3: 2024 and Q3: 2025, more than four in every ten young people (aged 15-34) were not in employment, education or training (Figure 5b).

5. Summary of the labour market measures at a glance, Q3: 2025

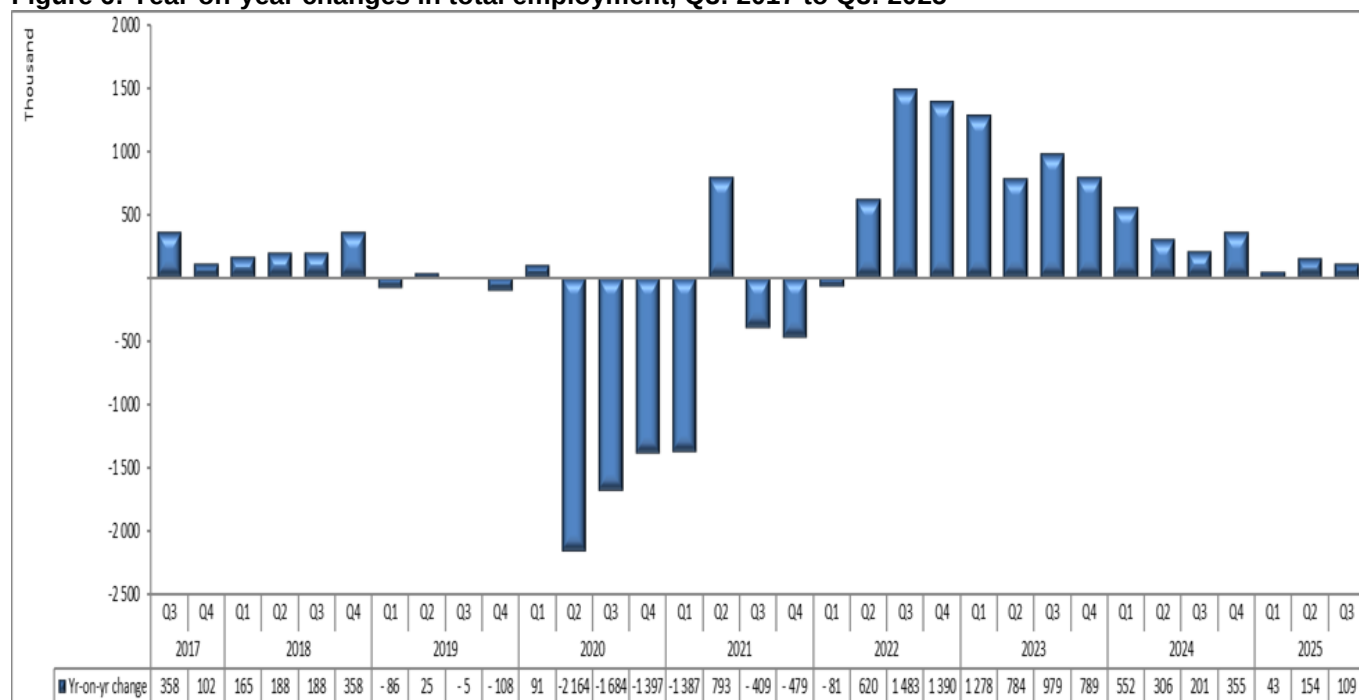


Risenga Maluleke
 Statistician-General

6. Other labour market trends

6.1 Year-on-year changes

Figure 6: Year-on-year changes in total employment, Q3: 2017 to Q3: 2025



6.2 Trends in the unemployment rate

Figure 7: Unemployment rate by sex, Q3: 2017 to Q3: 2025

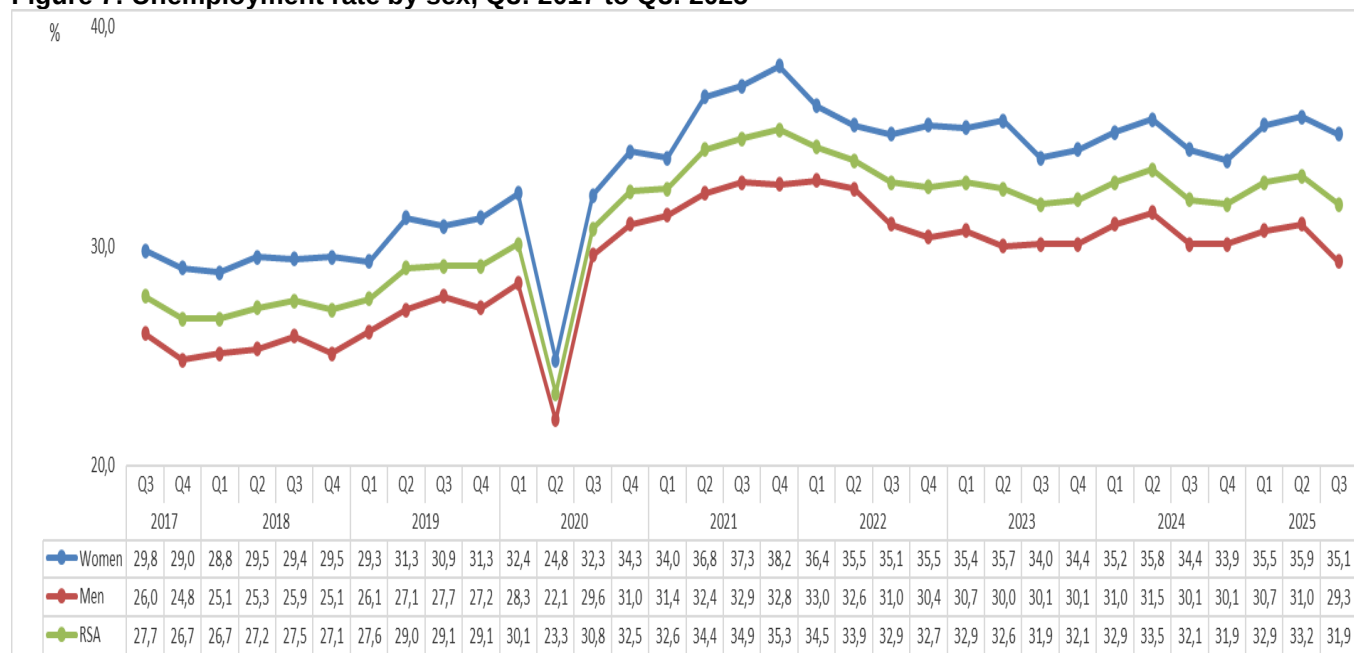
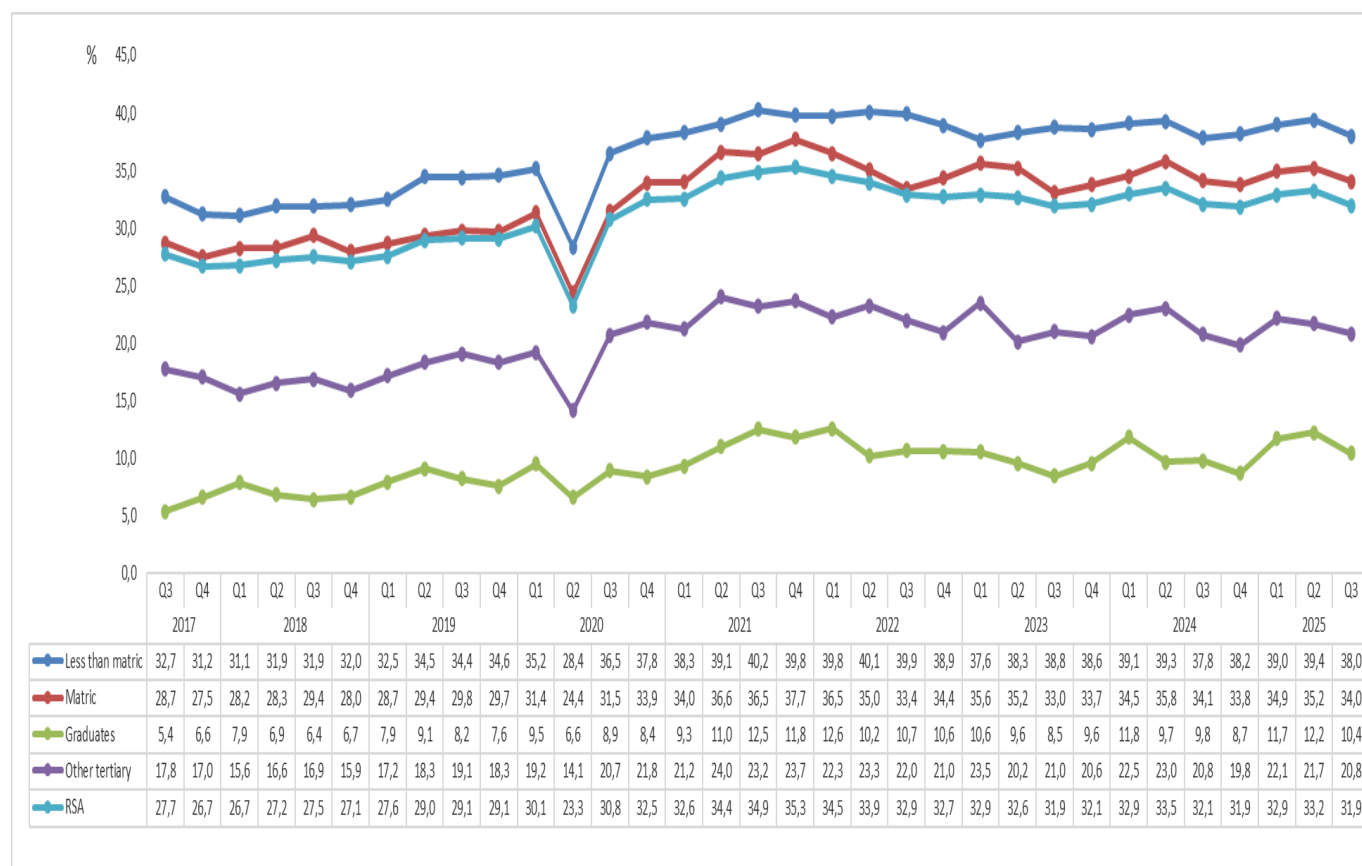


Figure 8: Unemployment rate by education status, Q3: 2017 to Q3: 2025

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:

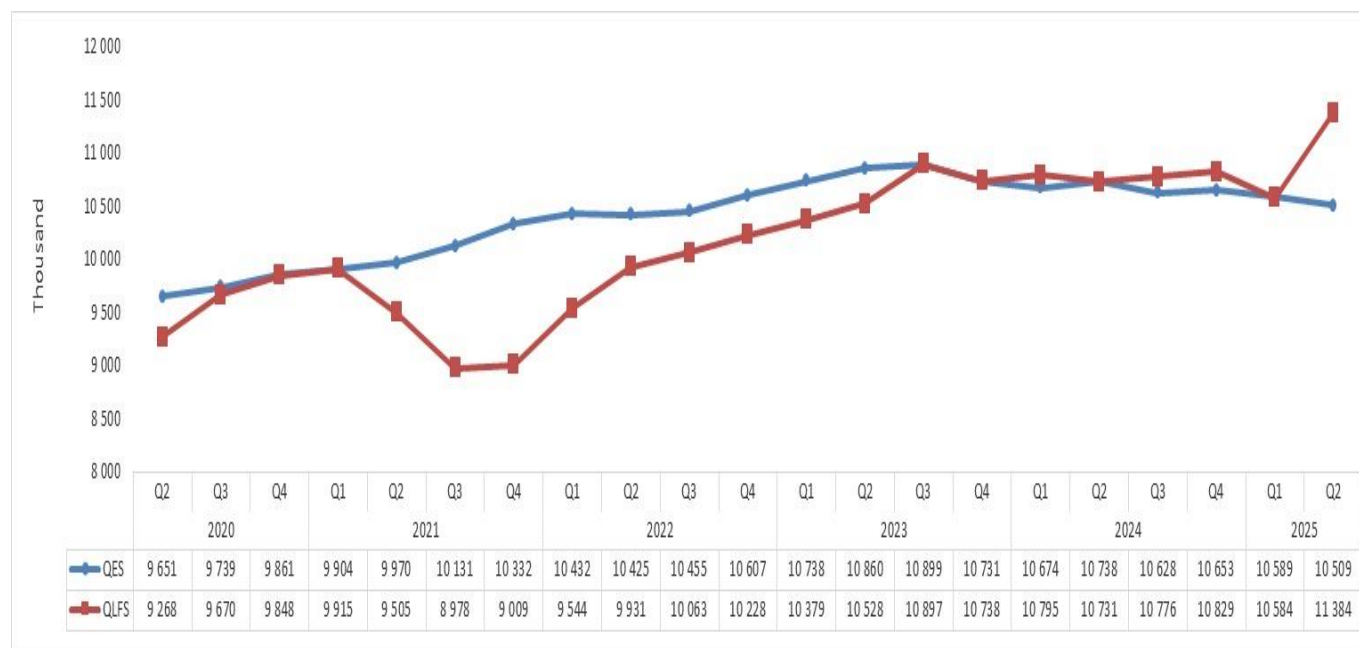
- description of the employed, e.g. their demographic profile, education level, hours of work, etc.; and
- unemployment and descriptors of the unemployed.

QLFS is a survey of households that 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 that 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

Figure 9: Formal sector (non-agricultural) employment trends in QLFS and QES, Q2: 2020 to Q2: 2025 (employees only)

8. Technical notes

8.1 Response details

Table G: Response rates by province and metropolitan area

Province / metropolitan area	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025
National	87,5	86,1
Western Cape	83,4	81,2
Non-metro	87,1	86,1
City of Cape Town	81,5	79,0
Eastern Cape	95,0	93,3
Non-metro	96,4	93,1
Buffalo City	95,7	94,9
Nelson Mandela Bay	89,7	92,7
Northern Cape	82,6	86,1
Free State	93,3	93,1
Non-metro	94,8	94,5
Mangaung	89,7	89,8
KwaZulu-Natal	90,7	90,6
Non-metro	93,6	93,0
eThekweni	86,3	86,8
North West	92,3	89,8
Gauteng	76,7	74,6
Non-metro	85,3	82,4
Ekurhuleni	77,8	78,2
City of Johannesburg	70,5	67,5
City of Tshwane	80,9	78,3
Mpumalanga	94,0	94,0
Limpopo	97,8	94,9

8.2 Survey requirements and design

QLFS uses the Master Sample frame 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 2011 Census 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 has 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.

9. Concepts and Definitions

Available potential jobseekers: 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: Dependent contractors 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)									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	41 431	41 561	41 691	41 822	41 948	127	518	0,3	1,2
Women	20 859	20 920	20 982	21 043	21 103	59	243	0,3	1,2
Men	20 572	20 640	20 709	20 778	20 846	68	274	0,3	1,3
Population groups	41 431	41 561	41 691	41 822	41 948	127	518	0,3	1,2
Black/African	34 004	34 137	34 270	34 403	34 532	129	528	0,4	1,6
Coloured	3 611	3 616	3 620	3 624	3 629	4	18	0,1	0,5
Indian/Asian	1 055	1 058	1 060	1 062	1 064	2	8	0,2	0,8
White	2 760	2 750	2 741	2 733	2 724	-9	-36	-0,3	-1,3
South Africa	41 431	41 561	41 691	41 822	41 948	127	518	0,3	1,2
Western Cape	5 073	5 090	5 108	5 126	5 143	17	71	0,3	1,4
Eastern Cape	4 566	4 579	4 592	4 605	4 618	12	51	0,3	1,1
Northern Cape	841	843	844	846	847	2	6	0,2	0,7
Free State	1 940	1 941	1 942	1 943	1 944	1	3	0,0	0,2
KwaZulu-Natal	7 658	7 683	7 707	7 732	7 756	24	98	0,3	1,3
North West	2 808	2 817	2 826	2 834	2 843	9	35	0,3	1,3
Gauteng	11 317	11 358	11 399	11 440	11 480	40	163	0,4	1,4
Mpumalanga	3 178	3 189	3 199	3 209	3 219	10	40	0,3	1,3
Limpopo	4 049	4 061	4 074	4 086	4 098	12	49	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

	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	41 431	41 561	41 691	41 822	41 948	127	518	0,3	1,2
Labour Force	24 957	25 069	25 015	25 174	25 062	-112	105	-0,4	0,4
Employed	16 946	17 078	16 787	16 807	17 055	248	109	1,5	0,6
Formal sector					11 983				
Informal sector					3 961				
Household sector	1 128	1 146	1 078	1 106	1 111	5	-17	0,5	-1,5
Unemployed	8 011	7 991	8 228	8 367	8 007	-360	-3	-4,3	0,0
Outside the Labour Force	16 474	16 492	16 676	16 648	16 886	239	412	1,4	2,5
Potential Labour Force	4 258	4 324	4 480	4 299	4 529	230	271	5,4	6,4
Available potential jobseekers	4 220	4 300	4 464	4 280	4 446	166	226	3,9	5,3
Discouraged jobseekers	3 355	3 466	3 473	3 445	3 481	36	126	1,0	3,7
Other (available potential jobseekers)	865	835	991	836	965	194	145	23,2	16,8
Unavailable jobseekers	38	24	15	19	83	64	45	339,9	118,5
Other (Outside the labour force)	12 215	12 168	12 196	12 348	12 357	8	141	0,1	1,2
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	60,2	60,3	60,0	60,2	59,7	-0,5	-0,5		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	40,9	41,1	40,3	40,2	40,7	0,5	-0,2		
Inactivity rate	39,8	39,7	40,0	39,8	40,3	0,5	0,5		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	32,1	31,9	32,9	33,2	31,9	-1,3	-0,2		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	35,2	35,0	36,0	36,1	34,9	-1,2	-0,3		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	42,0	41,9	43,1	43,0	42,4	-0,6	0,4		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	44,7	44,6	45,7	45,4	44,9	-0,5	0,2		

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

* Definition of sector based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy-therefore estimates of Q3:2025 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: Labour force characteristics by sex - All population groups (continued)									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	20 859	20 920	20 982	21 043	21 103	59	243	0,3	1,2
Labour Force	11 505	11 557	11 491	11 549	11 450	-99	-55	-0,9	-0,5
Employed	7 545	7 636	7 412	7 400	7 429	30	-115	0,4	-1,5
Formal sector					5 318				
Informal sector					1 292				
Household sector	854	856	830	840	819	-21	-34	-2,5	-4,0
Unemployed	3 960	3 922	4 078	4 149	4 020	-129	60	-3,1	1,5
Outside the Labour Force	9 354	9 363	9 491	9 494	9 653	158	299	1,7	3,2
Potential Labour Force	2 404	2 396	2 516	2 432	2 554	121	150	5,0	6,2
Available potential jobseekers	2 385	2 385	2 509	2 424	2 504	81	119	3,3	5,0
Discouraged jobseekers	1 829	1 869	1 895	1 912	1 884	-29	55	-1,5	3,0
Other (available potential jobseekers)	557	516	613	511	621	110	64	21,5	11,6
Unavailable jobseekers	19	11	7	9	49	40	30	451,0	157,6
Other (Outside the Labour Force)	6 950	6 967	6 975	7 062	7 099	37	149	0,5	2,1
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	55,2	55,2	54,8	54,9	54,3	-0,6	-0,9		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	36,2	36,5	35,3	35,2	35,2	0,0	-1,0		
Inactivity rate	44,8	44,8	45,2	45,1	45,7	0,6	0,9		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	34,4	33,9	35,5	35,9	35,1	-0,8	0,7		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	38,2	37,5	39,1	39,2	38,6	-0,6	0,4		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	45,8	45,3	47,1	47,1	46,9	-0,2	1,1		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	48,9	48,2	50,0	49,8	49,8	0,0	0,9		

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

* Definition of sector based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy-therefore estimates of Q3:2025 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: Labour force characteristics by sex - All population groups (concluded)									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	20 572	20 640	20 709	20 778	20 846	68	274	0,3	1,3
Labour Force	13 452	13 512	13 524	13 625	13 613	-12	161	-0,1	1,2
Employed	9 402	9 442	9 375	9 407	9 625	219	224	2,3	2,4
Formal sector					6 665				
Informal sector					2 668				
Household sector	274	291	248	266	292	26	18	9,7	6,5
Unemployed	4 050	4 069	4 150	4 218	3 987	-231	-63	-5,5	-1,6
Outside the Labour Force	7 119	7 129	7 185	7 153	7 233	80	114	1,1	1,6
Potential Labour Force	1 854	1 928	1 964	1 867	1 975	109	121	5,8	6,5
Available potential jobseekers	1 835	1 915	1 956	1 857	1 941	85	106	4,6	5,8
Discouraged jobseekers	1 526	1 597	1 578	1 532	1 597	65	71	4,2	4,6
Other (available potential jobseekers)	309	319	378	324	344	20	36	6,1	11,5
Unavailable jobseekers	19	13	8	10	34	24	15	240,3	79,1
Other (Outside the Labour Force)	5 265	5 200	5 221	5 286	5 258	-29	-8	-0,5	-0,1
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	65,4	65,5	65,3	65,6	65,3	-0,3	-0,1		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	45,7	45,7	45,3	45,3	46,2	0,9	0,5		
Inactivity rate	34,6	34,5	34,7	34,4	34,7	0,3	0,1		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	30,1	30,1	30,7	31,0	29,3	-1,7	-0,8		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	32,7	32,9	33,4	33,4	31,9	-1,5	-0,8		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	38,6	38,8	39,5	39,3	38,3	-1,0	-0,3		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	40,9	41,3	41,9	41,4	40,5	-0,9	-0,4		

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

* Definition of sector based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy-therefore estimates of Q3:2025 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 2.1: Labour force characteristics by population group									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	41 431	41 561	41 691	41 822	41 948	127	518	0,3	1,2
Labour Force	24 957	25 069	25 015	25 174	25 062	-112	105	-0,4	0,4
Employed	16 946	17 078	16 787	16 807	17 055	248	109	1,5	0,6
Unemployed	8 011	7 991	8 228	8 367	8 007	-360	-3	-4,3	0,0
Outside the Labour Force	16 474	16 492	16 676	16 648	16 886	239	412	1,4	2,5
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	60,2	60,3	60,0	60,2	59,7	-0,5	-0,5		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	40,9	41,1	40,3	40,2	40,7	0,5	-0,2		
Inactivity rate	39,8	39,7	40,0	39,8	40,3	0,5	0,5		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	32,1	31,9	32,9	33,2	31,9	-1,3	-0,2		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	35,2	35,0	36,0	36,1	34,9	-1,2	-0,3		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	42,0	41,9	43,1	43,0	42,4	-0,6	0,4		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	44,7	44,6	45,7	45,4	44,9	-0,5	0,2		
Black/African									
Population 15-64 years	34 004	34 137	34 270	34 403	34 532	129	528	0,4	1,6
Labour Force	20 225	20 323	20 196	20 434	20 370	-64	146	-0,3	0,7
Employed	12 934	13 048	12 727	12 848	13 082	234	148	1,8	1,1
Unemployed	7 291	7 275	7 469	7 586	7 289	-297	-2	-3,9	0,0
Outside the Labour Force	13 780	13 814	14 074	13 969	14 162	193	382	1,4	2,8
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	59,5	59,5	58,9	59,4	59,0	-0,4	-0,5		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	38,0	38,2	37,1	37,3	37,9	0,6	-0,1		
Inactivity rate	40,5	40,5	41,1	40,6	41,0	0,4	0,5		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	36,1	35,8	37,0	37,1	35,8	-1,3	-0,3		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	39,5	39,2	40,5	40,2	39,1	-1,1	-0,4		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	46,2	46,2	47,6	47,0	46,4	-0,6	0,2		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	49,1	49,1	50,4	49,6	49,1	-0,5	0,0		

