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STATISTICAL RELEASE

P0211

Quarterly Labour Force Survey

Quarter 4: 2025

Embargoed until:
17 February 2026
11:30

ENQUIRIES:
User Information Services
(012) 310 8600/4892/8390

FORTHCOMING ISSUE:
Quarter 1: 2026

EXPECTED RELEASE DATE:
May 2026

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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 October to December 2025 (Q4: 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 Q4:2025 estimates on informality cannot be compared with the previous estimates other than the results of Q3:2025. (Please refer to concepts and definitions on page 16).

2. Highlights of the results

Table A: Key labour market indicators

| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 2025 | Qrt to Qrt change | Year on year change | Qrt to Qrt change | Year on year change |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Thousand | | | | | % | |
| Population 15-64 years | 41 561 | 41 948 | 42 068 | 120 | 508 | 0,3 | 1,2 |
| Labour Force | 25 069 | 25 062 | 24 935 | -128 | -134 | -0,5 | -0,5 |
| Employment | 17 078 | 17 055 | 17 099 | 44 | 21 | 0,3 | 0,1 |
| Formal sector* | | 11 983 | 12 303 | 320 | | 2,7 | |
| Informal sector* | | 3 961 | 3 667 | -293 | | -7,4 | |
| Household sector | 1 146 | 1 111 | 1 129 | 18 | -17 | 1,6 | -1,5 |
| Unemployment | 7 991 | 8 007 | 7 836 | -172 | -155 | -2,1 | -1,9 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 16 492 | 16 886 | 17 134 | 248 | 642 | 1,5 | 3,9 |
| Potential Labour Force | 4 324 | 4 529 | 4 611 | 82 | 287 | 1,8 | 6,6 |
| Available potential job-seekers | 4 300 | 4 446 | 4 569 | 123 | 269 | 2,8 | 6,3 |
| Discouraged job-seekers | 3 466 | 3 481 | 3 714 | 233 | 249 | 6,7 | 7,2 |
| Other (available potential job-seekers) | 835 | 965 | 855 | -110 | 20 | -11,4 | 2,4 |
| Unavailable job-seekers | 24 | 83 | 42 | -41 | 19 | -49,1 | 78,0 |
| Other (Outside the labour force) | 12 168 | 12 357 | 12 522 | 165 | 355 | 1,3 | 2,9 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%) | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 60,3 | 59,7 | 59,3 | -0,4 | -1,0 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 41,1 | 40,7 | 40,6 | -0,1 | -0,5 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 39,7 | 40,3 | 40,7 | 0,4 | 1,0 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 31,9 | 31,9 | 31,4 | -0,5 | -0,5 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 35,0 | 34,9 | 34,3 | -0,6 | -0,7 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 41,9 | 42,4 | 42,1 | -0,3 | 0,2 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 44,6 | 44,9 | 44,5 | -0,4 | -0,1 | | |

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

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

The working-age population grew by 120 000 (0,3%) in the fourth quarter of 2025 compared with the third quarter. During the same period, the number of employed individuals increased by 44 000 to reach 17,1 million, while the number of unemployed persons declined by 172 000 to 7,8 million. Consequently, the labour force decreased by 128 000 (0,5%) between Q3 and Q4 of 2025. The formal, informal and household sectors employed 12,3 million, 3,7 million and 1,1 million persons, respectively.

Between the third and fourth quarters of 2025, the number of people outside the labour force increased by 248 000 (1,5%). This rise was driven by a growth of 165 000 among those classified as other individuals outside the labour force, along with an increase of 82 000 in the potential labour force. The number of available potential job-seekers rose by 123 000 (2,8%), while unavailable job-seekers declined by 41 000, leading to a net increase of 82 000 in the potential labour force. Among available job-seekers, discouraged job-seekers increased by 233 000 (6,7%), whereas other available potential job-seekers decreased by 110 000, resulting in an overall increase of 123 000 in this category.