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)									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	3 611	3 616	3 620	3 624	3 629	4	18	0,1	0,5
Labour Force	2 188	2 237	2 263	2 215	2 167	-48	-21	-2,2	-1,0
Employed	1 726	1 737	1 730	1 683	1 687	4	-38	0,2	-2,2
Unemployed	462	500	533	532	479	-53	17	-9,9	3,7
Outside the Labour Force	1 423	1 379	1 357	1 409	1 462	53	39	3,7	2,7
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	60,6	61,9	62,5	61,1	59,7	-1,4	-0,9		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	47,8	48,0	47,8	46,4	46,5	0,1	-1,3		
Inactivity rate	39,4	38,1	37,5	38,9	40,3	1,4	0,9		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	21,1	22,3	23,6	24,0	22,1	-1,9	1,0		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	23,9	24,6	26,1	26,2	24,8	-1,4	0,9		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	31,3	31,0	32,7	34,6	33,4	-1,2	2,1		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	33,7	33,0	35,0	36,4	35,6	-0,8	1,9		
Indian/Asian									
Population 15-64 years	1 055	1 058	1 060	1 062	1 064	2	8	0,2	0,8
Labour Force	669	661	649	621	593	-28	-76	-4,5	-11,3
Employed	564	569	562	527	510	-17	-54	-3,3	-9,6
Unemployed	104	92	86	94	83	-11	-21	-11,7	-20,6
Outside the Labour Force	387	396	411	441	471	30	84	6,8	21,7
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	63,3	62,5	61,2	58,5	55,7	-2,8	-7,6		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	53,5	53,8	53,1	49,7	48,0	-1,7	-5,5		
Inactivity rate	36,7	37,5	38,8	41,5	44,3	2,8	7,6		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	15,6	14,0	13,3	15,1	13,9	-1,2	-1,7		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	16,9	14,9	13,5	16,1	15,5	-0,6	-1,4		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	22,9	22,5	20,3	21,2	24,0	2,8	1,1		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	24,1	23,4	20,4	22,1	25,4	3,3	1,3		

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

Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Quarter 3: 2025

Table 2.1: Labour force characteristics by population group (concluded)									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	2 760	2 750	2 741	2 733	2 724	-9	-36	-0,3	-1,3
Labour Force	1 875	1 848	1 907	1 904	1 932	28	57	1,5	3,0
Employed	1 723	1 724	1 768	1 748	1 776	28	53	1,6	3,1
Unemployed	153	124	139	156	157	1	4	0,6	2,5
Outside the Labour Force	884	902	834	829	791	-37	-93	-4,5	-10,5
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	68,0	67,2	69,6	69,7	71,0	1,3	3,0		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	62,4	62,7	64,5	64,0	65,2	1,2	2,8		
Inactivity rate	32,0	32,8	30,4	30,3	29,0	-1,3	-3,0		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	8,2	6,7	7,3	8,2	8,1	-0,1	-0,1		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	9,1	8,6	8,5	9,5	8,8	-0,7	-0,3		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	10,8	9,2	9,2	11,3	10,3	-1,0	-0,5		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	11,8	11,0	10,4	12,6	10,9	-1,7	-0,9		

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

	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	41 431	41 561	41 691	41 822	41 948	127	518	0,3	1,2
Labour Force	24 957	25 069	25 015	25 174	25 062	-112	105	-0,4	0,4
Employed	16 946	17 078	16 787	16 807	17 055	248	109	1,5	0,6
Unemployed	8 011	7 991	8 228	8 367	8 007	-360	-3	-4,3	0,0
Outside the Labour Force	16 474	16 492	16 676	16 648	16 886	239	412	1,4	2,5
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	60,2	60,3	60,0	60,2	59,7	-0,5	-0,5		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	40,9	41,1	40,3	40,2	40,7	0,5	-0,2		
Inactivity rate	39,8	39,7	40,0	39,8	40,3	0,5	0,5		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	32,1	31,9	32,9	33,2	31,9	-1,3	-0,2		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	35,2	35,0	36,0	36,1	34,9	-1,2	-0,3		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	42,0	41,9	43,1	43,0	42,4	-0,6	0,4		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	44,7	44,6	45,7	45,4	44,9	-0,5	0,2		
15-24 years									
Population 15-24 yrs	10 273	10 286	10 299	10 312	10 325	13	52	0,1	0,5
Labour Force	2 729	2 731	2 710	2 758	2 833	75	104	2,7	3,8
Employed	1 086	1 102	1 018	1 043	1 177	134	91	12,8	8,4
Unemployed	1 643	1 629	1 692	1 715	1 657	-58	13	-3,4	0,8
Outside the Labour Force	7 544	7 555	7 589	7 554	7 491	-63	-53	-0,8	-0,7
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	26,6	26,6	26,3	26,7	27,4	0,7	0,8		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	10,6	10,7	9,9	10,1	11,4	1,3	0,8		
Inactivity rate	73,4	73,4	73,7	73,3	72,6	-0,7	-0,8		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	60,2	59,6	62,4	62,2	58,5	-3,7	-1,7		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	62,7	61,4	63,9	64,4	60,7	-3,7	-2,0		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	70,7	70,3	72,5	71,8	69,3	-2,5	-1,4		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	72,6	71,6	73,6	73,4	70,9	-2,5	-1,7		

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)

	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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 15-64 years	10 609	10 613	10 617	10 621	10 622	1	13	0,0	0,1
Labour Force	7 881	7 783	7 802	7 823	7 765	-58	-116	-0,7	-1,5
Employed	4 699	4 719	4 651	4 656	4 787	131	88	2,8	1,9
Unemployed	3 182	3 064	3 151	3 167	2 978	-189	-204	-6,0	-6,4
Outside the Labour Force	2 728	2 830	2 815	2 798	2 857	59	129	2,1	4,7
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	74,3	73,3	73,5	73,7	73,1	-0,6	-1,2		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	44,3	44,5	43,8	43,8	45,1	1,3	0,8		
Inactivity rate	25,7	26,7	26,5	26,3	26,9	0,6	1,2		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	40,4	39,4	40,4	40,5	38,4	-2,1	-2,0		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	43,1	42,0	43,4	43,0	41,1	-1,9	-2,0		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	49,4	48,9	50,1	49,5	48,2	-1,3	-1,2		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	51,7	51,2	52,7	51,6	50,5	-1,1	-1,2		
35-44 years									
Population 15-24 yrs	9 180	9 218	9 257	9 295	9 332	37	152	0,4	1,7
Labour Force	7 263	7 328	7 269	7 326	7 250	-76	-13	-1,0	-0,2
Employed	5 303	5 334	5 247	5 222	5 234	11	-69	0,2	-1,3
Unemployed	1 960	1 994	2 022	2 104	2 017	-88	56	-4,2	2,9
Outside the Labour Force	1 916	1 890	1 987	1 969	2 082	113	165	5,7	8,6
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	79,1	79,5	78,5	78,8	77,7	-1,1	-1,4		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	57,8	57,9	56,7	56,2	56,1	-0,1	-1,7		
Inactivity rate	20,9	20,5	21,5	21,2	22,3	1,1	1,4		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	27,0	27,2	27,8	28,7	27,8	-0,9	0,8		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	30,3	30,7	31,0	31,3	30,8	-0,5	0,5		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	35,8	35,9	36,7	37,4	37,1	-0,3	1,3		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	38,7	39,0	39,6	39,6	39,6	0,0	0,9		

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 (concluded)

	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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 15-64 years	6 931	6 975	7 020	7 065	7 109	43	178	0,6	2,6
Labour Force	5 122	5 224	5 217	5 241	5 195	-47	72	-0,9	1,4
Employed	4 105	4 148	4 099	4 119	4 102	-17	-2	-0,4	-0,1
Unemployed	1 018	1 075	1 118	1 123	1 093	-30	75	-2,7	7,4
Outside the Labour Force	1 808	1 752	1 803	1 824	1 914	90	105	4,9	5,8
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	73,9	74,9	74,3	74,2	73,1	-1,1	-0,8		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	59,2	59,5	58,4	58,3	57,7	-0,6	-1,5		
Inactivity rate	26,1	25,1	25,7	25,8	26,9	1,1	0,8		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	19,9	20,6	21,4	21,4	21,0	-0,4	1,1		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	23,2	24,4	25,0	25,2	24,8	-0,4	1,6		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	29,0	29,7	30,7	30,7	30,9	0,2	1,9		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	31,9	33,0	33,9	34,0	34,3	0,3	2,4		
55-64 years									
Population 15-24 yrs	4 439	4 468	4 498	4 528	4 562	33	123	0,7	2,8
Labour Force	1 961	2 003	2 017	2 025	2 019	-7	58	-0,3	2,9
Employed	1 754	1 775	1 772	1 766	1 755	-11	1	-0,6	0,1
Unemployed	207	228	245	259	263	4	57	1,7	27,4
Outside the Labour Force	2 478	2 465	2 481	2 503	2 543	40	65	1,6	2,6
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	44,2	44,8	44,8	44,7	44,3	-0,4	0,1		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	39,5	39,7	39,4	39,0	38,5	-0,5	-1,0		
Inactivity rate	55,8	55,2	55,2	55,3	55,7	0,4	-0,1		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	10,5	11,4	12,1	12,8	13,0	0,2	2,5		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	15,0	15,4	16,3	16,1	16,1	0,0	1,1		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	19,7	20,2	21,6	22,2	22,2	0,0	2,5		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	23,7	23,8	25,3	25,1	24,9	-0,2	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

	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	41 431	41 561	41 691	41 822	41 948	127	518	0,3	1,2
Labour Force	24 957	25 069	25 015	25 174	25 062	-112	105	-0,4	0,4
Employed	16 946	17 078	16 787	16 807	17 055	248	109	1,5	0,6
Unemployed	8 011	7 991	8 228	8 367	8 007	-360	-3	-4,3	0,0
Outside the Labour Force	16 474	16 492	16 676	16 648	16 886	239	412	1,4	2,5
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	60,2	60,3	60,0	60,2	59,7	-0,5	-0,5		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	40,9	41,1	40,3	40,2	40,7	0,5	-0,2		
Inactivity rate	39,8	39,7	40,0	39,8	40,3	0,5	0,5		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	32,1	31,9	32,9	33,2	31,9	-1,3	-0,2		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	35,2	35,0	36,0	36,1	34,9	-1,2	-0,3		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	42,0	41,9	43,1	43,0	42,4	-0,6	0,4		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	44,7	44,6	45,7	45,4	44,9	-0,5	0,2		
Western Cape									
Population 15-64 years	5 073	5 090	5 108	5 126	5 143	17	71	0,3	1,4
Labour Force	3 419	3 498	3 558	3 479	3 505	26	86	0,7	2,5
Employed	2 749	2 812	2 861	2 744	2 814	70	64	2,5	2,3
Unemployed	670	686	697	735	692	-44	22	-5,9	3,3
Outside the Labour Force	1 654	1 593	1 550	1 647	1 638	-9	-15	-0,5	-0,9
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	67,4	68,7	69,6	67,9	68,1	0,2	0,7		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	54,2	55,2	56,0	53,5	54,7	1,2	0,5		
Inactivity rate	32,6	31,3	30,4	32,1	31,9	-0,2	-0,7		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	19,6	19,6	19,6	21,1	19,7	-1,4	0,1		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	22,5	22,3	22,2	23,6	22,0	-1,6	-0,5		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	25,7	24,9	24,8	27,0	25,8	-1,2	0,1		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	28,4	27,4	27,3	29,3	27,9	-1,4	-0,5		

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)

	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	1 841	1 847	1 854	1 860	1 866	6	25	0,3	1,4
Labour Force	1 159	1 202	1 219	1 150	1 174	24	15	2,1	1,3
Employed	993	1 030	1 034	958	987	29	-6	3,0	-0,6
Unemployed	166	172	186	192	187	-5	21	-2,7	12,8
Outside the Labour Force	682	646	634	710	692	-18	10	-2,5	1,5
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	62,9	65,1	65,8	61,8	62,9	1,1	0,0		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	53,9	55,7	55,8	51,5	52,9	1,4	-1,0		
Inactivity rate	37,1	34,9	34,2	38,2	37,1	-1,1	0,0		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	14,3	14,3	15,2	16,7	15,9	-0,8	1,6		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	17,2	17,2	17,7	19,7	18,5	-1,2	1,3		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	26,1	23,5	24,8	29,4	28,1	-1,3	2,0		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	28,7	26,1	27,0	32,0	30,3	-1,7	1,6		
Western Cape - City of Cape Town									
Population 15-64 years	3 232	3 243	3 255	3 266	3 277	11	46	0,3	1,4
Labour Force	2 260	2 296	2 338	2 329	2 331	2	71	0,1	3,1
Employed	1 756	1 782	1 827	1 786	1 826	40	70	2,3	4,0
Unemployed	504	514	511	543	505	-39	1	-7,1	0,2
Outside the Labour Force	972	947	916	937	946	9	-25	1,0	-2,6
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	69,9	70,8	71,8	71,3	71,1	-0,2	1,2		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	54,3	54,9	56,1	54,7	55,7	1,0	1,4		
Inactivity rate	30,1	29,2	28,2	28,7	28,9	0,2	-1,2		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	22,3	22,4	21,9	23,3	21,6	-1,7	-0,7		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	25,2	25,0	24,5	25,6	23,8	-1,8	-1,4		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	25,5	25,7	24,8	25,6	24,5	-1,1	-1,0		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	28,2	28,2	27,4	27,8	26,6	-1,2	-1,6		

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)

	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	4 566	4 579	4 592	4 605	4 618	12	51	0,3	1,1
Labour Force	2 312	2 297	2 261	2 418	2 393	-25	81	-1,0	3,5
Employed	1 452	1 455	1 373	1 462	1 408	-53	-43	-3,7	-3,0
Unemployed	861	841	889	956	985	29	124	3,0	14,4
Outside the Labour Force	2 254	2 283	2 331	2 187	2 224	37	-30	1,7	-1,3
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	50,6	50,2	49,2	52,5	51,8	-0,7	1,2		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	31,8	31,8	29,9	31,7	30,5	-1,2	-1,3		
Inactivity rate	49,4	49,8	50,8	47,5	48,2	0,7	-1,2		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	37,2	36,6	39,3	39,5	41,2	1,7	4,0		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	40,7	40,5	42,5	43,5	44,1	0,6	3,4		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	47,6	47,6	49,0	47,7	50,2	2,5	2,6		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	50,5	50,8	51,7	51,1	52,7	1,6	2,2		
Eastern Cape - Non Metro									
Population 15-64 years	3 111	3 119	3 126	3 134	3 141	7	30	0,2	1,0
Labour Force	1 412	1 372	1 373	1 453	1 517	64	105	4,4	7,4
Employed	793	774	743	760	768	8	-25	1,0	-3,1
Unemployed	619	598	630	693	749	56	130	8,1	21,0
Outside the Labour Force	1 699	1 747	1 753	1 681	1 624	-57	-75	-3,4	-4,4
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	45,4	44,0	43,9	46,4	48,3	1,9	2,9		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	25,5	24,8	23,8	24,3	24,5	0,2	-1,0		
Inactivity rate	54,6	56,0	56,1	53,6	51,7	-1,9	-2,9		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	43,9	43,6	45,9	47,7	49,4	1,7	5,5		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	48,1	46,3	50,0	50,8	52,8	2,0	4,7		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	56,6	57,2	57,9	56,4	59,4	3,0	2,8		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	59,9	59,3	61,1	59,0	62,1	3,1	2,2		

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)

	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	561	563	565	567	569	2	8	0,3	1,4
Labour Force	375	412	402	394	376	-18	1	-4,5	0,4
Employed	262	281	252	282	276	-6	14	-2,0	5,2
Unemployed	113	132	150	113	101	-12	-12	-10,9	-10,9
Outside the Labour Force	186	151	163	173	193	20	7	11,5	3,5
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	66,8	73,2	71,1	69,5	66,1	-3,4	-0,7		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	46,7	49,8	44,5	49,6	48,5	-1,1	1,8		
Inactivity rate	33,2	26,8	28,9	30,5	33,9	3,4	0,7		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	30,1	31,9	37,3	28,6	26,7	-1,9	-3,4		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	33,2	41,6	38,7	33,8	27,3	-6,5	-5,9		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	32,6	34,5	38,5	31,0	30,6	-0,4	-2,0		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	35,6	43,8	39,8	36,1	31,2	-4,9	-4,4		
Eastern Cape - Nelson Mandela Bay									
Population 15-64 years	894	897	900	904	907	3	13	0,4	1,5
Labour Force	525	512	486	571	500	-71	-25	-12,4	-4,8
Employed	396	401	378	420	364	-56	-32	-13,3	-8,1
Unemployed	129	112	108	151	135	-15	7	-10,1	5,2
Outside the Labour Force	369	385	414	333	407	74	39	22,3	10,5
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	58,8	57,1	54,0	63,1	55,1	-8,0	-3,7		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	44,4	44,7	41,9	46,5	40,2	-6,3	-4,2		
Inactivity rate	41,2	42,9	46,0	36,9	44,9	8,0	3,7		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	24,5	21,8	22,3	26,4	27,1	0,7	2,6		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	26,0	24,1	24,6	31,5	30,2	-1,3	4,2		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	28,1	26,2	27,1	35,0	32,4	-2,6	4,3		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	29,6	28,4	29,2	39,5	35,3	-4,2	5,7		

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)

	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	841	843	844	846	847	2	6	0,2	0,7
Labour Force	484	488	486	466	464	-2	-20	-0,5	-4,1
Employed	337	355	343	314	319	5	-18	1,7	-5,2
Unemployed	147	134	143	152	145	-8	-2	-4,9	-1,6
Outside the Labour Force	357	354	359	380	383	4	26	1,0	7,3
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	57,6	57,9	57,5	55,1	54,8	-0,3	-2,8		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	40,1	42,1	40,6	37,1	37,7	0,6	-2,4		
Inactivity rate	42,4	42,1	42,5	44,9	45,2	0,3	2,8		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	30,4	27,4	29,5	32,7	31,2	-1,5	0,8		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	33,4	31,0	34,5	35,8	35,0	-0,8	1,6		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	43,1	39,8	43,1	47,0	46,5	-0,5	3,4		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	45,6	42,8	47,1	49,4	49,4	0,0	3,8		
Free State									
Population 15-64 years	1 940	1 941	1 942	1 943	1 944	1	3	0,0	0,2
Labour Force	1 212	1 207	1 214	1 245	1 226	-19	15	-1,5	1,2
Employed	775	750	754	766	782	16	7	2,1	0,9
Unemployed	436	457	460	479	444	-35	8	-7,3	1,8
Outside the Labour Force	729	735	729	698	718	20	-11	2,8	-1,5
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	62,4	62,2	62,5	64,1	63,1	-1,0	0,7		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	40,0	38,6	38,8	39,4	40,2	0,8	0,2		
Inactivity rate	37,6	37,8	37,5	35,9	36,9	1,0	-0,7		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	36,0	37,9	37,9	38,5	36,2	-2,3	0,2		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	41,0	41,8	42,3	42,2	39,7	-2,5	-1,3		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	43,3	44,3	44,9	43,8	42,7	-1,1	-0,6		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	47,7	47,8	48,8	47,2	45,8	-1,4	-1,9		

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)

	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	1 383	1 383	1 384	1 385	1 385	0	2	0,0	0,2
Labour Force	870	865	859	877	891	13	21	1,5	2,4
Employed	528	505	506	514	540	25	12	4,9	2,3
Unemployed	342	361	353	363	351	-12	9	-3,4	2,5
Outside the Labour Force	513	518	525	507	494	-13	-18	-2,5	-3,5
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	62,9	62,5	62,1	63,4	64,3	0,9	1,4		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	38,2	36,5	36,6	37,1	39,0	1,9	0,8		
Inactivity rate	37,1	37,5	37,9	36,6	35,7	-0,9	-1,4		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	39,3	41,7	41,0	41,4	39,4	-2,0	0,1		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	43,9	45,6	45,4	44,9	42,8	-2,1	-1,1		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	46,2	48,0	48,0	46,5	44,8	-1,7	-1,4		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	50,2	51,5	51,9	49,7	47,9	-1,8	-2,3		
Free State - Mangaung									
Population 15-64 years	558	558	558	558	559	0	1	0,0	0,2
Labour Force	342	342	355	368	336	-32	-6	-8,7	-1,8
Employed	248	245	247	252	242	-9	-5	-3,8	-2,2
Unemployed	94	96	107	116	93	-23	-1	-19,5	-0,8
Outside the Labour Force	216	216	204	191	223	32	7	16,9	3,2
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	61,3	61,2	63,5	65,8	60,1	-5,7	-1,2		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	44,4	44,0	44,3	45,1	43,4	-1,7	-1,0		
Inactivity rate	38,7	38,8	36,5	34,2	39,9	5,7	1,2		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	27,5	28,2	30,2	31,5	27,8	-3,7	0,3		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	33,5	32,0	34,9	35,7	31,4	-4,3	-2,1		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	36,3	34,9	36,9	37,5	37,3	-0,2	1,0		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	41,5	38,4	41,1	41,3	40,4	-0,9	-1,1		

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)

	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	7 658	7 683	7 707	7 732	7 756	24	98	0,3	1,3
Labour Force	4 128	4 051	4 116	4 058	4 035	-23	-93	-0,6	-2,2
Employed	2 840	2 892	2 788	2 702	2 757	54	-83	2,0	-2,9
Unemployed	1 287	1 159	1 328	1 356	1 278	-78	-9	-5,7	-0,7
Outside the Labour Force	3 530	3 632	3 591	3 674	3 721	47	191	1,3	5,4
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	53,9	52,7	53,4	52,5	52,0	-0,5	-1,9		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	37,1	37,6	36,2	35,0	35,5	0,5	-1,6		
Inactivity rate	46,1	47,3	46,6	47,5	48,0	0,5	1,9		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	31,2	28,6	32,3	33,4	31,7	-1,7	0,5		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	34,0	32,2	35,6	36,3	35,1	-1,2	1,1		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	45,7	44,7	46,9	47,9	46,6	-1,3	0,9		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	47,9	47,5	49,5	50,1	49,3	-0,8	1,4		
KwaZulu-Natal - Non Metro									
Population 15-64 years	4 974	4 989	5 003	5 018	5 032	14	58	0,3	1,2
Labour Force	2 465	2 444	2 462	2 420	2 365	-55	-99	-2,3	-4,0
Employed	1 519	1 559	1 487	1 503	1 551	48	32	3,2	2,1
Unemployed	945	885	975	917	814	-103	-131	-11,2	-13,9
Outside the Labour Force	2 509	2 545	2 541	2 598	2 667	69	158	2,7	6,3
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	49,5	49,0	49,2	48,2	47,0	-1,2	-2,5		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	30,5	31,2	29,7	30,0	30,8	0,8	0,3		
Inactivity rate	50,5	51,0	50,8	51,8	53,0	1,2	2,5		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	38,4	36,2	39,6	37,9	34,4	-3,5	-4,0		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	41,7	39,9	43,1	40,9	38,1	-2,8	-3,6		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	51,9	50,7	52,8	51,8	50,1	-1,7	-1,8		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	54,6	53,6	55,5	54,1	52,9	-1,2	-1,7		

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)

	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	2 684	2 694	2 704	2 714	2 724	10	40	0,4	1,5
Labour Force	1 663	1 607	1 654	1 638	1 670	32	7	2,0	0,4
Employed	1 321	1 333	1 301	1 199	1 206	7	-115	0,6	-8,7
Unemployed	342	274	353	439	464	25	122	5,7	35,6
Outside the Labour Force	1 021	1 087	1 050	1 076	1 054	-22	33	-2,1	3,2
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	62,0	59,7	61,2	60,3	61,3	1,0	-0,7		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	49,2	49,5	48,1	44,2	44,3	0,1	-4,9		
Inactivity rate	38,0	40,3	38,8	39,7	38,7	-1,0	0,7		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	20,6	17,1	21,4	26,8	27,8	1,0	7,2		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	22,5	20,5	24,5	29,4	30,9	1,5	8,4		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	36,1	35,7	38,0	42,1	41,5	-0,6	5,4		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	37,6	38,3	40,5	44,2	44,0	-0,2	6,4		
North West									
Population 15-64 years	2 808	2 817	2 826	2 834	2 843	9	35	0,3	1,3
Labour Force	1 511	1 593	1 475	1 493	1 513	20	2	1,3	0,1
Employed	956	935	879	895	937	42	-19	4,7	-2,0
Unemployed	555	658	596	599	576	-23	21	-3,8	3,7
Outside the Labour Force	1 297	1 224	1 351	1 341	1 330	-11	33	-0,8	2,6
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	53,8	56,6	52,2	52,7	53,2	0,5	-0,6		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	34,0	33,2	31,1	31,6	33,0	1,4	-1,0		
Inactivity rate	46,2	43,4	47,8	47,3	46,8	-0,5	0,6		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	36,8	41,3	40,4	40,1	38,1	-2,0	1,3		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	37,7	42,6	41,2	40,8	39,3	-1,5	1,6		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	51,5	52,8	56,0	54,7	52,5	-2,2	1,0		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	52,2	53,8	56,6	55,3	53,4	-1,9	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)

	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	11 317	11 358	11 399	11 440	11 480	40	163	0,4	1,4
Labour Force	7 630	7 748	7 799	7 831	7 823	-8	193	-0,1	2,5
Employed	5 037	5 081	5 091	5 186	5 237	51	200	1,0	4,0
Unemployed	2 593	2 667	2 708	2 645	2 586	-59	-7	-2,2	-0,3
Outside the Labour Force	3 687	3 610	3 600	3 608	3 657	49	-30	1,3	-0,8
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	67,4	68,2	68,4	68,5	68,1	-0,4	0,7		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	44,5	44,7	44,7	45,3	45,6	0,3	1,1		
Inactivity rate	32,6	31,8	31,6	31,5	31,9	0,4	-0,7		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	34,0	34,4	34,7	33,8	33,1	-0,7	-0,9		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	36,3	36,9	37,5	36,0	35,5	-0,5	-0,8		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	39,3	39,9	40,1	39,2	39,6	0,4	0,3		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	41,5	42,2	42,6	41,2	41,8	0,6	0,3		
Gauteng - Non Metro									
Population 15-64 years	1 498	1 504	1 509	1 515	1 521	6	23	0,4	1,5
Labour Force	1 016	1 049	1 087	1 081	1 062	-20	45	-1,8	4,5
Employed	626	607	633	650	702	52	76	8,0	12,1
Unemployed	390	443	455	431	359	-72	-30	-16,7	-7,8
Outside the Labour Force	482	454	422	434	459	26	-23	5,9	-4,7
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	67,8	69,8	72,0	71,4	69,8	-1,6	2,0		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	41,8	40,3	41,9	42,9	46,2	3,3	4,4		
Inactivity rate	32,2	30,2	28,0	28,6	30,2	1,6	-2,0		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	38,4	42,2	41,8	39,9	33,9	-6,0	-4,5		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	39,6	43,5	43,3	41,4	37,8	-3,6	-1,8		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	45,4	48,6	46,6	45,5	41,7	-3,8	-3,7		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	46,5	49,7	48,0	46,9	45,1	-1,8	-1,4		

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)

	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	2 843	2 853	2 863	2 874	2 884	10	41	0,4	1,5
Labour Force	1 826	1 820	1 779	1 838	1 819	-19	-7	-1,0	-0,4
Employed	1 242	1 255	1 202	1 200	1 235	35	-7	2,9	-0,6
Unemployed	585	566	578	638	584	-54	-1	-8,4	-0,1
Outside the Labour Force	1 016	1 033	1 084	1 036	1 065	29	49	2,8	4,8
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	64,3	63,8	62,1	63,9	63,1	-0,8	-1,2		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	43,7	44,0	42,0	41,8	42,8	1,0	-0,9		
Inactivity rate	35,7	36,2	37,9	36,1	36,9	0,8	1,2		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	32,0	31,1	32,5	34,7	32,1	-2,6	0,1		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	33,2	32,3	33,6	36,0	33,5	-2,5	0,3		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	40,2	39,2	41,2	42,7	42,2	-0,5	2,0		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	41,2	40,3	42,2	43,8	43,4	-0,4	2,2		
Gauteng - City of Johannesburg									
Population 15-64 years	4 197	4 212	4 227	4 242	4 256	15	59	0,3	1,4
Labour Force	2 810	2 965	3 010	2 983	3 001	18	191	0,6	6,8
Employed	1 862	1 935	1 977	2 000	1 963	-36	101	-1,8	5,4
Unemployed	948	1 030	1 032	983	1 037	54	89	5,5	9,4
Outside the Labour Force	1 387	1 247	1 217	1 259	1 255	-3	-132	-0,3	-9,5
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	67,0	70,4	71,2	70,3	70,5	0,2	3,5		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	44,4	45,9	46,8	47,1	46,1	-1,0	1,7		
Inactivity rate	33,0	29,6	28,8	29,7	29,5	-0,2	-3,5		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	33,7	34,7	34,3	33,0	34,6	1,6	0,9		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	36,8	38,1	37,7	35,9	37,0	1,1	0,2		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	37,5	38,6	38,0	37,3	39,2	1,9	1,7		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	40,3	41,7	41,3	40,0	41,5	1,5	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)

	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	2 779	2 789	2 799	2 809	2 819	10	40	0,3	1,4
Labour Force	1 977	1 913	1 923	1 929	1 941	12	-36	0,6	-1,8
Employed	1 307	1 285	1 279	1 336	1 336	0	30	0,0	2,3
Unemployed	671	628	644	593	605	12	-65	2,0	-9,8
Outside the Labour Force	802	876	876	880	878	-2	75	-0,3	9,4
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	71,1	68,6	68,7	68,7	68,9	0,2	-2,2		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	47,0	46,1	45,7	47,6	47,4	-0,2	0,4		
Inactivity rate	28,9	31,4	31,3	31,3	31,1	-0,2	2,2		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	33,9	32,8	33,5	30,8	31,2	0,4	-2,7		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	36,9	35,8	37,3	33,0	33,7	0,7	-3,2		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	37,8	37,8	38,4	35,0	36,3	1,3	-1,5		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	40,6	40,6	41,9	37,1	38,7	1,6	-1,9		
Mpumalanga									
Population 15-64 years	3 178	3 189	3 199	3 209	3 219	10	40	0,3	1,3
Labour Force	1 947	1 920	1 876	1 853	1 889	35	-58	1,9	-3,0
Employed	1 241	1 255	1 212	1 223	1 246	23	5	1,9	0,4
Unemployed	706	666	664	631	643	12	-63	1,9	-8,9
Outside the Labour Force	1 232	1 268	1 323	1 356	1 330	-25	99	-1,9	8,0
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	61,3	60,2	58,6	57,8	58,7	0,9	-2,6		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	39,0	39,3	37,9	38,1	38,7	0,6	-0,3		
Inactivity rate	38,7	39,8	41,4	42,2	41,3	-0,9	2,6		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	36,2	34,7	35,4	34,0	34,0	0,0	-2,2		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	40,9	38,2	39,7	37,6	38,6	1,0	-2,3		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	47,8	47,2	49,3	48,4	47,5	-0,9	-0,3		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	51,7	50,0	52,7	51,2	51,1	-0,1	-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)

	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	4 049	4 061	4 074	4 086	4 098	12	49	0,3	1,2
Labour Force	2 314	2 267	2 231	2 329	2 214	-115	-100	-4,9	-4,3
Employed	1 559	1 543	1 488	1 515	1 555	40	-4	2,7	-0,3
Unemployed	755	724	743	814	659	-155	-96	-19,1	-12,8
Outside the Labour Force	1 735	1 794	1 843	1 757	1 884	127	150	7,2	8,6
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	57,2	55,8	54,8	57,0	54,0	-3,0	-3,2		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	38,5	38,0	36,5	37,1	37,9	0,8	-0,6		
Inactivity rate	42,8	44,2	45,2	43,0	46,0	3,0	3,2		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	32,6	31,9	33,3	35,0	29,8	-5,2	-2,8		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	38,3	37,0	37,4	39,4	34,4	-5,0	-3,9		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	46,3	46,5	48,6	47,7	45,1	-2,6	-1,2		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	50,9	50,5	51,8	51,3	48,7	-2,6	-2,2		

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

	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	16 946	17 078	16 787	16 807	17 055	248	109	1,5	0,6
Agriculture	935	924	930	906	920	14	-15	1,6	-1,6
Mining	484	466	431	434	449	16	-35	3,6	-7,2
Manufacturing	1 635	1 675	1 677	1 672	1 610	-62	-25	-3,7	-1,5
Utilities	127	111	145	139	109	-30	-18	-21,6	-14,3
Construction	1 381	1 359	1 240	1 259	1 390	130	9	10,3	0,6
Trade	3 469	3 421	3 228	3 315	3 424	108	-45	3,3	-1,3
Transport	1 047	1 064	1 131	1 115	1 113	-3	66	-0,2	6,3
Finance	2 716	2 948	3 008	2 983	2 930	-54	214	-1,8	7,9
Community and social services	4 021	3 959	3 914	3 872	3 988	116	-33	3,0	-0,8
Private households	1 128	1 146	1 078	1 106	1 111	5	-17	0,5	-1,5
Other	4	5	6	4	11	7	7	152,8	196,5
Women	7 545	7 636	7 412	7 400	7 429	30	-115	0,4	-1,5
Agriculture	284	296	279	257	272	15	-12	5,8	-4,3
Mining	87	88	86	73	72	-1	-16	-1,6	-17,9
Manufacturing	616	642	589	570	543	-27	-73	-4,7	-11,9
Utilities	31	33	50	43	30	-14	-2	-31,3	-5,3
Construction	138	152	140	143	142	-1	3	-0,7	2,4
Trade	1 634	1 634	1 505	1 527	1 606	78	-29	5,1	-1,8
Transport	209	200	223	183	201	18	-8	9,7	-3,9
Finance	1 127	1 257	1 279	1 333	1 264	-70	137	-5,2	12,1
Community and social services	2 561	2 478	2 430	2 429	2 478	49	-83	2,0	-3,3
Private households	854	856	830	840	819	-21	-34	-2,5	-4,0
Other	1		2	1	3	2	2	258,3	178,7

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 (concluded)									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	9 402	9 442	9 375	9 407	9 625	219	224	2,3	2,4
Agriculture	651	628	651	648	648	-1	-3	-0,1	-0,4
Mining	397	378	345	360	377	17	-19	4,7	-4,9
Manufacturing	1 018	1 033	1 088	1 102	1 066	-35	48	-3,2	4,7
Utilities	96	78	96	96	79	-16	-17	-17,2	-17,3
Construction	1 243	1 207	1 099	1 117	1 248	131	5	11,8	0,4
Trade	1 834	1 787	1 722	1 788	1 818	30	-16	1,7	-0,9
Transport	838	864	908	932	912	-20	75	-2,2	8,9
Finance	1 589	1 691	1 729	1 650	1 666	16	77	1,0	4,9
Community and social services	1 460	1 481	1 484	1 444	1 510	67	50	4,6	3,4
Private households	274	291	248	266	292	26	18	9,7	6,5
Other	3	5	5	4	8	5	5	128,0	203,7

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									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	935	924	930	906	920	14	-15	1,6	-1,6
Western Cape	175	193	244	202	190	-12	15	-6,0	8,7
Eastern Cape	124	90	78	99	104	5	-20	5,0	-16,2
Northern Cape	39	52	62	38	42	3	3	9,0	8,4
Free State	78	66	64	85	71	-14	-7	-16,1	-8,5
KwaZulu-Natal	145	152	132	118	122	4	-23	3,2	-15,9
North West	62	63	58	67	70	3	8	5,1	12,8
Gauteng	47	49	38	25	39	14	-9	54,9	-18,3
Mpumalanga	109	131	116	126	113	-13	3	-10,6	3,1
Limpopo	156	128	138	146	170	24	14	16,5	8,8
Mining	484	466	431	434	449	16	-35	3,6	-7,2
Western Cape	11	10	6	3	6	4	-4	132,3	-41,5
Eastern Cape	1	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
Northern Cape	39	39	37	32	35	3	-4	7,8	-10,3
Free State	21	20	21	25	26	2	5	7,1	22,8
KwaZulu-Natal	4	4	9	6	10	4	6	72,5	162,4
North West	125	107	110	98	99	0	-26	0,1	-21,0
Gauteng	88	88	81	93	101	8	13	9,1	15,2
Mpumalanga	70	70	55	50	58	7	-12	14,6	-17,2
Limpopo	127	126	112	126	115	-12	-12	-9,3	-9,4

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)									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	1 635	1 675	1 677	1 672	1 610	-62	-25	-3,7	-1,5
Western Cape	321	307	337	301	296	-6	-25	-1,9	-7,8
Eastern Cape	140	139	135	146	118	-28	-22	-19,1	-15,7
Northern Cape	9	11	11	15	18	2	8	14,8	87,7
Free State	52	46	62	52	47	-5	-5	-9,8	-10,0
KwaZulu-Natal	344	368	331	355	364	9	20	2,6	5,9
North West	46	45	48	45	63	18	17	41,4	38,3
Gauteng	540	568	548	548	526	-22	-14	-4,0	-2,6
Mpumalanga	105	106	109	99	83	-16	-22	-15,7	-20,9
Limpopo	77	86	96	110	95	-16	18	-14,2	23,3
Utilities	127	111	145	139	109	-30	-18	-21,6	-14,3
Western Cape	13	10	11	12	9	-3	-4	-24,9	-31,0
Eastern Cape	12	9	13	9	4	-6	-8	-61,5	-70,2
Northern Cape	6	5	3	4	4	0	-2	-6,7	-30,2
Free State	6	5	4	2	2	0	-4	4,7	-68,8
KwaZulu-Natal	10	5	17	19	7	-11	-3	-60,6	-29,0
North West	6	6	1	3	3	0	-3	14,7	-46,2
Gauteng	27	29	43	41	36	-5	9	-12,1	32,7
Mpumalanga	25	26	31	33	31	-3	6	-7,5	22,2
Limpopo	22	16	22	16	13	-3	-9	-17,2	-40,0

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 (continued)									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	1 381	1 359	1 240	1 259	1 390	130	9	10,3	0,6
Western Cape	251	245	245	224	259	35	8	15,7	3,1
Eastern Cape	127	126	111	132	117	-15	-9	-11,0	-7,3
Northern Cape	26	19	18	19	25	6	-1	30,3	-4,1
Free State	58	54	53	45	60	15	3	34,6	4,5
KwaZulu-Natal	249	240	200	212	235	23	-14	10,8	-5,7
North West	76	73	65	74	62	-12	-14	-15,8	-17,9
Gauteng	323	340	334	325	372	46	49	14,1	15,1
Mpumalanga	113	97	90	97	101	5	-12	4,7	-10,3
Limpopo	159	164	124	131	158	27	-1	20,3	-0,4
Trade	3 469	3 421	3 228	3 315	3 424	108	-45	3,3	-1,3
Western Cape	525	509	492	535	559	25	35	4,6	6,6
Eastern Cape	278	295	232	292	273	-19	-5	-6,5	-1,9
Northern Cape	54	58	55	57	52	-5	-2	-8,7	-4,4
Free State	151	144	148	144	152	7	1	5,1	0,4
KwaZulu-Natal	590	595	579	533	548	15	-41	2,9	-7,0
North West	222	203	153	159	170	11	-52	6,7	-23,4
Gauteng	1 080	1 029	1 027	1 062	1 059	-3	-21	-0,3	-1,9
Mpumalanga	235	241	226	223	265	42	30	18,9	12,7
Limpopo	335	347	315	311	346	35	11	11,2	3,4

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)									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	1 047	1 064	1 131	1 115	1 113	-3	66	-0,2	6,3
Western Cape	162	184	195	181	199	18	37	9,7	22,8
Eastern Cape	94	101	117	105	86	-19	-8	-17,9	-8,8
Northern Cape	8	12	5	6	7	0	-1	7,6	-7,9
Free State	39	38	28	29	42	13	4	44,3	9,8
KwaZulu-Natal	180	176	176	181	196	15	16	8,4	9,1
North West	40	36	48	44	28	-17	-13	-37,5	-32,0
Gauteng	392	377	425	430	409	-21	17	-4,9	4,4
Mpumalanga	56	67	68	67	62	-5	6	-7,9	9,9
Limpopo	76	74	69	71	84	13	8	17,9	11,0
Finance	2 716	2 948	3 008	2 983	2 930	-54	214	-1,8	7,9
Western Cape	530	587	595	550	569	20	40	3,6	7,5
Eastern Cape	169	185	193	187	193	5	24	2,9	14,0
Northern Cape	37	49	42	34	29	-5	-8	-15,3	-22,6
Free State	87	94	101	99	94	-5	7	-4,8	8,5
KwaZulu-Natal	398	424	461	441	395	-45	-2	-10,3	-0,6
North West	103	128	122	121	130	9	27	7,4	25,9
Gauteng	1 097	1 182	1 193	1 223	1 210	-13	113	-1,1	10,3
Mpumalanga	140	148	157	166	179	13	39	7,9	28,1
Limpopo	155	152	145	163	131	-32	-25	-19,9	-16,1

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)									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	4 021	3 959	3 914	3 872	3 988	116	-33	3,0	-0,8
Western Cape	573	608	576	571	558	-13	-15	-2,4	-2,6
Eastern Cape	415	397	408	386	421	35	6	9,1	1,5
Northern Cape	99	90	87	90	88	-2	-11	-2,2	-11,3
Free State	211	216	201	214	222	8	11	3,9	5,3
KwaZulu-Natal	722	711	686	654	676	22	-47	3,3	-6,4
North West	233	222	221	235	256	21	23	8,9	9,8
Gauteng	1 115	1 067	1 088	1 111	1 139	28	24	2,5	2,1
Mpumalanga	292	285	278	275	271	-4	-21	-1,4	-7,2
Limpopo	360	363	370	336	357	21	-3	6,3	-0,9
Private households	1 128	1 146	1 078	1 106	1 111	5	-17	0,5	-1,5
Western Cape	190	158	158	165	164	-2	-26	-0,9	-13,6
Eastern Cape	92	113	86	106	92	-14	-1	-13,2	-0,9
Northern Cape	20	19	22	17	21	3	0	18,9	1,3
Free State	72	67	72	71	65	-7	-8	-9,2	-10,7
KwaZulu-Natal	198	216	197	184	202	18	3	9,7	1,7
North West	43	52	55	49	57	8	14	15,3	32,0
Gauteng	324	349	309	324	342	18	18	5,6	5,6
Mpumalanga	95	85	82	85	83	-3	-12	-3,0	-13,1
Limpopo	93	88	96	104	87	-17	-6	-16,3	-6,0

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									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	16 946	17 078	16 787	16 807	17 055	248	109	1,5	0,6
Formal and informal sector*					15 944				
Agriculture					920				
Mining					449				
Manufacturing					1 610				
Utilities					109				
Construction					1 390				
Trade					3 424				
Transport					1 113				
Finance					2 930				
Community and social services					3 988				
Other					11				
Formal sector*					11 983				
Agriculture					575				
Mining					434				
Manufacturing					1 300				
Utilities					106				
Construction					711				
Trade					2 136				
Transport					678				
Finance					2 547				
Community and social services					3 490				
Other					6				

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

* Definition of sector based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy-therefore estimates of Q3:2025 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 3.3: Employed by sector and industry - South Africa (concluded)									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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				
Agriculture					346				
Mining					15				
Manufacturing					309				
Utilities					3				
Construction					679				
Trade					1 288				
Transport					435				
Finance					383				
Community and social services					498				
Other					6				
Household sector	1 128	1 146	1 078	1 106	1 111	5	-17	0,5	-1,5

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

* Definition of sector based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy-therefore estimates of Q3:2025 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 3.4: Employed by province, metro and sector									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	16 946	17 078	16 787	16 807	17 055	248	109	1,5	0,6
Formal sector*					11 983				
Informal sector*					3 961				
Household sector	1 128	1 146	1 078	1 106	1 111	5	-17	0,5	-1,5
Western Cape	2 749	2 812	2 861	2 744	2 814	70	64	2,5	2,3
Formal sector*					2 165				
Informal sector*					484				
Household sector	190	158	158	165	164	-2	-26	-0,9	-13,6
Western Cape - Non-Metro	993	1 030	1 034	958	987	29	-6	3,0	-0,6
Formal sector*					741				
Informal sector*					188				
Household sector	75	64	58	56	59	3	-16	4,9	-22,0
Western Cape - City of Cape Town	1 756	1 782	1 827	1 786	1 826	40	70	2,3	4,0
Formal sector*					1 424				
Informal sector*					297				
Household sector	114	94	101	110	105	-4	-9	-3,9	-8,0
Eastern Cape	1 452	1 455	1 373	1 462	1 408	-53	-43	-3,7	-3,0
Formal sector*					946				
Informal sector*					371				
Household sector	92	113	86	106	92	-14	-1	-13,2	-0,9