An increase in employment and a decrease in unemployment resulted in a decrease of 0,5 of a percentage point in the unemployment rate to 31,4% in the fourth quarter of 2025. The labour force participation rate decreased by 0,4 of a percentage point to 59,3%, and the absorption rate decreased by 0,1 of a percentage point to 40,6% between Q3: 2025 and Q4: 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 34,3% and the combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force (LU3) stood at 42,1% in the fourth quarter of 2025. The labour underutilisation rate (which is the composite measure of labour underutilisation) decreased by 0,4 of a percentage point compared with Q3:2025, and it decreased by 0,1 of a percentage point in Q4:2025 compared with the same quarter of the previous year.

Compared with Q4: 2024, the working-age population increased by 508 000 or 1,2%. Total employment increased by 21 000 persons (or 0,1%), the number of unemployed persons decreased by 155 000, and the number of persons who were outside the labour force increased by 642 000 (or 3,9%) during the same period.

3. Employment

Figure 1: Quarter-to-quarter changes in employment, Q4: 2020 to Q4: 2025

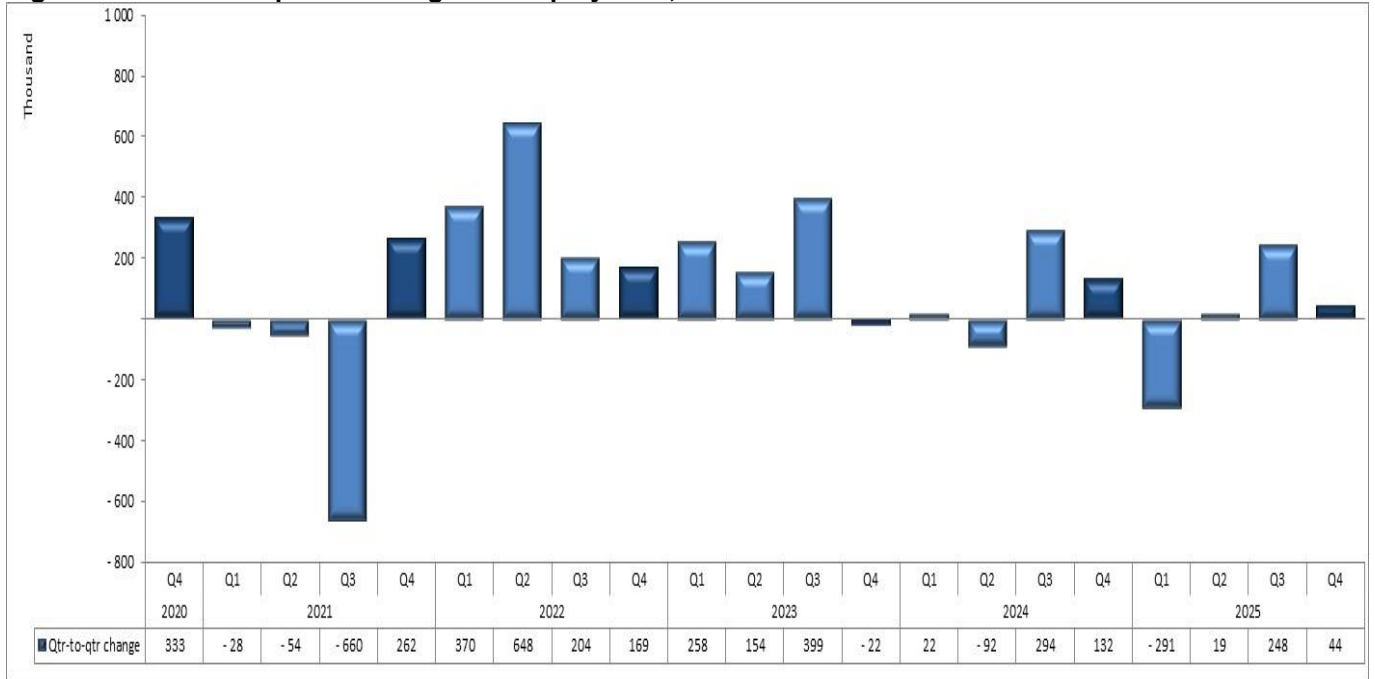