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

* Definition of sector based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy-therefore estimates of Q3:2025 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 3.4: Employed by province, metro and sector (continued)									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	793	774	743	760	768	8	-25	1,0	-3,1
Formal sector*					472				
Informal sector*					236				
Household sector	57	67	57	59	60	0	3	0,3	5,3
Eastern Cape - Buffalo City	262	281	252	282	276	-6	14	-2,0	5,2
Formal sector*					185				
Informal sector*					78				
Household sector	21	27	9	21	14	-7	-7	-34,5	-33,2
Eastern Cape - Nelson Mandela bay	396	401	378	420	364	-56	-32	-13,3	-8,1
Formal sector*					289				
Informal sector*					57				
Household sector	15	19	20	25	18	-7	3	-27,6	19,5
Northern Cape	337	355	343	314	319	5	-18	1,7	-5,2
Formal sector*					255				
Informal sector*					44				
Household sector	20	19	22	17	21	3	0	18,9	1,3
Free State	775	750	754	766	782	16	7	2,1	0,9
Formal sector*					553				
Informal sector*					164				
Household sector	72	67	72	71	65	-7	-8	-9,2	-10,7

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

* Definition of sector based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy-therefore estimates of Q3:2025 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 3.4: Employed by province, metro and sector (continued)									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	528	505	506	514	540	25	12	4,9	2,3
Formal sector*					373				
Informal sector*					120				
Household sector	53	45	51	56	46	-9	-6	-17,0	-12,3
Free State - Mangaung	248	245	247	252	242	-9	-5	-3,8	-2,2
Formal sector*					180				
Informal sector*					44				
Household sector	20	21	21	15	18	3	-1	18,5	-6,2
KwaZulu-Natal	2 840	2 892	2 788	2 702	2 757	54	-83	2,0	-2,9
Formal sector*					1 781				
Informal sector*					774				
Household sector	198	216	197	184	202	18	3	9,7	1,7
KwaZulu-Natal - Non-Metro	1 519	1 559	1 487	1 503	1 551	48	32	3,2	2,1
Formal sector*					982				
Informal sector*					463				
Household sector	111	119	105	97	106	9	-5	9,3	-4,4
KwaZulu-Natal - eThekweni	1 321	1 333	1 301	1 199	1 206	7	-115	0,6	-8,7
Formal sector*					799				
Informal sector*					311				
Household sector	87	97	93	87	96	9	8	10,1	9,5

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

* Definition of sector based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy-therefore estimates of Q3:2025 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 3.4: Employed by province, metro and sector (continued)									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	956	935	879	895	937	42	-19	4,7	-2,0
Formal sector*					649				
Informal sector*					231				
Household sector	43	52	55	49	57	8	14	15,3	32,0
Gauteng	5 037	5 081	5 091	5 186	5 237	51	200	1,0	4,0
Formal sector*					3 871				
Informal sector*					1 023				
Household sector	324	349	309	324	342	18	18	5,6	5,6
Gauteng - Non-Metro	626	607	633	650	702	52	76	8,0	12,1
Formal sector*					555				
Informal sector*					108				
Household sector	36	42	38	36	40	3	4	9,4	10,5
Gauteng - Ekurhuleni	1 242	1 255	1 202	1 200	1 235	35	-7	2,9	-0,6
Formal sector*					969				
Informal sector*					211				
Household sector	75	69	62	58	54	-4	-21	-6,5	-27,4
Gauteng - City of Johannesburg	1 862	1 935	1 977	2 000	1 963	-36	101	-1,8	5,4
Formal sector*					1 341				
Informal sector*					473				
Household sector	135	148	128	142	149	7	14	4,8	10,3

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

* Definition of sector based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy-therefore estimates of Q3:2025 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 3.4: Employed by province, metro and sector (concluded)									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	1 307	1 285	1 279	1 336	1 336	0	30	0,0	2,3
Formal sector*					1 006				
Informal sector*					231				
Household sector	78	90	82	87	99	12	21	13,4	27,1
Mpumalanga	1 241	1 255	1 212	1 223	1 246	23	5	1,9	0,4
Formal sector*					838				
Informal sector*					326				
Household sector	95	85	82	85	83	-3	-12	-3,0	-13,1
Limpopo	1 559	1 543	1 488	1 515	1 555	40	-4	2,7	-0,3
Formal sector*					925				
Informal sector*					542				
Household sector	93	88	96	104	87	-17	-6	-16,3	-6,0

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

* Definition of sector based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy-therefore estimates of Q3:2025 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 3.5: Employed by sex and occupation - South Africa									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	16 946	17 078	16 787	16 807	17 055	248	109	1,5	0,6
Manager	1 457	1 496	1 430	1 507	1 453	-54	-4	-3,6	-0,3
Professional	826	869	980	983	909	-74	83	-7,5	10,1
Technician	1 504	1 398	1 503	1 565	1 488	-77	-16	-4,9	-1,0
Clerk	1 841	1 897	1 854	1 813	1 856	42	15	2,3	0,8
Sales and services	2 992	2 949	2 929	2 875	3 073	198	81	6,9	2,7
Skilled agriculture	68	71	62	47	97	50	29	106,1	41,9
Craft and related trade	1 876	1 932	1 862	1 858	1 991	132	115	7,1	6,1
Plant and machine operator	1 401	1 389	1 386	1 396	1 413	17	12	1,2	0,9
Elementary	4 128	4 215	3 964	3 923	3 903	-20	-225	-0,5	-5,5
Domestic worker	854	861	818	839	848	9	-6	1,0	-0,7
Other		1			25				
Women	7 545	7 636	7 412	7 400	7 429	30	-115	0,4	-1,5
Manager	485	532	480	501	508	8	24	1,5	4,9
Professional	461	479	517	563	495	-68	34	-12,1	7,4
Technician	803	724	758	784	726	-58	-77	-7,4	-9,5
Clerk	1 321	1 380	1 321	1 299	1 341	42	20	3,2	1,5
Sales and services	1 511	1 457	1 466	1 422	1 550	127	39	8,9	2,6
Skilled agriculture	23	24	14	11	25	13	1	121,0	6,0
Craft and related trade	211	275	243	258	257	-1	45	-0,3	21,5
Plant and machine operator	181	192	196	166	180	14	-1	8,5	-0,7
Elementary	1 744	1 759	1 637	1 593	1 539	-54	-205	-3,4	-11,7
Domestic worker	805	813	780	802	798	-4	-6	-0,5	-0,8
Other					10				

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)									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	9 402	9 442	9 375	9 407	9 625	219	224	2,3	2,4
Manager	973	963	950	1 007	945	-62	-28	-6,2	-2,9
Professional	365	389	463	420	414	-6	49	-1,4	13,4
Technician	701	674	744	781	762	-19	61	-2,4	8,7
Clerk	520	517	533	514	515	1	-5	0,1	-1,1
Sales and services	1 481	1 492	1 462	1 452	1 523	71	42	4,9	2,8
Skilled agriculture	45	47	48	36	72	36	27	101,5	60,4
Craft and related trade	1 664	1 656	1 618	1 601	1 734	133	69	8,3	4,2
Plant and machine operator	1 220	1 197	1 190	1 230	1 233	3	14	0,3	1,1
Elementary	2 384	2 456	2 327	2 330	2 363	34	-20	1,5	-0,9
Domestic worker	49	48	38	37	50	12	1	33,1	1,2
Other		1			15				

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									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	16 946	17 078	16 787	16 807	17 055	248	109	1,5	0,6
Employee	14 013	14 087	13 797	13 836	14 093	257	80	1,9	0,6
Employer	918	966	953	947	776	-172	-142	-18,1	-15,5
Own-account worker	1 907	1 932	1 926	1 926	2 069	143	162	7,4	8,5
Unpaid household member	108	92	111	97	117	20	9	20,3	8,4
Women	7 545	7 636	7 412	7 400	7 429	30	-115	0,4	-1,5
Employee	6 424	6 516	6 372	6 351	6 385	34	-39	0,5	-0,6
Employer	218	245	224	220	172	-47	-46	-21,6	-21,1
Own-account worker	841	824	755	781	816	35	-25	4,4	-3,0
Unpaid household member	62	50	61	49	57	8	-5	17,5	-7,7
Men	9 402	9 442	9 375	9 407	9 625	219	224	2,3	2,4
Employee	7 589	7 571	7 425	7 486	7 709	223	120	3,0	1,6
Employer	700	721	729	728	603	-124	-96	-17,1	-13,8
Own-account worker	1 067	1 108	1 171	1 145	1 254	109	187	9,5	17,5
Unpaid household member	46	43	50	48	60	11	14	23,2	30,1

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									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	16 946	17 078	16 787	16 807	17 055	248	109	1,5	0,6
Employers					788				
Independent workers without employees					1 738				
Dependent contractors					642				
Employees					13 826				
Contributing family workers					61				
Women	7 545	7 636	7 412	7 400	7 429	30	-115	0,4	-1,5
Employers					179				
Independent workers without employees					704				
Dependent contractors					208				
Employees					6 311				
Contributing family workers					28				
Men	9 402	9 442	9 375	9 407	9 625	219	224	2,3	2,4
Employers					608				
Independent workers without employees					1 034				
Dependent contractors					434				
Employees					7 516				
Contributing family workers					33				

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 3.6c: Employed by sex and status in employment (ICSE-18 detailed) - South Africa									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	16 946	17 078	16 787	16 807	17 055	248	109	1,5	0,6
Employers in corporations					195				
Employers in household market units					593				
Owners-operators of corporations without employees					96				
Own-account workers in household market units					1 642				
Dependent contractors					642				
Permanent employees					11 616				
Fixed-term employees					1 559				
Short term and casual employees					291				
Paid apprentices, trainees and interns					87				
Employees not elsewhere classified					274				
Contributing family workers					61				
Women	7 545	7 636	7 412	7 400	7 429	30	-115	0,4	-1,5
Employers in corporations					49				
Employers in household market units					131				
Owners-operators of corporations without employees					28				
Own-account workers in household market units					676				
Dependent contractors					208				
Permanent employees					5 257				
Fixed-term employees					796				
Short term and casual employees					99				
Paid apprentices, trainees and interns					50				
Employees not elsewhere classified					108				
Contributing family workers					28				

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 3.6c: Employed by sex and status in employment (ICSE-18 detailed) - South Africa (concluded)									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	9 402	9 442	9 375	9 407	9 625	219	224	2,3	2,4
Employees not elsewhere classified					166				
Employers in corporations					146				
Employers in household market units					462				
Owners-operators of corporations without employees					67				
Own-account workers in household market units					967				
Dependent contractors					434				
Permanent employees					6 359				
Fixed-term employees					762				
Short term and casual employees					192				
Paid apprentices, trainees and interns					37				
Contributing family workers					33				

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									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	16 946	17 078	16 787	16 807	17 055	248	109	1,5	0,6
Working less than 15 hours per week	562	509	518	496	585	90	23	18,2	4,2
Working 15-29 hours per week	1 196	1 256	1 230	1 179	1 111	-69	-85	-5,8	-7,1
Working 30-39 hours per week	1 242	1 230	1 195	1 079	1 176	97	-66	9,0	-5,3
Working 40-45 hours per week	9 451	9 554	9 375	9 402	9 556	154	105	1,6	1,1
Working more than 45 hours per week	4 495	4 529	4 470	4 650	4 626	-24	132	-0,5	2,9
Women	7 545	7 636	7 412	7 400	7 429	30	-115	0,4	-1,5
Working less than 15 hours per week	292	260	277	283	327	44	35	15,4	11,9
Working 15-29 hours per week	726	782	751	729	647	-82	-79	-11,2	-10,9
Working 30-39 hours per week	725	684	677	597	657	60	-68	10,1	-9,3
Working 40-45 hours per week	4 270	4 386	4 240	4 248	4 352	104	82	2,4	1,9
Working more than 45 hours per week	1 532	1 523	1 468	1 542	1 446	-96	-86	-6,2	-5,6
Men	9 402	9 442	9 375	9 407	9 625	219	224	2,3	2,4
Working less than 15 hours per week	270	249	242	212	258	46	-11	21,8	-4,2
Working 15-29 hours per week	470	474	479	450	464	13	-6	3,0	-1,3
Working 30-39 hours per week	517	546	518	482	519	37	2	7,6	0,3
Working 40-45 hours per week	5 182	5 168	5 134	5 154	5 204	50	22	1,0	0,4
Working more than 45 hours per week	2 963	3 006	3 002	3 108	3 180	72	217	2,3	7,3

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									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	14 013	14 087	13 797	13 836	14 093	257	80	1,9	0,6
Yes	6 274	6 305	6 290	6 194	6 180	-14	-94	-0,2	-1,5
No	7 425	7 398	7 107	7 236	7 433	197	7	2,7	0,1
Don't know	314	384	400	407	481	74	167	18,2	53,1
Women	6 424	6 516	6 372	6 351	6 385	34	-39	0,5	-0,6
Yes	2 797	2 856	2 846	2 825	2 837	12	40	0,4	1,4
No	3 479	3 510	3 340	3 340	3 325	-15	-154	-0,5	-4,4
Don't know	148	150	186	185	222	37	75	20,2	50,7
Men	7 589	7 571	7 425	7 486	7 709	223	120	3,0	1,6
Yes	3 477	3 449	3 445	3 368	3 343	-26	-134	-0,8	-3,9
No	3 946	3 888	3 767	3 896	4 108	212	162	5,4	4,1
Don't know	167	234	214	222	258	37	92	16,5	55,2
Entitled to any paid leave									
Both sexes	14 013	14 087	13 797	13 836	14 093	257	80	1,9	0,6
Yes	9 270	9 303	9 352	9 219	9 166	-53	-103	-0,6	-1,1
No	4 593	4 594	4 278	4 437	4 722	286	130	6,4	2,8
Don't know	151	191	167	181	205	24	54	13,3	35,8
Women	6 424	6 516	6 372	6 351	6 385	34	-39	0,5	-0,6
Yes	4 319	4 350	4 350	4 311	4 260	-50	-58	-1,2	-1,4
No	2 045	2 093	1 964	1 967	2 021	53	-25	2,7	-1,2
Don't know	60	73	59	73	104	31	44	42,7	73,0
Men	7 589	7 571	7 425	7 486	7 709	223	120	3,0	1,6
Yes	4 951	4 952	5 002	4 909	4 906	-2	-45	0,0	-0,9
No	2 547	2 501	2 314	2 469	2 702	232	154	9,4	6,1
Don't know	91	118	109	108	101	-7	10	-6,6	11,3

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

Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Quarter 3: 2025

Table 3.8: Conditions of employment based on ICSE-93 - South Africa (concluded)									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	14 013	14 087	13 797	13 836	14 093	257	80	1,9	0,6
Yes	10 091	10 027	10 052	9 982	10 078	95	-13	1,0	-0,1
No	3 785	3 868	3 578	3 687	3 820	133	35	3,6	0,9
Don't know	137	192	168	167	196	29	59	17,2	42,8
Women	6 424	6 516	6 372	6 351	6 385	34	-39	0,5	-0,6
Yes	4 673	4 684	4 678	4 619	4 648	29	-25	0,6	-0,5
No	1 695	1 756	1 636	1 661	1 645	-16	-50	-1,0	-2,9
Don't know	56	77	58	71	92	21	35	29,0	63,1
Men	7 589	7 571	7 425	7 486	7 709	223	120	3,0	1,6
Yes	5 418	5 343	5 373	5 364	5 430	66	12	1,2	0,2
No	2 090	2 113	1 942	2 026	2 175	149	85	7,3	4,1
Don't know	81	115	110	96	104	8	23	8,5	28,8
Entitled to maternity/paternity leave									
Both sexes	14 013	14 087	13 797	13 836	14 093	257	80	1,9	0,6
Yes	7 809	7 810	7 805	7 725	7 892	168	83	2,2	1,1
No	5 916	5 912	5 635	5 762	5 807	44	-109	0,8	-1,8
Don't know	288	366	357	349	394	45	106	12,9	36,8
Women	6 424	6 516	6 372	6 351	6 385	34	-39	0,5	-0,6
Yes	3 794	3 785	3 817	3 773	3 874	100	80	2,7	2,1
No	2 516	2 593	2 425	2 447	2 343	-104	-173	-4,2	-6,9
Don't know	114	139	131	130	168	38	54	28,9	47,5
Men	7 589	7 571	7 425	7 486	7 709	223	120	3,0	1,6
Yes	4 015	4 025	3 988	3 951	4 019	67	3	1,7	0,1
No	3 399	3 319	3 211	3 315	3 464	148	64	4,5	1,9
Don't know	174	227	226	219	226	7	52	3,3	29,8

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.

Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Quarter 3: 2025

Table 3.8b: Conditions of employment based on ICSE-93 - South Africa									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	14 013	14 087	13 797	13 836	14 093	257	80	1,9	0,6
Yes	8 601	8 571	8 446	8 532	8 737	205	136	2,4	1,6
No	5 124	5 184	5 042	4 993	4 993	0	-131	0,0	-2,6
Don't know	289	332	309	312	364	52	75	16,7	26,0
Women	6 424	6 516	6 372	6 351	6 385	34	-39	0,5	-0,6
Yes	3 764	3 790	3 735	3 760	3 833	72	68	1,9	1,8
No	2 527	2 589	2 494	2 447	2 367	-79	-160	-3,2	-6,3
Don't know	132	137	143	143	184	41	52	28,6	39,2
Men	7 589	7 571	7 425	7 486	7 709	223	120	3,0	1,6
Yes	4 836	4 782	4 711	4 772	4 904	132	67	2,8	1,4
No	2 596	2 595	2 548	2 546	2 626	80	29	3,1	1,1
Don't know	156	194	166	168	179	11	23	6,5	14,9
Medical aid benefits									
Both sexes	14 013	14 087	13 797	13 836	14 093	257	80	1,9	0,6
Yes	4 304	4 228	4 220	4 191	4 292	101	-12	2,4	-0,3
No	9 531	9 649	9 378	9 451	9 525	75	-6	0,8	-0,1
Don't know	178	211	199	194	276	81	97	41,8	54,6
Women	6 424	6 516	6 372	6 351	6 385	34	-39	0,5	-0,6
Yes	1 967	1 955	1 987	1 961	2 046	85	79	4,3	4,0
No	4 377	4 465	4 290	4 302	4 199	-103	-179	-2,4	-4,1
Don't know	80	97	95	88	140	52	60	59,5	74,7
Men	7 589	7 571	7 425	7 486	7 709	223	120	3,0	1,6
Yes	2 337	2 273	2 233	2 230	2 246	16	-91	0,7	-3,9
No	5 154	5 184	5 088	5 149	5 327	178	173	3,4	3,4
Don't know	98	114	104	107	136	29	38	27,3	38,2

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 3.8b: Conditions of employment based on ICSE-93 - South Africa (concluded)									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	14 013	14 087	13 797	13 836	14 093	257	80	1,9	0,6
Yes	7 894	7 777	7 679	7 630	7 951	321	57	4,2	0,7
No	5 785	5 866	5 705	5 774	5 698	-76	-87	-1,30	-1,50
Don't know	335	445	414	432	444	12	109	2,9	32,7
Women	6 424	6 516	6 372	6 351	6 385	34	-39	0,5	-0,6
Yes	3 590	3 554	3 465	3 492	3 622	130	32	3,7	0,9
No	2 700	2 798	2 745	2 673	2 550	-123	-150	-4,6	-5,5
Don't know	135	164	161	185	213	28	78	14,9	57,7
Men	7 589	7 571	7 425	7 486	7 709	223	120	3,0	1,6
Yes	4 304	4 223	4 214	4 138	4 329	191	25	4,6	0,6
No	3 085	3 068	2 959	3 101	3 148	47	63	1,5	2,0
Don't know	200	280	252	247	231	-15	32	-6,1	15,8
Condition of employment									
Both sexes	14 013	14 087	13 797	13 836	14 093	257	80	1,90	0,60
Written contract	11 459	11 462	11 329	11 364	11 548	184	89	1,6	0,8
Verbal agreement	2 555	2 625	2 468	2 473	2 545	73	-9	2,9	-0,4
Women	6 424	6 516	6 372	6 351	6 385	34	-39	0,5	-0,6
Written contract	5 357	5 418	5 360	5 350	5 382	32	25	0,6	0,5
Verbal agreement	1 067	1 098	1 012	1 001	1 003	2	-64	0,2	-6,0
Men	7 589	7 571	7 425	7 486	7 709	223	120	3,0	1,6
Written contract	6 101	6 044	5 970	6 014	6 166	152	65	2,5	1,1
Verbal agreement	1 488	1 527	1 456	1 472	1 542	71	55	4,8	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 3.8c: Conditions of employment based on ICSE-93 - South Africa									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	14 013	14 087	13 797	13 836	14 093	257	80	1,9	0,6
For a specified period of time					1 869				
Until the date a task is completed					340				
Permanent or until retirement					7 881				
Ongoing with no specified end date					3 902				
Don't know					101				
Women	6 424	6 516	6 372	6 351	6 385	34	-39	0,5	-0,6
For a specified period of time					920				
Until the date a task is completed					95				
Permanent or until retirement					3 616				
Ongoing with no specified end date					1 697				
Don't know					56				
Men	7 589	7 571	7 425	7 486	7 709	223	120	3,0	1,6
For a specified period of time					949				
Until the date a task is completed					245				
Permanent or until retirement					4 264				
Ongoing with no specified end date					2 205				
Don't know					44				
Trade union membership (Both sexes)									
Both sexes	14 013	14 087	13 797	13 836	14 093	257	80	1,9	0,6
Yes	3 908	3 863	3 871	3 998	3 908	-90	0	-2,3	0,0
No	9 598	9 697	9 405	9 292	9 564	272	-34	2,9	-0,4
Don't know	507	528	522	546	622	76	115	13,8	22,6

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 3.8c: Conditions of employment based on ICSE-93 - South Africa (continued)									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	6 424	6 516	6 372	6 351	6 385	34	-39	0,5	-0,6
Yes	1 784	1 771	1 744	1 822	1 773	-49	-12	-2,7	-0,6
No	4 424	4 529	4 409	4 278	4 329	50	-95	1,2	-2,2
Don't know	216	216	219	250	283	33	67	13,1	31,1
Men	7 589	7 571	7 425	7 486	7 709	223	120	3,0	1,6
Yes	2 124	2 092	2 127	2 176	2 135	-41	11	-1,9	0,5
No	5 174	5 168	4 996	5 014	5 235	221	61	4,4	1,2
Don't know	291	311	303	296	339	43	47	14,5	16,3
How annual salary increment is negotiated									
Both sexes	14 013	14 087	13 797	13 836	14 093	257	80	1,9	0,6
Individual and employer	1 052	1 088	1 090	1 010	1 066	56	13	5,5	1,3
Union and employer	2 876	2 911	2 764	2 890	2 838	-53	-38	-1,8	-1,3
Bargaining council	1 421	1 432	1 437	1 359	1 274	-85	-147	-6,2	-10,3
Employer only	7 805	7 832	7 693	7 752	7 931	179	127	2,3	1,6
No regular increment	816	797	780	773	930	157	114	20,3	14,0
Other	43	28	33	52	54	2	11	4,1	25,4
Women	6 424	6 516	6 372	6 351	6 385	34	-39	0,5	-0,6
Individual and employer	449	473	464	429	452	23	3	5,3	0,6
Union and employer	1 257	1 292	1 186	1 270	1 223	-46	-33	-3,60	-2,70
Bargaining council	722	726	757	713	684	-29	-38	-4,1	-5,3
Employer only	3 609	3 628	3 578	3 564	3 581	17	-28	0,5	-0,8
No regular increment	372	389	370	351	421	70	49	19,9	13,2
Other	15	8	17	23	23	0	8	-0,6	56,0

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 3.8c: Conditions of employment based on ICSE-93 - South Africa (concluded)									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	7 589	7 571	7 425	7 486	7 709	223	120	3,0	1,6
Individual and employer	603	615	626	581	614	33	11	5,7	1,8
Union and employer	1 619	1 619	1 578	1 621	1 614	-6	-5	-0,4	-0,3
Bargaining council	699	706	680	646	590	-56	-109	-8,6	-15,6
Employer only	4 196	4 204	4 115	4 188	4 350	162	155	3,9	3,7
No regular increment	444	408	410	422	510	87	65	20,7	14,7
Other	28	19	17	29	31	2	3	7,9	9,4

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 3.9: Time-related underemployment - South Africa									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	783	788	781	710	747	37	-36	5,2	-4,6
Women	434	409	410	382	397	15	-37	3,8	-8,5
Men	349	379	372	328	350	22	1	6,8	0,2
As percentage of the labour force (Both sexes)	3,1	3,1	3,1	2,8	3,0	0,2	-0,1		
Women	3,8	3,5	3,6	3,3	3,5	0,2	-0,3		
Men	2,6	2,8	2,7	2,4	2,6	0,2	0,0		
As percentage of total employment (Both sexes)	4,6	4,6	4,7	4,2	4,4	0,2	-0,2		
Women	5,8	5,4	5,5	5,2	5,3	0,1	-0,5		
Men	3,7	4,0	4,0	3,5	3,6	0,1	-0,1		

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 3.9: Time-related underemployment - South Africa (concluded)									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	783	788	781	710	747	37	-36	5,2	-4,6
Agriculture	20	27	28	18	21	3	1	16,7	6,6
Mining	1		1		1		0		-44,1
Manufacturing	41	43	37	23	38	15	-3	67,4	-8,4
Utilities	3		2						
Construction	83	91	95	68	86	17	2	25,3	2,9
Trade	136	104	115	136	142	6	6	4,5	4,4
Transport	27	25	27	33	23	-9	-3	-28,4	-11,9
Finance	72	89	83	74	72	-2	1	-2,3	1,0
Community and social services	199	210	203	181	193	11	-6	6,2	-3,1
Private households	201	200	191	177	170	-7	-31	-4,0	-15,6
Other					1				
Occupation	783	788	781	710	747	37	-36	5,2	-4,6
Manager	22	25	26	23	17	-6	-5	-25,9	-22,1
Professional	9	9	23	14	9	-5	0	-35,4	-0,3
Technician	30	39	38	41	35	-6	4	-14,1	14,7
Clerk	27	22	31	15	19	4	-8	23,8	-29,7
Sales and services	103	87	89	83	96	13	-8	15,7	-7,3
Skilled agriculture	5	7	6	2	5	3	1	170,6	14,1
Craft and related trade	89	115	100	87	110	23	21	26,6	24,1
Plant and machine operator	23	21	18	26	26	0	3	0,0	14,5
Elementary	329	324	318	295	311	16	-19	5,4	-5,7
Domestic worker	145	139	132	124	117	-7	-28	-5,5	-19,5
Other					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									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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)	16 946	17 078	16 787	16 807	17 055	248	109	1,5	0,6
Formal employment*					11 032				
Informal employment*					6 023				
Employed (Women)	7 545	7 636	7 412	7 400	7 429	30	-115	0,4	-1,5
Formal employment*					4 934				
Informal employment*					2 495				
Employed (Men)	9 402	9 442	9 375	9 407	9 625	219	224	2,3	2,4
Formal employment*					6 098				
Informal employment*					3 528				
Formal employment*					11 032				
15-24 yrs					603				
25-34 yrs					2 992				
35-44 yrs					3 440				
45-54 yrs					2 801				
55-64 yrs					1 197				
Informal employment*					6 023				
15-24 yrs					574				
25-34 yrs					1 795				
35-44 yrs					1 794				
45-54 yrs					1 301				
55-64 yrs					559				

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 based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy-therefore estimates of Q3:2025 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 10: Formal and informal employment (continued)									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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				
No schooling					67				
Less than primary completed					276				
Primary completed					188				
Secondary not completed					2 720				
Secondary completed					4 372				
Tertiary					3 241				
Other					168				
Informal employment*					6 023				
No schooling					86				
Less than primary completed					359				
Primary completed					248				
Secondary not completed					2 414				
Secondary completed					2 009				
Tertiary					766				
Other					141				

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 based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy-therefore estimates of Q3:2025 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 3.10b: Formal and informal employment (continued)									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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				
Agriculture					401				
Mining					400				
Manufacturing					1 245				
Utilities					98				
Construction					634				
Trade					2 331				
Transport					600				
Finance					2 173				
Community and social services					2 954				
Private households					195				
Other					13				
Informal employment*					6 023				
Agriculture					519				
Mining					49				
Manufacturing					365				
Utilities					12				
Construction					756				
Trade					1 093				
Transport					513				
Finance					757				
Community and social services					1 035				
Private households					916				
Other					23				

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 based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy-therefore estimates of Q3:2025 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 3.10b: Formal and informal employment (concluded)									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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				
Manager					957				
Professional					766				
Technician					1 248				
Clerk					1 513				
Sales and services					2 097				
Skilled agriculture					38				
Craft and related trade					1 242				
Plant and machine operator					878				
Elementary					2 120				
Domestic worker					162				
Informal employment*					6 023				
Manager					496				
Professional					143				
Technician					240				
Clerk					342				
Sales and services					976				
Skilled agriculture					59				
Craft and related trade					749				
Plant and machine operator					536				
Elementary					1 783				
Domestic worker					685				

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 based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy-therefore estimates of Q3:2025 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 4: Characteristics of the unemployed - South Africa									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	8 011	7 991	8 228	8 367	8 007	-360	-3	-4,3	0,0
Job losers	2 151	2 060	2 165	2 106	1 961	-145	-190	-6,9	-8,9
Job leavers	202	220	214	244	247	3	46	1,3	22,8
New entrants	3 479	3 421	3 547	3 611	3 472	-140	-8	-3,9	-0,2
Re-entrants	379	401	325	323	281	-42	-98	-13,0	-25,9
Other	1 799	1 889	1 977	2 083	2 047	-36	247	-1,7	13,8
Unemployed	8 011	7 991	8 228	8 367	8 007	-360	-3	-4,3	0,0
Long-term unemployment (1 year and more)	6 144	6 213	6 295	6 411	6 163	-249	19	-3,9	0,3
Short-term unemployment (less than 1 year)	1 867	1 778	1 933	1 956	1 845	-111	-22	-5,7	-1,2
Long-term unemployment (%)									
Proportion of the labour force	24,6	24,8	25,2	25,5	24,6	-0,9	0,0		
Proportion of the unemployed	76,7	77,7	76,5	76,6	77,0	0,4	0,3		
Those who have worked in the past 5 years									
Previous occupation	2 732	2 681	2 704	2 673	2 489	-184	-243	-6,9	-8,9
Manager	49	51	55	56	47	-10	-2	-17,0	-4,8
Professional	48	54	57	75	51	-23	3	-31,1	6,3
Technician	155	129	134	117	136	19	-20	16,3	-12,7
Clerk	285	268	327	304	279	-26	-6	-8,4	-2,2
Sales and services	556	552	515	511	479	-32	-77	-6,3	-13,9
Skilled agriculture	7	11	8	11	8	-3	1	-26,6	10,4
Craft and related trade	378	411	406	391	324	-67	-53	-17,1	-14,1
Plant and machine operator	194	187	172	186	181	-4	-13	-2,4	-6,8
Elementary	892	850	856	873	837	-37	-55	-4,2	-6,2
Domestic worker	167	169	174	149	141	-8	-26	-5,4	-15,4
Other					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 4: Characteristics of the unemployed - South Africa (concluded)									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	2 732	2 681	2 704	2 673	2 489	-184	-243	-6,9	-8,9
Agriculture	177	168	167	170	163	-6	-13	-3,8	-7,6
Mining	67	48	63	63	37	-26	-30	-41,5	-44,6
Manufacturing	252	239	222	256	239	-16	-13	-6,3	-5,2
Utilities	20	19	16	11	18	7	-2	66,9	-9,9
Construction	391	392	388	379	327	-51	-64	-13,6	-16,4
Trade	537	556	562	578	537	-41	0	-7,0	0,0
Transport	117	137	150	143	141	-2	24	-1,1	20,6
Finance	338	362	376	341	340	-1	2	-0,3	0,7
Community and social services	590	529	525	504	462	-42	-127	-8,3	-21,6
Private households	242	232	235	229	217	-11	-25	-5,0	-10,4
Other					5				

Table 5: Characteristics of Outside the Labour Force - South Africa									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	16 474	16 492	16 676	16 648	16 886	239	412	1,4	2,5
Student	6 100	6 144	5 939	6 090	6 038	-52	-62	-0,9	-1,0
Home-maker	2 248	2 243	2 245	2 373	2 417	45	169	1,9	7,5
Illness/disability	1 619	1 533	1 587	1 600	1 724	124	104	7,7	6,4
Too old/young to work	1 800	1 792	1 796	1 762	1 801	39	1	2,2	0,1
Discouraged jobseekers	3 355	3 466	3 473	3 445	3 481	36	126	1,0	3,7
Other	1 352	1 315	1 636	1 379	1 426	47	74	3,4	5,4
Inactivity rate by age (Both sexes)	39,8	39,7	40,0	39,8	40,3	0,5	0,5		
15-24 years	73,4	73,4	73,7	73,3	72,6	-0,7	-0,8		
25-54 years	24,1	24,1	24,6	24,4	25,3	0,9	1,2		
55-64 years	55,8	55,2	55,2	55,3	55,7	0,4	-0,1		
Inactivity rate by age (Women)	44,8	44,8	45,2	45,1	45,7	0,6	0,9		
15-24 years	75,3	75,7	76,1	75,4	75,0	-0,4	-0,3		
25-54 years	29,9	29,8	30,4	30,3	31,5	1,2	1,6		
55-64 years	62,3	61,3	61,4	62,0	62,2	0,2	-0,1		
Inactivity rate by age (Men)	34,6	34,5	34,7	34,4	34,7	0,3	0,1		
15-24 years	71,5	71,2	71,3	71,1	70,1	-1,0	-1,4		
25-54 years	18,5	18,6	18,8	18,6	19,3	0,7	0,8		
55-64 years	47,8	47,7	47,5	47,0	47,8	0,8	0,0		

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

	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	16 946	17 078	16 787	16 807	17 055	248	109	1,5	0,6
15-24 years	1 086	1 102	1 018	1 043	1 177	134	91	12,8	8,4
25-34 years	4 699	4 719	4 651	4 656	4 787	131	88	2,8	1,9
35-44 years	5 303	5 334	5 247	5 222	5 234	11	-69	0,2	-1,3
45-54 years	4 105	4 148	4 099	4 119	4 102	-17	-2	-0,4	-0,1
55-64 years	1 754	1 775	1 772	1 766	1 755	-11	1	-0,6	0,1
Age group of the unemployed	8 011	7 991	8 228	8 367	8 007	-360	-3	-4,3	0,0
15-24 years	1 643	1 629	1 692	1 715	1 657	-58	13	-3,4	0,8
25-34 years	3 182	3 064	3 151	3 167	2 978	-189	-204	-6,0	-6,4
35-44 years	1 960	1 994	2 022	2 104	2 017	-88	56	-4,2	2,9
45-54 years	1 018	1 075	1 118	1 123	1 093	-30	75	-2,7	7,4
55-64 years	207	228	245	259	263	4	57	1,7	27,4
Age group of those outside the labour force	16 474	16 492	16 676	16 648	16 886	239	412	1,4	2,5
15-24 years	7 544	7 555	7 589	7 554	7 491	-63	-53	-0,8	-0,7
25-34 years	2 728	2 830	2 815	2 798	2 857	59	129	2,1	4,7
35-44 years	1 916	1 890	1 987	1 969	2 082	113	165	5,7	8,6
45-54 years	1 808	1 752	1 803	1 824	1 914	90	105	4,9	5,8
55-64 years	2 478	2 465	2 481	2 503	2 543	40	65	1,6	2,6
Highest level of education of the employed	16 946	17 078	16 787	16 807	17 055	248	109	1,5	0,6
No schooling	179	190	169	153	154	1	-25	0,5	-14,1
Less than primary completed	647	662	651	603	635	32	-12	5,3	-1,8
Primary completed	522	491	466	432	436	5	-86	1,1	-16,5
Secondary not completed	5 251	5 188	4 979	5 087	5 134	48	-116	0,9	-2,2
Secondary completed	6 163	6 280	6 167	6 230	6 381	151	217	2,4	3,5
Tertiary	3 936	3 996	4 046	4 016	4 007	-9	70	-0,2	1,8
Other	248	271	310	287	309	22	61	7,5	24,4

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 6: Socio-demographic characteristics - South Africa (continued)									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	8 011	7 991	8 228	8 367	8 007	-360	-3	-4,3	0,0
No schooling	57	65	56	52	66	14	8	25,9	14,7
Less than primary completed	321	306	321	298	282	-16	-39	-5,4	-12,2
Primary completed	258	242	234	234	240	6	-19	2,4	-7,2
Secondary not completed	3 375	3 413	3 381	3 493	3 292	-201	-83	-5,7	-2,5
Secondary completed	3 192	3 203	3 313	3 385	3 294	-91	102	-2,7	3,2
Tertiary	748	697	856	844	766	-78	17	-9,3	2,3
Other	58	67	68	61	68	7	10	10,8	16,7
Highest level of education of those outside the labour force	16 474	16 492	16 676	16 648	16 886	239	412	1,4	2,5
No schooling	473	454	478	495	470	-25	-3	-5,0	-0,6
Less than primary completed	1 187	1 165	1 074	1 098	1 161	62	-26	5,7	-2,2
Primary completed	812	904	791	875	920	45	108	5,2	13,3
Secondary not completed	8 678	8 689	8 579	8 562	8 844	282	166	3,3	1,9
Secondary completed	4 290	4 244	4 705	4 604	4 446	-158	155	-3,4	3,6
Tertiary	781	803	810	805	834	29	53	3,5	6,8
Other	253	232	239	209	213	4	-40	2,0	-15,8
Employed	16 946	17 078	16 787	16 807	17 055	248	109	1,5	0,6
Attending educational institution	309	301	332	343	339	-4	29	-1,2	9,4
Not attending educational institution	16 637	16 777	16 456	16 464	16 716	252	79	1,5	0,5
Unemployed	8 011	7 991	8 228	8 367	8 007	-360	-3	-4,3	0,0
Attending educational institution	144	147	139	143	117	-25	-26	-17,8	-18,2
Not attending educational institution	7 867	7 844	8 089	8 225	7 890	-335	23	-4,1	0,3
Outside the Labour Force	16 474	16 492	16 676	16 648	16 886	239	412	1,4	2,5
Attending educational institution	5 975	6 023	5 734	5 949	5 977	28	2	0,5	0,0
Not attending educational institution	10 498	10 469	10 942	10 699	10 909	210	410	2,0	3,9

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 6b: Socio-demographic characteristics - South Africa (concluded)									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	16 946	17 078	16 787	16 807	17 055	248	109	1,5	0,6
Married	6 046	6 031	5 896	5 826	5 766	-60	-279	-1,0	-4,6
Living together like husband and wife	2 113	2 091	2 169	2 111	2 110	-2	-3	-0,1	-0,1
Widow/widower	406	390	364	373	381	8	-24	2,2	-6,0
Divorced or separated	516	486	472	470	479	9	-37	2,0	-7,1
Never married	7 866	8 079	7 887	8 026	8 318	292	452	3,6	5,7
Current marital status of the unemployed	8 011	7 991	8 228	8 367	8 007	-360	-3	-4,3	0,0
Married	955	956	974	958	994	36	38	3,7	4,0
Living together like husband and wife	795	809	851	821	751	-70	-44	-8,5	-5,5
Widow/widower	70	71	83	72	62	-10	-8	-14,2	-11,7
Divorced or separated	103	114	152	118	113	-5	9	-4,4	9,2
Never married	6 086	6 041	6 169	6 398	6 087	-311	1	-4,9	0,0
Current marital status of those outside the labour force	16 474	16 492	16 676	16 648	16 886	239	412	1,4	2,5
Married	2 549	2 566	2 498	2 563	2 586	24	37	0,9	1,5
Living together like husband and wife	960	967	1 016	982	982	0	22	0,0	2,3
Widow/widower	574	605	567	580	537	-43	-37	-7,5	-6,4
Divorced or separated	279	286	264	273	317	44	38	16,3	13,7
Never married	12 112	12 068	12 331	12 250	12 464	214	352	1,7	2,9

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 7: Profile of Youth (15-24 years) not in Employment Education or Training (NEET) - South Africa									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	3 515	3 450	3 825	3 625	3 497	-128	-17	-3,5	-0,5
Women	1 786	1 770	1 927	1 880	1 828	-52	42	-2,8	2,4
Men	1 729	1 680	1 897	1 745	1 669	-76	-60	-4,3	-3,5
Population groups	3 515	3 450	3 825	3 625	3 497	-128	-17	-3,5	-0,5
Black/African	3 068	3 019	3 378	3 152	3 069	-82	1	-2,6	0,0
Coloured	321	304	315	331	310	-21	-11	-6,5	-3,6
Indian/Asian	49	41	44	48	45	-2	-3	-4,5	-6,8
White	76	85	88	95	73	-22	-4	-23,2	-4,7
South Africa	3 515	3 450	3 825	3 625	3 497	-128	-17	-3,5	-0,5
Western Cape	343	325	314	361	344	-17	1	-4,6	0,4
Eastern Cape	444	441	508	477	481	4	36	0,8	8,2
Northern Cape	99	81	87	90	81	-9	-18	-10,2	-18,5
Free State	170	169	186	171	163	-7	-7	-4,4	-3,9
KwaZulu-Natal	727	731	840	733	715	-19	-12	-2,6	-1,7
North West	267	285	351	333	314	-20	46	-5,9	17,3
Gauteng	794	781	829	777	778	2	-16	0,2	-2,0
Mpumalanga	304	316	328	316	277	-39	-27	-12,2	-8,8
Limpopo	366	321	382	368	345	-23	-21	-6,2	-5,8

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 7b: NEET Rate Among Youth (15-24 years) Not in Employment, Education or Training - South Africa									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	34,2	33,5	37,1	35,2	33,9	-1,3	-0,3		
Women	34,8	34,5	37,5	36,6	35,5	-1,1	0,7		
Men	33,6	32,6	36,7	33,7	32,2	-1,5	-1,4		
Population group	34,2	33,5	37,1	35,2	33,9	-1,3	-0,3		
Black/African	35,3	34,7	38,7	36,1	35,0	-1,1	-0,3		
Coloured	37,2	35,3	36,6	38,6	36,1	-2,5	-1,1		
Indian/Asian	24,9	21,2	22,2	24,2	23,1	-1,1	-1,8		
White	14,7	16,4	17,1	18,4	14,2	-4,2	-0,5		
South Africa	34,2	33,5	37,1	35,2	33,9	-1,3	-0,3		
Western Cape	30,5	29,3	29,0	32,2	30,3	-1,9	-0,2		
Eastern Cape	34,5	33,5	37,1	34,5	35,6	1,1	1,1		
Northern Cape	44,3	37,0	42,8	42,6	40,5	-2,1	-3,8		
Free State	34,8	33,8	36,2	34,1	32,5	-1,6	-2,3		
KwaZulu-Natal	35,3	35,8	40,9	36,4	35,7	-0,7	0,4		
North West	37,8	37,4	45,9	42,8	39,9	-2,9	2,1		
Gauteng	32,1	32,0	34,4	32,5	31,5	-1,0	-0,6		
Mpumalanga	35,4	36,1	38,6	37,7	34,4	-3,3	-1,0		
Limpopo	35,0	31,4	36,3	34,1	31,9	-2,2	-3,1		

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 8: Involvement in non-market activities and labour market status by province

	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	1 883	2 269	2 456	2 007	2 014	6	130	0,3	6,9
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	4 277	3 878	3 652	3 766	4 383	617	106	16,4	2,5
Produce other goods for household use	187	280	284	293	358	65	170	22,0	90,8
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	310	292	364	306	301	-4	-9	-1,5	-2,8
Hunting or fishing for household use	40	25	41	39	32	-8	-8	-19,4	-19,7
Involvement in at least one activity	5 606	5 623	5 507	5 300	5 934	634	328	12,0	5,8
Employed	1 561	1 619	1 467	1 448	1 524	76	-37	5,2	-2,4
Unemployed	1 410	1 351	1 357	1 263	1 506	243	96	19,3	6,8
Outside the Labour Force	2 635	2 652	2 683	2 590	2 904	314	269	12,1	10,2
Western Cape									
Subsistence farming	74	96	78	82	73	-10	-2	-11,7	-2,2
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	142	140	150	117	99	-18	-43	-15,3	-30,1
Produce other goods for household use	1	1	.	.	11	.	10	.	1 899,6
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	.	3	3	10	3	-7	.	-68,4	.
Involvement in at least one activity	214	237	224	208	180	-28	-34	-13,3	-15,8
Employed	119	136	117	95	95	0	-24	0,0	-20,1
Unemployed	43	54	45	49	43	-5	1	-10,9	1,4
Outside the Labour Force	52	47	62	64	42	-22	-11	-35,0	-20,3
Eastern Cape									
Subsistence farming	412	620	681	417	477	59	65	14,2	15,8
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	1 005	869	700	771	913	142	-92	18,5	-9,1
Produce other goods for household use	18	107	105	48	50	2	32	4,7	173,4
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	93	109	132	92	99	7	6	7,7	6,1
Hunting or fishing for household use	3	3	7	9	9	-1	6	-6,0	189,7
Involvement in at least one activity	1 296	1 409	1 280	1 120	1 210	91	-86	8,1	-6,6
Employed	269	298	230	235	182	-53	-87	-22,6	-32,3
Unemployed	366	366	359	325	419	95	53	29,2	14,6
Outside the Labour Force	661	745	691	560	609	49	-52	8,7	-7,9

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.

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Table 8: Involvement in non-market activities and labour market status by province (continued)									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	27	32	41	32	14	-18	-13	-57,4	-49,2
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	130	138	125	128	123	-4	-7	-3,3	-5,3
Produce other goods for household use	2	2	3	4	4	0	2	2,6	134,5
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	5	2	2	0	4	4	0	2 450,4	-7,5
Hunting or fishing for household use	1	1	1	2	1	-1	1	-42,1	113,0
Involvement in at least one activity	150	163	154	153	136	-17	-15	-11,4	-9,7
Employed	39	52	49	36	33	-3	-5	-8,0	-13,7
Unemployed	45	34	33	33	31	-1	-14	-4,0	-31,0
Outside the Labour Force	66	77	72	84	71	-13	5	-15,7	7,2
Free State									
Subsistence farming	90	142	118	110	106	-4	16	-3,9	18,2
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	86	60	61	64	105	41	19	63,1	22,1
Produce other goods for household use	4	8	8	5	5	-1	1	-12,0	19,4
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	48	30	28	35	30	-5	-18	-14,7	-37,7
Hunting or fishing for household use	10	6	7	6	9	3	-1	47,1	-6,7
Involvement in at least one activity	190	204	180	175	207	33	17	18,7	9,0
Employed	76	78	81	85	82	-2	7	-2,8	9,0
Unemployed	52	61	47	53	63	10	11	19,5	20,7
Outside the Labour Force	62	65	52	37	62	25	-1	66,6	-0,9
KwaZulu-Natal									
Subsistence farming	818	937	999	912	880	-32	61	-3,5	7,5
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	1 610	1 425	1 410	1 437	1 474	37	-136	2,6	-8,4
Produce other goods for household use	134	139	157	188	254	65	120	34,6	89,4
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	118	111	133	116	102	-14	-16	-11,8	-13,3
Hunting or fishing for household use	19	9	13	10	10	0	-9	-0,9	-48,9
Involvement in at least one activity	2 106	2 047	2 074	2 058	2 162	104	56	5,1	2,6
Employed	563	586	544	542	541	0	-21	-0,1	-3,8
Unemployed	480	460	510	468	511	43	31	9,2	6,5
Outside the Labour Force	1 064	1 002	1 020	1 048	1 110	61	46	5,8	4,3

Table 8: Involvement in non-market activities and labour market status by province (continued)									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	60	47	35	61	39	-22	-21	-35,9	-34,7
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	389	363	394	381	460	79	71	20,7	18,3
Produce other goods for household use	5	1	3	4	1	-2	-4	-63,5	-74,9
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	1	1	3	.	2	.	0	.	34,4
Hunting or fishing for household use									
Involvement in at least one activity	437	402	422	414	487	74	50	17,8	11,3
Employed	99	97	77	78	122	44	23	56,8	23,3
Unemployed	82	74	46	58	55	-3	-28	-5,8	-33,6
Outside the Labour Force	256	232	298	278	311	33	54	11,8	21,1
Gauteng									
Subsistence farming	53	38	34	34	49	15	-5	44,0	-9,0
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	100	92	86	68	239	170	138	249,7	138,3
Produce other goods for household use	1	5	.	6	2	-4	0	-72,8	29,7
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	8	10	16	12	13	1	5	10,9	65,5
Hunting or fishing for household use	1	2	1	6	.	.	.	.	.
Involvement in at least one activity	156	135	126	116	291	174	135	149,7	86,5
Employed	53	53	65	59	113	54	60	91,6	113,4
Unemployed	57	44	45	39	99	61	42	157,7	73,0
Outside the Labour Force	45	38	16	19	78	59	33	315,9	72,3
Mpumalanga									
Subsistence farming	106	115	122	120	160	39	54	32,8	50,7
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	342	355	396	408	452	45	110	11,0	32,1
Produce other goods for household use	21	15	4	28	24	-3	3	-11,9	16,1
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	8	11	4	4	5	1	-3	23,5	-34,0
Hunting or fishing for household use	6	2	8	1	0	0	-5	-69,7	-96,1
Involvement in at least one activity	439	457	481	505	580	76	141	15,0	32,2
Employed	140	130	123	122	151	30	12	24,3	8,3
Unemployed	127	125	140	131	172	41	44	31,1	34,8
Outside the Labour Force	172	202	218	252	258	5	85	2,1	49,6

Table 8: Involvement in non-market activities and labour market status by province (concluded)									
	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	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	243	242	347	239	218	-21	-26	-8,9	-10,6
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	472	436	329	392	517	124	44	31,7	9,4
Produce other goods for household use	1	3	3	10	7	-3	6	-30,0	469,6
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	30	15	42	38	44	6	13	15,5	44,4
Hunting or fishing for household use	1	2	3	5	3	-2	2	-44,3	251,8
Involvement in at least one activity	617	568	567	552	680	128	63	23,2	10,2
Employed	205	190	182	196	203	7	-1	3,5	-0,7
Unemployed	156	133	130	109	112	4	-44	3,2	-28,4
Outside the Labour Force	256	244	254	247	365	118	109	47,6	42,6

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.

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
	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025				
Both sexes						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,6	0,6	-112	-346	122	0,35
Employed	0,8	0,8	248	34	463	0,02
Formal sector*	-	1,0	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	2,4	-	-	-	-
Household sector	-	3,9	-	-	-	-
Unemployed	1,8	1,7	-360	-580	-140	0,00
Outside the Labour Force	0,9	0,9	239	5	472	0,05
Potential Labour Force	3,1	2,6	230	16	445	0,04
Discouraged jobseekers	3,7	3,2	36	-148	220	0,70
Other Potential Labour Force	5,8	4,4	194	89	299	0,00
Other (Outside the Labour Force)	0,9	0,9	8	-195	212	0,94
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	0,6	0,6	-0,5	-1,0	0,1	0,12
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,8	0,8	0,5	0,0	1,0	0,07
Inactivity rate	0,9	0,9	0,5	-0,1	1,0	0,12
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,5	1,4	-1,3	-2,0	-0,5	0,00
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,3	1,3	-1,1	-1,9	-0,3	0,01
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	0,9	0,9	-0,6	-1,3	0,1	0,10
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	0,9	0,9	-0,5	-1,3	0,3	0,20

* Definition of sector based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy-therefore estimates of Q3:2025 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
	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025				
Women						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,8	0,9	-99	-261	62	0,23
Employed	1,1	1,1	30	-114	173	0,68
Formal sector*	-	1,4	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	3,6	-	-	-	-
Household sector	-	4,0	-	-	-	-
Unemployed	2,1	2,1	-129	-281	24	0,10
Outside the Labour Force	1,0	1,0	158	-3	320	0,06
Potential Labour Force	3,4	3,2	121	-25	268	0,10
Discouraged jobseekers	4,0	3,9	-29	-155	97	0,65
Other Potential Labour Force	6,0	5,3	150	69	232	0,00
Other (Outside the Labour Force)	1,1	1,1	37	-110	184	0,62
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	0,8	0,9	-0,6	-1,4	0,1	0,11
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,1	1,1	0,0	-0,6	0,7	0,90
Inactivity rate	1,0	1,0	0,6	-0,1	1,4	0,11
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,7	1,7	-0,8	-1,9	0,3	0,15
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,6	1,6	-0,7	-1,8	0,5	0,27
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	1,2	1,1	-0,1	-1,2	0,9	0,81
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	1,1	1,1	0,0	-1,1	1,1	0,96

* Definition of sector based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy-therefore estimates of Q3:2025 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
	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025				
Men						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,6	0,6	-12	-150	125	0,86
Employed	0,9	1,0	219	71	366	0,00
Formal sector*	-	1,2	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	2,6	-	-	-	-
Household sector	-	6,3	-	-	-	-
Unemployed	2,1	2,0	-231	-374	-88	0,00
Outside the Labour Force	1,2	1,2	80	-58	218	0,25
Potential Labour Force	3,9	3,1	109	-11	229	0,08
Discouraged jobseekers	4,4	3,6	65	-44	173	0,24
Other Potential Labour Force	8,6	5,7	44	-15	103	0,15
Other (Outside the Labour Force)	1,3	1,2	-29	-149	92	0,64
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	0,6	0,6	-0,3	-0,9	0,4	0,42
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,9	1,0	0,9	0,2	1,6	0,01
Inactivity rate	1,2	1,2	0,3	-0,4	0,9	0,42
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,9	1,9	-1,7	-2,6	-0,7	0,00
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,7	1,7	-1,5	-2,5	-0,5	0,00
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	1,3	1,4	-1,0	-1,9	-0,1	0,03
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	1,3	1,3	-0,9	-1,8	0,0	0,05

* Definition of sector based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy-therefore estimates of Q3:2025 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
	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025				
South Africa						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,6	0,6	-112	-346	122	0,35
Employed	0,8	0,8	248	34	463	0,02
Unemployed	1,8	1,7	-360	-580	-140	0,00
Outside the Labour Force	0,9	0,9	239	5	472	0,05
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	0,6	0,6	-0,5	-1,0	0,1	0,12
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,8	0,8	0,5	0,0	1,0	0,07
Inactivity rate	0,9	0,9	0,5	-0,1	1,0	0,12
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,5	1,4	-1,3	-2,0	-0,5	0,00
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,3	1,3	-1,1	-1,9	-0,3	0,01
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	0,9	0,9	-0,6	-1,3	0,1	0,10
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	0,9	0,9	-0,5	-1,3	0,3	0,20
Black/African						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,7	0,7	-64	-285	158	0,57
Employed	0,9	0,9	234	35	432	0,02
Unemployed	1,9	1,7	-297	-503	-92	0,01
Outside the Labour Force	1,0	1,0	193	-28	414	0,09
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	0,7	0,7	-0,4	-1,1	0,2	0,21
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,9	0,9	0,5	0,0	1,1	0,07
Inactivity rate	1,0	1,0	0,4	-0,2	1,1	0,21
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,5	1,4	-1,3	-2,2	-0,5	0,00
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,4	1,3	-1,2	-2,0	-0,3	0,01
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	0,9	1,0	-0,6	-1,5	0,2	0,12
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	0,9	0,9	-0,5	-1,3	0,3	0,24

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
	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025				
Coloured						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,5	1,6	-48	-107	10	0,10
Employed	1,6	2,1	4	-57	65	0,89
Unemployed	5,6	6,0	-53	-105	0	0,05
Outside the Labour Force	2,3	2,3	53	-6	111	0,08
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,5	1,6	-1,4	-3,0	0,2	0,09
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,6	2,1	0,1	-1,6	1,8	0,94
Inactivity rate	2,3	2,3	1,4	-0,2	3,0	0,09
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,8	5,7	-1,9	-4,1	0,3	0,10
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,1	4,9	-1,4	-3,9	1,1	0,26
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,1	3,6	-1,2	-3,3	0,9	0,25
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,7	3,4	-0,8	-2,9	1,3	0,45
Indian/Asian						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	3,2	3,1	-28	-66	10	0,14
Employed	3,4	3,3	-17	-55	21	0,37
Unemployed	10,5	16,4	-11	-36	15	0,40
Outside the Labour Force	4,6	3,9	30	-8	68	0,12
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	3,2	3,1	-2,8	-6,3	0,8	0,13
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,4	3,3	-1,7	-5,3	1,8	0,34
Inactivity rate	4,6	3,9	2,8	-0,8	6,3	0,13
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	9,5	15,1	-1,1	-5,2	2,9	0,58
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	8,9	14,4	-0,6	-4,8	3,7	0,80
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	6,8	9,7	2,8	-1,3	6,9	0,18
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	7,3	10,8	3,3	-1,2	7,7	0,15

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
	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025				
White						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,6	1,6	28	-24	81	0,28
Employed	1,9	2,1	28	-35	90	0,39
Unemployed	13,0	13,7	1	-40	42	0,96
Outside the Labour Force	3,8	3,9	-37	-90	15	0,16
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,6	1,6	1,3	-0,6	3,2	0,19
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,9	2,1	1,2	-1,1	3,5	0,30
Inactivity rate	3,8	3,9	-1,3	-3,2	0,6	0,19
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	12,7	13,8	-0,1	-2,2	2,1	0,95
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	11,0	13,1	-0,8	-3,3	1,7	0,55
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	12,2	11,9	-1,0	-3,7	1,7	0,46
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	10,9	11,7	-1,7	-4,7	1,3	0,27

Table 2.3A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025				
South Africa						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,6	0,6	-112	-346	122	0,35
Employed	0,8	0,8	248	34	463	0,02
Unemployed	1,8	1,7	-360	-580	-140	0,00
Outside the Labour Force	0,9	0,9	239	5	472	0,05
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	0,6	0,6	-0,5	-1,0	0,1	0,12
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,8	0,8	0,5	0,0	1,0	0,07
Inactivity rate	0,9	0,9	0,5	-0,1	1,0	0,12
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,5	1,4	-1,3	-2,0	-0,5	0,00
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,3	1,3	-1,1	-1,9	-0,3	0,01
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	0,9	0,9	-0,6	-1,3	0,1	0,10
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	0,9	0,9	-0,5	-1,3	0,3	0,20
Western Cape						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,2	1,2	26	-50	102	0,50
Employed	1,5	1,6	70	-9	148	0,08
Unemployed	4,4	5,0	-44	-114	27	0,22
Outside the Labour Force	2,5	2,6	-9	-84	67	0,83
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,2	1,2	0,3	-1,2	1,8	0,72
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,5	1,6	1,2	-0,4	2,7	0,13
Inactivity rate	2,5	2,6	-0,3	-1,8	1,2	0,72
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,1	4,7	-1,4	-3,3	0,5	0,14
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,3	3,9	-1,6	-3,7	0,5	0,13
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,0	4,1	-1,2	-3,2	0,8	0,24
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,3	3,6	-1,4	-3,5	0,8	0,21

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
	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025				
Western Cape - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,6	2,7	24	-43	91	0,48
Employed	2,8	2,6	29	-36	95	0,38
Unemployed	12,4	13,2	-5	-67	56	0,87
Outside the Labour Force	4,2	4,6	-18	-85	49	0,60
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,6	2,7	1,1	-2,5	4,7	0,55
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,8	2,6	1,4	-2,1	4,9	0,44
Inactivity rate	4,2	4,6	-1,1	-4,7	2,5	0,55
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	11,2	11,7	-0,8	-5,7	4,1	0,75
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	9,7	10,5	-1,2	-6,4	4,1	0,66
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	6,5	7,8	-1,4	-6,0	3,3	0,56
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	5,8	7,2	-1,7	-6,4	3,0	0,48
Western Cape - City of Cape Town						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,3	1,3	2	-36	39	0,93
Employed	1,8	2,0	40	-6	87	0,09
Unemployed	4,2	4,9	-39	-72	-5	0,02
Outside the Labour Force	3,2	3,3	9	-28	47	0,62
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,3	1,3	-0,2	-1,3	1,0	0,75
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,8	2,0	1,1	-0,4	2,5	0,15
Inactivity rate	3,2	3,3	0,2	-1,0	1,3	0,75
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,0	4,9	-1,7	-3,1	-0,3	0,02
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	2,9	3,7	-1,8	-3,6	0,0	0,05
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	5,0	4,5	-1,1	-2,7	0,6	0,19
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	4,1	3,5	-1,2	-3,2	0,8	0,24

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
	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025				
Eastern Cape						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,0	2,1	-25	-92	43	0,48
Employed	2,6	3,0	-53	-122	15	0,13
Unemployed	4,1	4,1	29	-47	105	0,46
Outside the Labour Force	2,2	2,2	37	-31	105	0,28
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,0	2,1	-0,7	-2,1	0,8	0,37
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,6	3,0	-1,2	-2,7	0,3	0,10
Inactivity rate	2,2	2,2	0,7	-0,8	2,1	0,37
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	3,2	3,4	1,6	-1,1	4,3	0,25
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,1	3,3	0,6	-2,2	3,5	0,67
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,5	2,5	2,5	-0,3	5,2	0,08
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,4	2,5	1,6	-1,1	4,2	0,26
Eastern Cape - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,8	2,8	64	-1	130	0,05
Employed	3,5	3,5	8	-47	63	0,78
Unemployed	5,2	5,1	56	-11	124	0,10
Outside the Labour Force	2,5	2,6	-57	-122	8	0,09
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,8	2,8	1,9	-0,1	4,0	0,07
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,5	3,5	0,2	-1,5	1,9	0,83
Inactivity rate	2,5	2,6	-1,9	-4,0	0,1	0,07
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	3,6	3,4	1,7	-1,8	5,2	0,35
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,6	3,2	2,0	-1,4	5,4	0,25
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,3	2,3	3,0	-0,2	6,2	0,06
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,4	2,2	3,2	0,2	6,1	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
	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025				
Eastern Cape - Buffalo City						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	4,7	4,7	-18	-27	-9	0,00
Employed	6,7	6,5	-6	-29	18	0,63
Unemployed	8,4	8,9	-12	-33	9	0,25
Outside the Labour Force	10,6	9,2	20	11	29	0,00
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	4,7	4,7	-3,4	-4,9	-1,9	0,00
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	6,7	6,5	-1,2	-5,2	2,9	0,58
Inactivity rate	10,6	9,2	3,4	1,9	4,9	0,00
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	8,8	9,1	-1,9	-7,4	3,6	0,50
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	5,5	9,2	-6,5	-12,2	-0,8	0,03
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	10,3	9,9	-0,4	-6,0	5,3	0,90
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	6,6	9,3	-4,8	-9,6	-0,1	0,05
Eastern Cape - Nelson Mandela Bay						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,9	4,1	-71	-89	-53	0,00
Employed	4,6	7,8	-56	-90	-22	0,00
Unemployed	7,9	7,0	-15	-44	13	0,29
Outside the Labour Force	5,0	5,1	74	56	93	0,00
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,9	4,1	-8,1	-10,1	-6,0	0,00
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	4,6	7,8	-6,3	-10,0	-2,6	0,00
Inactivity rate	5,0	5,1	8,1	6,0	10,1	0,00
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	8,1	10,7	0,7	-4,9	6,4	0,81
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	7,8	10,4	-1,3	-8,1	5,6	0,72
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	8,9	9,9	-2,6	-10,3	5,1	0,51
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	8,1	9,6	-4,2	-12,4	4,1	0,32

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
	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025				
Northern cape						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	4,9	4,4	-2	-27	22	0,86
Employed	6,3	7,2	5	-14	24	0,59
Unemployed	7,5	7,5	-8	-24	9	0,36
Outside the Labour Force	6,0	5,3	4	-21	28	0,77
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	4,9	4,4	-0,4	-3,3	2,6	0,81
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	6,3	7,2	0,6	-1,7	2,8	0,63
Inactivity rate	6,0	5,3	0,4	-2,6	3,3	0,81
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	6,6	8,7	-1,5	-4,2	1,3	0,29
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	5,7	8,3	-0,8	-3,7	2,2	0,62
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	5,4	6,6	-0,5	-3,8	2,8	0,76
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	5,1	6,3	0,0	-3,1	3,1	1,00
Free State						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,9	1,9	-19	-44	6	0,14
Employed	3,3	3,0	16	-16	48	0,33
Unemployed	5,3	6,1	-35	-69	-1	0,04
Outside the Labour Force	3,3	3,3	20	-5	45	0,13
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,9	1,9	-1,0	-2,3	0,3	0,13
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,3	3,0	0,8	-0,8	2,5	0,34
Inactivity rate	3,3	3,3	1,0	-0,3	2,3	0,13
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,7	5,2	-2,3	-4,8	0,3	0,08
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,4	4,6	-2,5	-5,3	0,3	0,08
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,0	3,6	-1,1	-3,9	1,6	0,42
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,8	3,2	-1,4	-4,3	1,5	0,34

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
	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025				
Free State - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,1	2,0	13	-10	37	0,27
Employed	4,4	4,0	25	-6	57	0,11
Unemployed	5,1	5,9	-12	-45	21	0,47
Outside the Labour Force	3,7	3,5	-13	-36	11	0,29
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,1	2,0	0,9	-0,8	2,6	0,28
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	4,4	4,0	1,8	-0,4	4,1	0,12
Inactivity rate	3,7	3,5	-0,9	-2,6	0,8	0,28
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	5,0	5,5	-2,0	-5,4	1,5	0,26
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,9	4,6	-2,1	-5,9	1,7	0,27
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,7	4,6	-1,6	-5,1	1,8	0,35
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	4,7	3,9	-1,8	-5,5	1,9	0,34
Free State - Mangaung						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	3,7	4,8	-32	-40	-24	0,00
Employed	4,1	3,8	-9	-16	-3	0,01
Unemployed	14,7	18,6	-23	-28	-17	0,00
Outside the Labour Force	7,1	7,2	32	24	40	0,00
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	3,7	4,8	-5,8	-7,2	-4,4	0,00
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	4,1	3,8	-1,7	-2,9	-0,5	0,01
Inactivity rate	7,1	7,2	5,8	4,4	7,2	0,00
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	12,0	14,8	-3,7	-5,3	-2,1	0,00
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	9,7	12,9	-4,3	-6,2	-2,4	0,00
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	6,8	4,2	-0,2	-5,0	4,5	0,93
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	5,6	5,0	-0,9	-5,7	3,8	0,71

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
	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025				
KwaZulu-Natal						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,9	1,9	-23	-133	87	0,68
Employed	2,1	2,3	54	-37	146	0,24
Unemployed	5,8	5,1	-78	-179	23	0,13
Outside the Labour Force	2,1	2,0	47	-62	157	0,40
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,9	1,9	-0,5	-1,9	1,0	0,52
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,1	2,3	0,6	-0,6	1,8	0,32
Inactivity rate	2,1	2,0	0,5	-1,0	1,9	0,52
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,6	4,2	-1,7	-3,8	0,3	0,10
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,1	4,0	-1,2	-3,2	0,9	0,26
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,2	2,3	-1,3	-2,8	0,3	0,11
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,2	2,2	-0,8	-2,4	0,8	0,31
KwaZulu-Natal - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,8	2,9	-55	-159	49	0,30
Employed	2,9	3,4	48	-30	125	0,23
Unemployed	6,8	7,3	-103	-186	-20	0,02
Outside the Labour Force	2,6	2,6	69	-35	173	0,19
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,8	2,9	-1,2	-3,3	0,8	0,24
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,9	3,4	0,9	-0,7	2,4	0,27
Inactivity rate	2,6	2,6	1,2	-0,8	3,3	0,24
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	5,0	5,8	-3,5	-6,1	-0,8	0,01
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,6	5,2	-2,8	-5,5	-0,1	0,04
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,6	2,8	-1,7	-4,0	0,6	0,15
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,7	2,7	-1,2	-3,6	1,2	0,31

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
	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025				
KwaZulu-Natal - eThekweni						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,2	1,8	32	-6	70	0,10
Employed	2,8	2,8	7	-43	56	0,79
Unemployed	10,8	5,9	25	-34	84	0,40
Outside the Labour Force	3,3	2,9	-22	-60	16	0,25
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,2	1,8	1,0	-0,4	2,4	0,18
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,8	2,8	0,1	-1,7	1,9	0,92
Inactivity rate	3,3	2,9	-1,0	-2,4	0,4	0,18
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	9,4	5,6	1,0	-2,3	4,3	0,56
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	7,9	5,6	1,4	-1,7	4,6	0,36
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,0	4,1	-0,6	-2,1	0,9	0,42
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,7	3,8	-0,2	-1,6	1,2	0,78
North West						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	4,1	3,8	20	-60	99	0,63
Employed	3,6	3,6	42	-29	114	0,25
Unemployed	10,5	10,8	-23	-77	31	0,41
Outside the Labour Force	4,5	4,3	-11	-91	69	0,79
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	4,1	3,8	0,5	-2,3	3,3	0,71
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,6	3,6	1,4	-1,1	3,9	0,28
Inactivity rate	4,5	4,3	-0,5	-3,3	2,3	0,71
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	7,3	7,9	-2,0	-5,2	1,1	0,21
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	7,1	7,4	-1,5	-4,5	1,4	0,31
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,1	3,1	-2,2	-5,5	1,0	0,17
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,1	3,0	-1,9	-4,9	1,2	0,23

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
	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025				
Gauteng						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,1	1,0	-8	-149	132	0,91
Employed	1,5	1,3	51	-66	168	0,39
Unemployed	3,1	2,7	-59	-188	69	0,36
Outside the Labour Force	2,4	2,2	49	-92	189	0,50
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,1	1,0	-0,3	-1,5	0,9	0,62
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,5	1,3	0,3	-0,7	1,3	0,59
Inactivity rate	2,4	2,2	0,3	-0,9	1,5	0,62
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	2,6	2,2	-0,7	-2,1	0,6	0,29
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	2,5	2,1	-0,5	-2,0	1,1	0,55
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,0	1,7	0,4	-1,0	1,7	0,61
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,1	1,7	0,5	-1,1	2,1	0,50
Gauteng - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	3,7	4,1	-20	-68	28	0,41
Employed	6,1	4,6	52	13	91	0,01
Unemployed	6,1	6,4	-72	-127	-17	0,01
Outside the Labour Force	9,2	9,5	26	-22	74	0,29
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	3,7	4,1	-1,6	-4,7	1,6	0,33
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	6,1	4,6	3,3	0,7	5,8	0,01
Inactivity rate	9,2	9,5	1,6	-1,6	4,7	0,33
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	6,0	4,6	-6,0	-10,2	-1,8	0,01
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	6,0	5,4	-3,7	-8,0	0,7	0,10
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	5,2	4,0	-3,8	-7,0	-0,6	0,02
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	5,1	4,2	-1,8	-5,2	1,6	0,31

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
	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025				
Gauteng - Ekurhuleni						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,3	1,8	-19	-88	50	0,60
Employed	2,2	2,0	35	-29	99	0,28
Unemployed	6,0	5,2	-54	-104	-3	0,04
Outside the Labour Force	4,1	3,1	29	-40	98	0,41
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,3	1,8	-0,9	-3,3	1,5	0,48
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,2	2,0	1,1	-1,2	3,3	0,35
Inactivity rate	4,1	3,1	0,9	-1,5	3,3	0,48
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,4	4,1	-2,6	-5,0	-0,2	0,04
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,5	4,5	-2,5	-5,3	0,3	0,07
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,0	2,8	-0,5	-3,2	2,2	0,72
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,0	3,2	-0,4	-3,4	2,6	0,77
Gauteng - City of Johannesburg						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,4	1,7	18	-77	113	0,71
Employed	2,5	2,7	-36	-112	40	0,35
Unemployed	4,5	4,4	54	-27	136	0,19
Outside the Labour Force	3,3	4,1	-3	-99	92	0,95
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,4	1,7	0,2	-2,1	2,4	0,87
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,5	2,7	-1,0	-2,8	0,8	0,27
Inactivity rate	3,3	4,1	-0,2	-2,4	2,1	0,87
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,2	4,0	1,6	-0,6	3,8	0,15
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,3	3,6	1,2	-1,3	3,7	0,35
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,8	3,5	1,8	-0,5	4,1	0,12
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	4,0	3,2	1,4	-1,2	4,1	0,29

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
	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025				
Gauteng - City of Tshwane						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,9	2,1	12	-57	82	0,73
Employed	3,0	2,1	0	-57	57	0,99
Unemployed	8,7	6,0	12	-57	81	0,74
Outside the Labour Force	6,3	4,6	-2	-72	67	0,95
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,9	2,1	0,2	-2,3	2,7	0,88
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,0	2,1	-0,2	-2,2	1,9	0,88
Inactivity rate	6,3	4,6	-0,2	-2,7	2,3	0,88
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	6,9	4,7	0,4	-2,6	3,4	0,78
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	5,8	4,6	0,7	-2,8	4,2	0,70
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,8	3,3	1,3	-1,9	4,5	0,42
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	4,3	3,7	1,5	-2,4	5,4	0,44
Mpumalanga						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,0	2,7	35	-22	93	0,23
Employed	3,5	3,3	23	-30	76	0,39
Unemployed	4,6	6,4	12	-53	77	0,72
Outside the Labour Force	2,7	3,8	-25	-83	32	0,38
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,0	2,7	0,9	-0,9	2,7	0,31
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,5	3,3	0,6	-1,0	2,2	0,47
Inactivity rate	2,7	3,8	-0,9	-2,7	0,9	0,31
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,8	5,2	0,0	-2,9	2,9	1,00
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,6	4,6	1,0	-1,9	4,0	0,48
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,1	2,7	-0,9	-3,2	1,3	0,41
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,9	2,5	-0,1	-2,4	2,3	0,97

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
	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025				
Limpopo						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,5	2,3	-115	-215	-16	0,02
Employed	2,7	2,9	40	-42	122	0,34
Unemployed	5,4	5,2	-155	-222	-89	0,00
Outside the Labour Force	3,3	2,7	127	28	227	0,01
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,5	2,3	-3,0	-5,4	-0,6	0,02
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,7	2,9	0,9	-1,1	2,9	0,39
Inactivity rate	3,3	2,7	3,0	0,6	5,4	0,02
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,0	4,5	-5,2	-7,6	-2,9	0,00
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,8	3,6	-5,0	-7,3	-2,8	0,00
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,3	3,3	-2,6	-5,5	0,3	0,08
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,3	2,9	-2,5	-5,0	-0,1	0,05

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
	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025				
Both sexes	0,8	0,8	248	34	463	0,02
Agriculture	5,8	4,4	14	-75	104	0,75
Mining	9,4	9,7	16	-25	56	0,45
Manufacturing	3,1	3,0	-62	-158	35	0,21
Utilities	12,1	13,4	-30	-52	-8	0,01
Construction	3,5	3,8	130	42	219	0,00
Trade	2,2	2,2	108	-39	256	0,15
Transport	3,5	3,9	-3	-81	76	0,95
Finance	2,9	2,5	-54	-192	85	0,45
Community and social services	2,0	2,0	116	-23	255	0,10
Private households	3,7	3,9	5	-64	74	0,88
Women	1,1	1,1	30	-114	173	0,68
Agriculture	10,5	7,4	15	-31	61	0,52
Mining	15,4	16,2	-1	-19	16	0,89
Manufacturing	4,7	4,5	-27	-82	29	0,34
Utilities	19,2	20,9	-14	-26	-1	0,03
Construction	9,7	9,0	-1	-31	29	0,95
Trade	2,9	3,0	78	-9	166	0,08
Transport	8,6	9,1	18	-16	52	0,31
Finance	3,7	3,7	-70	-152	13	0,10
Community and social services	2,4	2,3	49	-55	153	0,35
Private households	4,1	4,0	-21	-77	36	0,47
Men	0,9	1,0	219	71	366	0,00
Agriculture	5,3	5,1	-1	-61	60	0,99
Mining	10,3	10,6	17	-19	52	0,35
Manufacturing	3,5	3,9	-35	-109	38	0,35
Utilities	14,0	14,8	-16	-37	4	0,12
Construction	3,7	3,9	131	51	212	0,00
Trade	3,0	2,9	30	-80	140	0,59
Transport	3,7	4,0	-20	-88	47	0,56
Finance	3,3	3,2	16	-86	117	0,76
Community and social services	3,0	3,1	67	-11	144	0,09
Private households	6,7	6,3	26	-12	63	0,18

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
	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025				
South Africa	-	0,8	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	1,0	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	2,4	-	-	-	-
Households	-	3,9	-	-	-	-
Western Cape	-	1,6	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	2,0	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	7,2	-	-	-	-
Households	-	11,6	-	-	-	-
Western Cape – Non-metro	-	2,6	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	2,8	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	10,6	-	-	-	-
Households	-	13,5	-	-	-	-
Western Cape – City of Cape Town	-	2,0	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	2,6	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	9,6	-	-	-	-
Households	-	16,4	-	-	-	-
Eastern Cape	-	3,0	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	3,7	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	7,6	-	-	-	-
Households	-	12,5	-	-	-	-
Eastern Cape – Non-metro	-	3,5	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	4,7	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	8,6	-	-	-	-
Households	-	18,1	-	-	-	-
Eastern Cape – Buffalo City	-	6,5	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	8,5	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	11,7	-	-	-	-
Households	-	18,9	-	-	-	-

* Definition of sector based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy-therefore estimates of Q3:2025 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
	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025				
Eastern Cape – Nelson Mandela Bay	-	7,8	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	7,6	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	29,8	-	-	-	-
Households	-	14,2	-	-	-	-
Northern Cape	-	7,2	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	8,1	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	14,8	-	-	-	-
Households	-	14,6	-	-	-	-
Free State	-	3,0	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	4,0	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	9,6	-	-	-	-
Households	-	8,9	-	-	-	-
Free State – Non-metro	-	4,0	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	5,2	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	12,2	-	-	-	-
Households	-	11,9	-	-	-	-
Free State – Mangaung	-	3,8	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	5,5	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	14,1	-	-	-	-
Households	-	8,6	-	-	-	-
KwaZulu-Natal	-	2,3	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	2,6	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	6,4	-	-	-	-
Households	-	8,7	-	-	-	-
KwaZulu-Natal – Non-metro	-	3,4	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	4,3	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	9,1	-	-	-	-
Households	-	14,3	-	-	-	-

* Definition of sector based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy-therefore estimates of Q3:2025 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
	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025				
KwaZulu-Natal – eThekweni	-	2,8	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	2,5	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	8,4	-	-	-	-
Households	-	9,1	-	-	-	-
North West	-	3,6	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	4,5	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	10,5	-	-	-	-
Households	-	13,5	-	-	-	-
Gauteng	-	1,3	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	2,0	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	4,6	-	-	-	-
Households	-	8,2	-	-	-	-
Gauteng – Non-metro	-	4,6	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	4,7	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	12,3	-	-	-	-
Households	-	17,0	-	-	-	-
Gauteng – Ekurhuleni	-	2,0	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	3,6	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	12,0	-	-	-	-
Households	-	14,9	-	-	-	-
Gauteng – City of Johannesburg	-	2,7	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	4,5	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	6,2	-	-	-	-
Households	-	10,1	-	-	-	-
Gauteng – City of Tshwane	-	2,1	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	3,2	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	10,4	-	-	-	-
Households	-	21,7	-	-	-	-

* Definition of sector based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy-therefore estimates of Q3:2025 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
	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025				
Mpumalanga	-	3,3	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	3,4	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	8,9	-	-	-	-
Households	-	11,5	-	-	-	-
Limpopo	-	2,9	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	4,8	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	6,8	-	-	-	-
Households	-	11,5	-	-	-	-

* Definition of sector based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy-therefore estimates of Q3:2025 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
	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025				
Both sexes	0,8	0,8	248	34	463	0,02
Manager	3,8	3,7	-54	-167	58	0,34
Professional	5,2	4,5	-74	-157	10	0,08
Technician	3,0	3,2	-77	-175	21	0,12
Clerk	3,0	2,9	42	-68	153	0,45
Sales and services	2,3	2,2	198	75	321	0,00
Skilled agriculture	14,5	10,7	50	25	74	0,00
Craft and related trade	2,7	2,8	132	26	238	0,02
Plant and machine operator	3,4	3,6	17	-73	107	0,71
Elementary	2,0	2,0	-20	-156	115	0,77
Domestic worker	4,2	3,9	9	-49	66	0,76
Women	1,1	1,1	30	-114	173	0,68
Manager	5,9	6,2	8	-52	68	0,80
Professional	5,6	5,2	-68	-128	-8	0,03
Technician	3,5	4,2	-58	-120	4	0,07
Clerk	3,5	3,5	42	-49	132	0,37
Sales and services	3,0	2,9	127	34	221	0,01
Skilled agriculture	31,9	25,9	13	0	27	0,05
Craft and related trade	6,4	7,2	-1	-38	37	0,97
Plant and machine operator	8,4	7,8	14	-16	44	0,36
Elementary	3,1	2,9	-54	-145	37	0,24
Domestic worker	4,1	4,1	-4	-59	52	0,90
Men	0,9	1,0	219	71	366	0,00
Manager	4,2	3,9	-62	-151	27	0,17
Professional	6,6	6,0	-6	-47	36	0,78
Technician	4,2	4,2	-19	-85	48	0,58
Clerk	5,0	4,7	1	-58	59	0,98
Sales and services	3,3	3,0	71	-17	159	0,12
Skilled agriculture	16,3	12,1	36	15	58	0,00
Craft and related trade	3,0	3,0	133	34	233	0,01
Plant and machine operator	3,6	3,9	3	-80	86	0,94
Elementary	2,3	2,4	34	-71	138	0,52
Domestic worker	17,5	14,8	12	-4	28	0,13

Table 2B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by sex						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2024	Jul-Sep 2025				
Both sexes						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,6	0,6	105	168	-225	0,53
Employed	0,8	0,8	109	159	-205	0,50
Formal sector*	-	1,0	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	2,4	-	-	-	-
Household sector	-	3,9	-	-	-	-
Unemployed	2,0	1,7	-3	162	-323	0,98
Outside the Labour Force	0,9	0,9	412	168	82	0,02
Potential Labour Force	3,4	2,6	271	133	10	0,04
Discouraged jobseekers	3,9	3,2	126	118	-106	0,29
Other Potential Labour Force	5,7	4,4	145	65	18	0,03
Other (Outside the Labour Force)	1,1	0,9	141	150	-154	0,35
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	0,6	0,6	-0,5	0,4	-1,3	0,22
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,8	0,8	-0,3	0,4	-1,0	0,52
Inactivity rate	0,9	0,9	0,5	0,4	-0,3	0,22
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,6	1,4	-0,2	0,6	-1,3	0,79
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,5	1,3	-0,3	0,6	-1,4	0,59
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	1,1	0,9	0,4	0,5	-0,6	0,47
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	1,0	0,9	0,2	0,5	-0,8	0,68

* Definition of sector based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy-therefore estimates of Q3:2025 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
	Jul-Sep 2024	Jul-Sep 2025				
Women						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,8	0,9	-55	110	-273	0,62
Employed	1,1	1,1	-115	110	-332	0,30
Formal sector*	-	1,4	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	3,6	-	-	-	-
Household sector	-	4,0	-	-	-	-
Unemployed	2,2	2,1	60	103	-142	0,56
Outside the Labour Force	1,0	1,0	299	110	81	0,01
Potential Labour Force	3,5	3,2	150	84	-16	0,08
Discouraged jobseekers	4,2	3,9	55	76	-94	0,47
Other Potential Labour Force	6,0	5,3	95	50	-3	0,06
Other (Outside the Labour Force)	1,1	1,1	149	100	-49	0,14
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	0,8	0,9	-0,9	0,5	-1,9	0,09
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,1	1,1	-1,0	0,5	-2,0	0,07
Inactivity rate	1,0	1,0	0,9	0,5	-0,1	0,09
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,8	1,7	0,7	0,8	-0,9	0,39
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,7	1,6	0,4	0,8	-1,2	0,63
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	1,2	1,1	1,2	0,7	-0,2	0,09
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	1,2	1,1	0,9	0,7	-0,5	0,20

* Definition of sector based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy-therefore estimates of Q3:2025 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
	Jul-Sep 2024	Jul-Sep 2025				
Men						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,7	0,6	161	104	-45	0,13
Employed	0,9	1,0	224	112	4	0,05
Formal sector*	-	1,2	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	2,6	-	-	-	-
Household sector	-	6,3	-	-	-	-
Unemployed	2,3	2,0	-63	105	-270	0,55
Outside the Labour Force	1,3	1,2	114	104	-92	0,28
Potential Labour Force	3,9	3,1	121	81	-37	0,13
Discouraged jobseekers	4,4	3,6	71	72	-72	0,33
Other Potential Labour Force	8,0	5,7	51	33	-15	0,13
Other (Outside the Labour Force)	1,4	1,2	-8	83	-171	0,93
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	0,7	0,6	-0,1	0,5	-1,1	0,86
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,9	1,0	0,5	0,5	-0,6	0,38
Inactivity rate	1,3	1,2	0,1	0,5	-0,9	0,86
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	2,0	1,9	-0,8	0,7	-2,2	0,25
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,9	1,7	-0,9	0,7	-2,3	0,25
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	1,4	1,4	-0,3	0,7	-1,7	0,64
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	1,3	1,3	-0,4	0,7	-1,8	0,61

* Definition of sector based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy-therefore estimates of Q3:2025 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
	Jul-Sep 2024	Jul-Sep 2025				
South Africa						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,6	0,6	105	-225	436	0,53
Employed	0,8	0,8	109	-205	422	0,50
Unemployed	2,0	1,7	-3	-323	316	0,98
Outside the Labour Force	0,9	0,9	412	82	743	0,02
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	0,6	0,6	-0,5	-1,3	0,3	0,22
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,8	0,8	-0,3	-1,0	0,5	0,52
Inactivity rate	0,9	0,9	0,5	-0,3	1,3	0,22
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,6	1,4	-0,2	-1,3	1,0	0,79
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,5	1,3	-0,3	-1,4	0,8	0,59
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	1,1	0,9	0,4	-0,6	1,4	0,47
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	1,0	0,9	0,2	-0,8	1,2	0,68
Black/African						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,8	0,7	146	-166	457	0,36
Employed	0,9	0,9	148	-136	432	0,31
Unemployed	2,1	1,7	-2	-297	292	0,99
Outside the Labour Force	1,1	1,0	382	71	694	0,02
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	0,8	0,7	-0,5	-1,4	0,4	0,29
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,9	0,9	-0,2	-1,0	0,7	0,72
Inactivity rate	1,1	1,0	0,5	-0,4	1,4	0,29
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,6	1,4	-0,3	-1,5	1,0	0,67
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,5	1,3	-0,4	-1,7	0,8	0,50
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	1,0	1,0	0,2	-0,9	1,3	0,72
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	1,0	0,9	0,1	-1,1	1,2	0,93

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
	Jul-Sep 2024	Jul-Sep 2025				
Coloured						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,3	1,6	-21	-102	60	0,60
Employed	2,0	2,1	-38	-119	42	0,35
Unemployed	7,6	6,0	17	-65	99	0,69
Outside the Labour Force	2,1	2,3	39	-42	120	0,35
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,3	1,6	-0,9	-3,1	1,4	0,44
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,0	2,1	-1,3	-3,5	0,9	0,26
Inactivity rate	2,1	2,3	0,9	-1,4	3,1	0,44
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	7,2	5,7	1,0	-2,4	4,4	0,57
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	6,5	4,9	0,8	-2,5	4,2	0,63
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,4	3,6	2,1	-0,7	4,9	0,14
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	4,3	3,4	1,9	-0,9	4,8	0,18
Indian/Asian						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,2	3,1	-76	-123	-29	0,00
Employed	3,8	3,3	-54	-99	-9	0,02
Unemployed	19,1	16,4	-21	-68	25	0,36
Outside the Labour Force	3,9	3,9	84	37	131	0,00
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,2	3,1	-7,6	-12,0	-3,2	0,00
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,8	3,3	-5,5	-9,8	-1,3	0,01
Inactivity rate	3,9	3,9	7,6	3,2	12,0	0,00
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	18,7	15,1	-1,6	-8,3	5,0	0,63
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	16,2	14,4	-1,3	-8,3	5,6	0,71
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	12,4	9,7	1,1	-5,3	7,5	0,73
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	10,8	10,8	1,3	-5,6	8,3	0,71

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
	Jul-Sep 2024	Jul-Sep 2025				
White						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,3	1,6	57	-28	142	0,19
Employed	1,5	2,1	53	-47	153	0,30
Unemployed	13,0	13,7	4	-52	59	0,89
Outside the Labour Force	2,7	3,9	-93	-178	-8	0,03
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,3	1,6	3,0	-0,1	6,1	0,06
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,5	2,1	2,8	-0,9	6,4	0,14
Inactivity rate	2,7	3,9	-3,0	-6,1	0,1	0,06
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	12,6	13,8	0,0	-3,0	2,9	0,98
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	11,0	13,1	-0,4	-3,4	2,7	0,81
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	10,1	11,9	-0,5	-3,7	2,6	0,74
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	9,2	11,7	-0,9	-4,1	2,4	0,61

Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2024	Jul-Sep 2025				
South Africa						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,6	0,6	105	-225	436	0,53
Employed	0,8	0,8	109	-205	422	0,50
Unemployed	2,0	1,7	-3	-323	316	0,98
Outside the Labour Force	0,9	0,9	412	82	743	0,02
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	0,6	0,6	-0,5	-1,3	0,3	0,22
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,8	0,8	-0,3	-1,0	0,5	0,52
Inactivity rate	0,9	0,9	0,5	-0,3	1,3	0,22
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,6	1,4	-0,2	-1,3	1,0	0,79
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,5	1,3	-0,3	-1,4	0,8	0,59
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	1,1	0,9	0,4	-0,6	1,4	0,47
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	1,0	0,9	0,2	-0,8	1,2	0,68
Western Cape						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,2	1,2	86	-24	196	0,12
Employed	1,7	1,6	64	-72	201	0,35
Unemployed	6,9	5,0	22	-83	127	0,68
Outside the Labour Force	2,5	2,6	-15	-126	95	0,78
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,2	1,2	0,8	-1,4	2,9	0,49
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,7	1,6	0,5	-2,2	3,2	0,71
Inactivity rate	2,5	2,6	-0,8	-2,9	1,4	0,49
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	6,5	4,7	0,1	-2,8	3,1	0,93
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	5,3	3,9	-0,5	-3,5	2,5	0,76
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,3	4,1	0,1	-2,8	3,0	0,94
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,8	3,6	-0,5	-3,4	2,5	0,76

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
	Jul-Sep 2024	Jul-Sep 2025				
Western Cape - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,0	2,7	15	-55	86	0,67
Employed	2,9	2,6	-6	-87	76	0,89
Unemployed	14,3	13,2	21	-53	95	0,57
Outside the Labour Force	3,5	4,6	10	-61	81	0,78
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,0	2,7	0,0	-3,8	3,8	0,99
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,9	2,6	-1,0	-5,4	3,3	0,64
Inactivity rate	3,5	4,6	0,0	-3,8	3,8	0,99
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	13,9	11,7	1,6	-4,4	7,7	0,60
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	11,7	10,5	1,3	-5,3	7,8	0,70
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	7,1	7,8	1,9	-3,8	7,6	0,51
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	6,5	7,2	1,6	-4,7	7,9	0,61
Western Cape - City of Cape Town						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,7	1,3	71	-15	157	0,11
Employed	2,2	2,0	70	-40	180	0,21
Unemployed	7,9	4,9	1	-71	73	0,98
Outside the Labour Force	3,8	3,3	-25	-111	61	0,56
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,7	1,3	1,2	-1,5	3,8	0,38
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,2	2,0	1,4	-2,0	4,8	0,42
Inactivity rate	3,8	3,3	-1,2	-3,8	1,5	0,38
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	7,2	4,9	-0,7	-3,9	2,6	0,69
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	5,8	3,7	-1,4	-4,4	1,6	0,36
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	5,6	4,5	-0,9	-4,0	2,1	0,55
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	4,9	3,5	-1,6	-4,5	1,3	0,27

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
	Jul-Sep 2024	Jul-Sep 2025				
Eastern Cape						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,3	2,1	81	-37	198	0,18
Employed	3,2	3,0	-43	-156	69	0,45
Unemployed	3,4	4,1	124	41	207	0,00
Outside the Labour Force	2,3	2,2	-30	-147	88	0,62
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,3	2,1	1,2	-1,4	3,8	0,36
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,2	3,0	-1,3	-3,7	1,2	0,30
Inactivity rate	2,3	2,2	-1,2	-3,8	1,4	0,36
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	3,0	3,4	3,9	0,7	7,1	0,02
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	2,7	3,3	3,4	0,3	6,5	0,03
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,7	2,5	2,6	-0,5	5,8	0,10
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,2	2,5	2,2	-0,7	5,1	0,14
Eastern Cape - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	3,2	2,8	105	19	191	0,02
Employed	5,2	3,5	-25	-94	45	0,48
Unemployed	4,0	5,1	130	59	200	0,00
Outside the Labour Force	2,7	2,6	-75	-161	11	0,09
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	3,2	2,8	2,9	0,2	5,7	0,04
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	5,2	3,5	-1,0	-3,3	1,2	0,36
Inactivity rate	2,7	2,6	-2,9	-5,7	-0,2	0,04
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	3,9	3,4	5,5	1,9	9,1	0,00
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,5	3,2	4,7	1,4	7,9	0,01
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,2	2,3	2,8	-0,7	6,2	0,11
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,7	2,2	2,2	-0,7	5,1	0,14

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
	Jul-Sep 2024	Jul-Sep 2025				
Eastern Cape - Buffalo City						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	3,5	4,7	1	-59	62	0,96
Employed	5,2	6,5	14	-45	73	0,65
Unemployed	8,4	8,9	-12	-45	20	0,46
Outside the Labour Force	7,1	9,2	7	-54	67	0,83
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	3,5	4,7	-0,7	-11,4	10,0	0,90
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	5,2	6,5	1,8	-8,7	12,2	0,74
Inactivity rate	7,1	9,2	0,7	-10,0	11,4	0,90
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	8,0	9,1	-3,4	-11,7	5,0	0,43
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	6,4	9,2	-5,9	-14,0	2,3	0,16
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	6,4	9,9	-2,0	-10,9	7,0	0,67
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	5,3	9,3	-4,4	-13,0	4,3	0,32
Eastern Cape - Nelson Mandela Bay						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	4,4	4,1	-25	-77	26	0,33
Employed	4,0	7,8	-32	-97	33	0,33
Unemployed	9,2	7,0	7	-23	36	0,66
Outside the Labour Force	6,2	5,1	39	-12	90	0,14
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	4,4	4,1	-3,7	-9,4	2,0	0,21
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	4,0	7,8	-4,2	-11,4	3,0	0,25
Inactivity rate	6,2	5,1	3,7	-2,0	9,4	0,21
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	6,4	10,7	2,6	-4,5	9,7	0,48
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	5,2	10,4	4,2	-3,2	11,6	0,26
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	8,4	9,9	4,3	-2,4	11,0	0,21
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	7,5	9,6	5,7	-1,1	12,5	0,10

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
	Jul-Sep 2024	Jul-Sep 2025				
Northern cape						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	4,6	4,4	-20	-59	19	0,31
Employed	8,1	7,2	-18	-54	19	0,34
Unemployed	5,8	7,5	-2	-33	29	0,88
Outside the Labour Force	6,2	5,3	26	-13	65	0,19
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	4,6	4,4	-2,8	-7,4	1,8	0,24
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	8,1	7,2	-2,4	-6,7	1,9	0,28
Inactivity rate	6,2	5,3	2,8	-1,8	7,4	0,24
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	8,9	8,7	0,8	-5,0	6,6	0,78
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	9,1	8,3	1,6	-4,4	7,6	0,60
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	7,3	6,6	3,4	-3,1	9,9	0,31
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	7,6	6,3	3,9	-2,9	10,6	0,26
Free State						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,5	1,9	15	-47	76	0,64
Employed	2,8	3,0	7	-65	78	0,85
Unemployed	5,0	6,1	8	-62	78	0,83
Outside the Labour Force	2,5	3,3	-11	-72	50	0,72
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,5	1,9	0,6	-2,5	3,8	0,69
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,8	3,0	0,3	-3,4	4,0	0,88
Inactivity rate	2,5	3,3	-0,6	-3,8	2,5	0,69
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,6	5,2	0,2	-5,0	5,5	0,94
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,9	4,6	-1,3	-6,3	3,8	0,62
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,7	3,6	-0,7	-5,5	4,2	0,79
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,2	3,2	-1,9	-6,5	2,7	0,41

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
	Jul-Sep 2024	Jul-Sep 2025				
Free State - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,8	2,0	21	-18	59	0,29
Employed	3,4	4,0	12	-48	72	0,69
Unemployed	6,3	5,9	9	-50	67	0,77
Outside the Labour Force	3,0	3,5	-18	-56	20	0,35
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,8	2,0	1,4	-1,4	4,1	0,33
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,4	4,0	0,8	-3,6	5,2	0,72
Inactivity rate	3,0	3,5	-1,4	-4,1	1,4	0,33
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	5,5	5,5	0,1	-6,3	6,4	0,99
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,7	4,6	-1,1	-7,1	4,9	0,72
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,3	4,6	-1,3	-7,4	4,8	0,67
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,7	3,9	-2,3	-8,0	3,5	0,44
Free State - Mangaung						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,8	4,8	-6	-54	42	0,80
Employed	4,7	3,8	-5	-43	33	0,78
Unemployed	4,9	18,6	-1	-40	38	0,97
Outside the Labour Force	4,4	7,2	7	-41	55	0,77
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,8	4,8	-1,2	-9,8	7,4	0,79
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	4,7	3,8	-1,0	-7,9	5,8	0,77
Inactivity rate	4,4	7,2	1,2	-7,4	9,8	0,79
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	6,3	14,8	0,3	-9,3	9,9	0,95
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	5,0	12,9	-2,1	-11,9	7,7	0,67
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	7,2	4,2	1,0	-5,7	7,8	0,77
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	6,7	5,0	-1,1	-7,7	5,5	0,74

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
	Jul-Sep 2024	Jul-Sep 2025				
KwaZulu-Natal						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,2	1,9	-93	-273	88	0,31
Employed	2,0	2,3	-83	-216	50	0,22
Unemployed	6,0	5,1	-9	-155	136	0,90
Outside the Labour Force	2,6	2,0	191	10	372	0,04
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,2	1,9	-1,9	-4,2	0,5	0,12
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,0	2,3	-1,5	-3,3	0,2	0,08
Inactivity rate	2,6	2,0	1,9	-0,5	4,2	0,12
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,5	4,2	0,5	-2,3	3,3	0,73
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,6	4,0	1,1	-1,7	4,0	0,43
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,6	2,3	1,0	-1,5	3,4	0,43
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,8	2,2	1,5	-1,1	4,0	0,25
KwaZulu-Natal - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	3,2	2,9	-99	-256	58	0,21
Employed	2,9	3,4	32	-87	150	0,60
Unemployed	7,6	7,3	-131	-251	-11	0,03
Outside the Labour Force	3,2	2,6	158	1	315	0,05
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	3,2	2,9	-2,6	-5,7	0,6	0,11
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,9	3,4	0,3	-2,1	2,6	0,82
Inactivity rate	3,2	2,6	2,6	-0,6	5,7	0,11
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	5,2	5,8	-3,9	-7,7	-0,2	0,04
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	5,5	5,2	-3,6	-7,4	0,2	0,06
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,2	2,8	-1,9	-5,4	1,7	0,30
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,5	2,7	-1,7	-5,4	2,0	0,36

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
	Jul-Sep 2024	Jul-Sep 2025				
KwaZulu-Natal - eThekweni						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,8	1,8	7	-86	99	0,89
Employed	2,9	2,8	-115	-173	-57	0,00
Unemployed	8,2	5,9	122	37	206	0,01
Outside the Labour Force	4,5	2,9	33	-59	126	0,48
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,8	1,8	-0,7	-4,1	2,8	0,71
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,9	2,8	-4,9	-7,1	-2,8	0,00
Inactivity rate	4,5	2,9	0,7	-2,8	4,1	0,71
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	7,0	5,6	7,2	3,0	11,4	0,00
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	6,5	5,6	8,4	4,0	12,8	0,00
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,6	4,1	5,4	2,9	7,9	0,00
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,6	3,8	6,4	3,6	9,1	0,00
North West						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	3,3	3,8	2	-105	109	0,97
Employed	4,7	3,6	-19	-126	89	0,73
Unemployed	7,6	10,8	21	-74	115	0,67
Outside the Labour Force	3,9	4,3	33	-74	141	0,54
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	3,3	3,8	-0,6	-4,4	3,2	0,76
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	4,7	3,6	-1,1	-4,9	2,7	0,58
Inactivity rate	3,9	4,3	0,6	-3,2	4,4	0,76
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	6,4	7,9	1,3	-4,3	6,9	0,64
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	6,4	7,4	1,6	-3,6	6,8	0,55
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,3	3,1	1,0	-4,2	6,2	0,71
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	4,3	3,0	1,2	-3,8	6,3	0,64

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
	Jul-Sep 2024	Jul-Sep 2025				
Gauteng						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,2	1,0	193	11	375	0,04
Employed	1,6	1,3	200	57	342	0,01
Unemployed	4,1	2,7	-7	-199	186	0,94
Outside the Labour Force	2,5	2,2	-30	-212	152	0,74
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,2	1,0	0,7	-0,9	2,3	0,37
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,6	1,3	1,1	-0,1	2,4	0,08
Inactivity rate	2,5	2,2	-0,7	-2,3	0,9	0,37
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	3,4	2,2	-0,9	-3,0	1,1	0,37
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,0	2,1	-0,8	-2,9	1,3	0,45
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,4	1,7	0,2	-1,5	2,0	0,79
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,2	1,7	0,3	-1,6	2,2	0,76
Gauteng - Non Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	5,4	4,1	45	-38	129	0,29
Employed	4,5	4,6	76	45	107	0,00
Unemployed	12,2	6,4	-30	-108	48	0,45
Outside the Labour Force	11,3	9,5	-23	-106	61	0,60
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	5,4	4,1	2,0	-3,6	7,5	0,49
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	4,5	4,6	4,4	2,3	6,4	0,00
Inactivity rate	11,3	9,5	-2,0	-7,5	3,6	0,49
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	8,1	4,6	-4,5	-9,4	0,4	0,07
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	8,0	5,4	-1,8	-6,7	3,1	0,48
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,2	4,0	-3,8	-6,3	-1,2	0,00
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	4,5	4,2	-1,4	-4,4	1,6	0,37

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
	Jul-Sep 2024	Jul-Sep 2025				
Gauteng - Ekurhuleni						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,2	1,8	-7	-110	95	0,89
Employed	2,5	2,0	-7	-91	77	0,87
Unemployed	6,4	5,2	-1	-81	80	0,99
Outside the Labour Force	3,9	3,1	49	-54	152	0,35
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,2	1,8	-1,2	-4,8	2,4	0,52
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,5	2,0	-0,9	-3,8	2,1	0,56
Inactivity rate	3,9	3,1	1,2	-2,4	4,8	0,52
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	5,2	4,1	0,1	-3,5	3,7	0,96
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,9	4,5	0,3	-3,7	4,4	0,87
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,0	2,8	2,1	-1,8	5,9	0,30
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,9	3,2	2,2	-2,1	6,5	0,31
Gauteng - City of Johannesburg						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,0	1,7	191	78	304	0,00
Employed	3,1	2,7	101	19	184	0,02
Unemployed	6,8	4,4	89	-43	222	0,19
Outside the Labour Force	4,0	4,1	-132	-245	-19	0,02
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,0	1,7	3,6	0,9	6,2	0,01
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,1	2,7	1,8	-0,2	3,7	0,08
Inactivity rate	4,0	4,1	-3,6	-6,2	-0,9	0,01
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	5,9	4,0	0,8	-2,8	4,5	0,66
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	5,1	3,6	0,3	-3,4	4,0	0,88
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,4	3,5	1,7	-1,5	4,8	0,29
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,9	3,2	1,1	-2,2	4,4	0,50

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
	Jul-Sep 2024	Jul-Sep 2025				
Gauteng - City of Tshwane						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,0	2,1	-36	-109	38	0,34
Employed	3,7	2,1	30	-50	110	0,46
Unemployed	8,8	6,0	-65	-156	25	0,16
Outside the Labour Force	4,8	4,6	75	2	149	0,05
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,0	2,1	-2,3	-4,9	0,4	0,09
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,7	2,1	0,4	-2,5	3,3	0,79
Inactivity rate	4,8	4,6	2,3	-0,4	4,9	0,09
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	7,8	4,7	-2,8	-6,8	1,3	0,18
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	6,6	4,6	-3,2	-7,6	1,3	0,16
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	5,9	3,3	-1,5	-5,1	2,0	0,40
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	5,2	3,7	-2,0	-6,0	2,1	0,34
Mpumalanga						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,2	2,7	-58	-179	62	0,34
Employed	3,1	3,3	5	-82	91	0,92
Unemployed	5,7	6,4	-63	-171	45	0,25
Outside the Labour Force	3,4	3,8	99	-22	219	0,11
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,2	2,7	-2,6	-6,3	1,2	0,18
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,1	3,3	-0,3	-3,1	2,4	0,80
Inactivity rate	3,4	3,8	2,6	-1,2	6,3	0,18
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,8	5,2	-2,2	-6,6	2,1	0,32
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,4	4,6	-2,3	-6,5	1,9	0,28
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,0	2,7	-0,3	-3,7	3,0	0,85
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,9	2,5	-0,5	-3,8	2,8	0,76

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
	Jul-Sep 2024	Jul-Sep 2025				
Limpopo						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,3	2,3	-100	-204	3	0,06
Employed	2,7	2,9	-4	-102	94	0,93
Unemployed	4,9	5,2	-96	-191	-2	0,05
Outside the Labour Force	3,1	2,7	150	46	253	0,01
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,3	2,3	-3,1	-5,7	-0,6	0,02
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,7	2,9	-0,6	-3,0	1,9	0,65
Inactivity rate	3,1	2,7	3,1	0,6	5,7	0,02
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	3,9	4,5	-2,9	-6,5	0,8	0,12
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,6	3,6	-4,0	-7,7	-0,2	0,04
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,4	3,3	-1,2	-4,4	2,0	0,45
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	1,9	2,9	-2,2	-5,3	1,0	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
	Jul-Sep 2024	Jul-Sep 2025				
Both sexes	0,8	0,8	109	-205	422	0,50
Agriculture	5,4	4,4	-15	-109	79	0,76
Mining	6,8	9,7	-35	-101	31	0,30
Manufacturing	3,1	3,0	-25	-148	98	0,69
Utilities	11,5	13,4	-18	-54	17	0,31
Construction	3,3	3,8	9	-118	135	0,89
Trade	2,2	2,2	-45	-253	162	0,67
Transport	3,9	3,9	66	-47	179	0,25
Finance	2,7	2,5	214	36	392	0,02
Community and social services	1,8	2,0	-33	-229	162	0,74
Private households	3,9	3,9	-17	-124	91	0,76
Women	1,1	1,1	-115	-332	102	0,30
Agriculture	10,5	7,4	-12	-64	39	0,64
Mining	14,2	16,2	-16	-44	13	0,28
Manufacturing	4,4	4,5	-73	-143	-3	0,04
Utilities	19,5	20,9	-2	-19	16	0,86
Construction	9,4	9,0	3	-30	37	0,85
Trade	3,0	3,0	-29	-165	107	0,68
Transport	8,4	9,1	-8	-56	39	0,74
Finance	3,7	3,7	137	33	241	0,01
Community and social services	2,2	2,3	-83	-241	74	0,30
Private households	3,8	4,0	-34	-113	44	0,39
Men	0,9	1,0	224	4	443	0,05
Agriculture	4,7	5,1	-3	-73	68	0,94
Mining	7,7	10,6	-19	-81	42	0,54
Manufacturing	3,7	3,9	48	-51	147	0,34
Utilities	14,4	14,8	-17	-47	14	0,28
Construction	3,5	3,9	5	-112	123	0,93
Trade	2,9	2,9	-16	-160	127	0,82
Transport	4,4	4,0	75	-25	174	0,14
Finance	3,2	3,2	77	-57	211	0,26
Community and social services	2,7	3,1	50	-63	163	0,38
Private households	7,1	6,3	18	-35	70	0,51

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
	Jul-Sep 2024	Jul-Sep 2025				
South Africa	-	0,8	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	1,0	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	2,4	-	-	-	-
Households	-	3,9	-	-	-	-
Western Cape	-	1,6	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	2,0	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	7,2	-	-	-	-
Households	-	11,6	-	-	-	-
Western Cape – Non-Metro	-	2,6	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	2,8	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	10,6	-	-	-	-
Households	-	13,5	-	-	-	-
Western Cape – City of Cape Town	-	2,0	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	2,6	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	9,6	-	-	-	-
Households	-	16,4	-	-	-	-
Eastern Cape	-	3,0	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	3,7	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	7,6	-	-	-	-
Households	-	12,5	-	-	-	-
Eastern Cape – Non-Metro	-	3,5	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	4,7	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	8,6	-	-	-	-
Households	-	18,1	-	-	-	-
Eastern Cape – Buffalo City	-	6,5	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	8,5	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	11,7	-	-	-	-
Households	-	18,9	-	-	-	-

* Definition of sector based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy-therefore estimates of Q3:2025 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
	Jul-Sep 2024	Jul-Sep 2025				
Eastern Cape - Nelson Mandela bay	-	7,8	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	7,6	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	29,8	-	-	-	-
Households	-	14,2	-	-	-	-
Northern Cape	-	7,2	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	8,1	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	14,8	-	-	-	-
Households	-	14,6	-	-	-	-
Free State	-	3,0	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	4,0	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	9,6	-	-	-	-
Households	-	8,9	-	-	-	-
Free State - Non-Metro	-	4,0	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	5,2	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	12,2	-	-	-	-
Households	-	11,9	-	-	-	-
Free State - Mangaung	-	3,8	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	5,5	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	14,1	-	-	-	-
Households	-	8,6	-	-	-	-
KwaZulu-Natal	-	2,3	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	2,6	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	6,4	-	-	-	-
Households	-	8,7	-	-	-	-
KwaZulu-Natal - Non-Metro	-	3,4	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	4,3	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	9,1	-	-	-	-
Households	-	14,3	-	-	-	-

* Definition of sector based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy-therefore estimates of Q3:2025 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
	Jul-Sep 2024	Jul-Sep 2025				
KwaZulu-Natal - eThekweni	-	2,8	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	2,5	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	8,4	-	-	-	-
Households	-	9,1	-	-	-	-
North West	-	3,6	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	4,5	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	10,5	-	-	-	-
Households	-	13,5	-	-	-	-
Gauteng	-	1,3	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	2,0	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	4,6	-	-	-	-
Households	-	8,2	-	-	-	-
Gauteng - Non-Metro	-	4,6	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	4,7	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	12,3	-	-	-	-
Households	-	17,0	-	-	-	-
Gauteng - Ekurhuleni	-	2,0	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	3,6	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	12,0	-	-	-	-
Households	-	14,9	-	-	-	-
Gauteng - City of Johannesburg	-	2,7	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	4,5	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	6,2	-	-	-	-
Households	-	10,1	-	-	-	-
Gauteng - City of Tshwane	-	2,1	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	3,2	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	10,4	-	-	-	-
Households	-	21,7	-	-	-	-

* Definition of sector based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy-therefore estimates of Q3:2025 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
	Jul-Sep 2024	Jul-Sep 2025				
Mpumalanga	-	3,3	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	3,4	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	8,9	-	-	-	-
Households	-	11,5	-	-	-	-
Limpopo	-	2,9	-	-	-	-
Formal sector*	-	4,8	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	6,8	-	-	-	-
Households	-	11,5	-	-	-	-

* Definition of sector based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy-therefore estimates of Q3:2025 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
	Jul-Sep 2024	Jul-Sep 2025				
Both sexes	0,8	0,8	109	-205	422	0,50
Manager	3,8	3,7	-4	-138	129	0,95
Professional	4,5	4,5	83	-20	187	0,12
Technician	3,1	3,2	-16	-141	110	0,81
Clerk	3,0	2,9	15	-136	166	0,85
Sales and services	2,0	2,2	81	-91	253	0,35
Skilled agriculture	14,6	10,7	29	-1	58	0,06
Craft and related trade	2,8	2,8	115	-34	263	0,13
Plant and machine operator	3,8	3,6	12	-110	135	0,84
Elementary	2,0	2,0	-225	-421	-30	0,02
Domestic worker	3,9	3,9	-6	-84	72	0,88
Women	1,1	1,1	-115	-332	102	0,30
Manager	5,8	6,2	24	-64	111	0,60
Professional	5,7	5,2	34	-39	108	0,36
Technician	3,9	4,2	-77	-161	8	0,08
Clerk	3,2	3,5	20	-105	145	0,75
Sales and services	2,6	2,9	39	-76	154	0,50
Skilled agriculture	24,9	25,9	1	-17	20	0,88
Craft and related trade	7,8	7,2	45	-5	96	0,08
Plant and machine operator	10,1	7,8	-1	-48	45	0,96
Elementary	2,8	2,9	-205	-320	-90	0,00
Domestic worker	3,9	4,1	-6	-83	71	0,87
Men	0,9	1,0	224	4	443	0,05
Manager	4,0	3,9	-28	-116	60	0,53
Professional	6,1	6,0	49	-9	106	0,10
Technician	4,5	4,2	61	-24	145	0,16
Clerk	5,8	4,7	-5	-84	73	0,89
Sales and services	3,0	3,0	42	-80	164	0,50
Skilled agriculture	17,1	12,1	27	4	51	0,02
Craft and related trade	3,1	3,0	69	-72	211	0,34
Plant and machine operator	3,9	3,9	14	-98	125	0,81
Elementary	2,3	2,4	-20	-157	116	0,77
Domestic worker	16,5	14,8	1	-21	23	0,96