Figure 1 shows that, following an increase of 248 000 in the previous quarter, employment increased by 44 000 in the fourth quarter of 2025. As depicted in Figure 1, employment has always increased in the fourth quarter of each year, except for a decrease in 2023.

Table B: Employment by industry

| Industry | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 2025 | Qtr-to-qtr change | Year-on-year change | Qtr-to-qtr change | Year-on-year change |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Thousand | | | | % | | |
| Total* | 17 078 | 17 055 | 17 099 | 44 | 21 | 0,3 | 0,1 |
| Agriculture | 924 | 920 | 950 | 30 | 26 | 3,3 | 2,8 |
| Mining | 466 | 449 | 444 | -5 | -22 | -1,2 | -4,7 |
| Manufacturing | 1 675 | 1 610 | 1 548 | -61 | -127 | -3,8 | -7,6 |
| Utilities | 111 | 109 | 134 | 24 | 23 | 22,4 | 20,9 |
| Construction | 1 359 | 1 390 | 1 425 | 35 | 65 | 2,5 | 4,8 |
| Trade | 3 421 | 3 424 | 3 326 | -98 | -95 | -2,9 | -2,8 |
| Transport | 1 064 | 1 113 | 1 140 | 28 | 76 | 2,5 | 7,2 |
| Finance | 2 948 | 2 930 | 2 962 | 32 | 14 | 1,1 | 0,5 |
| Community and social services | 3 959 | 3 988 | 4 034 | 46 | 75 | 1,2 | 1,9 |
| Private households | 1 146 | 1 111 | 1 129 | 18 | -17 | 1,6 | -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.

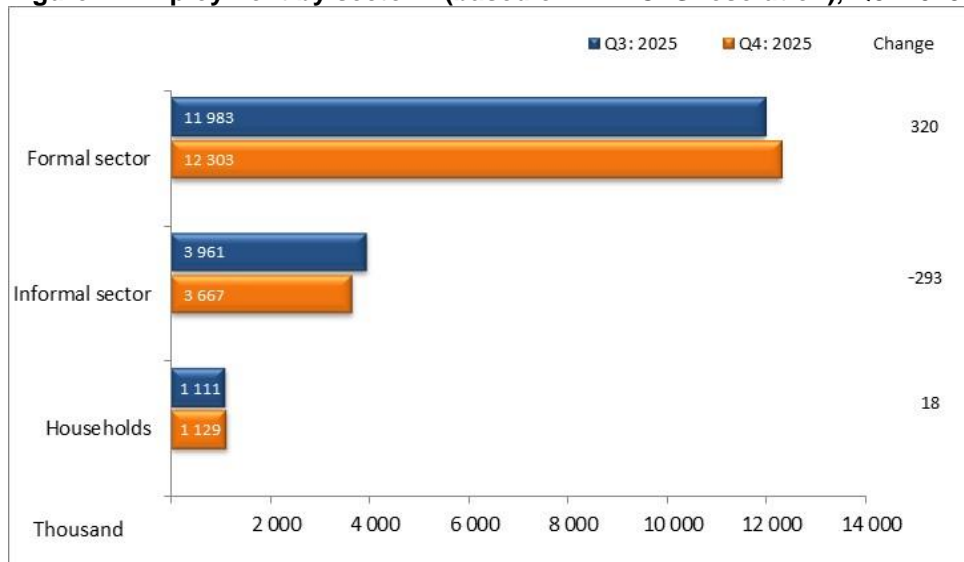
Trade refers to wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods; hotels and restaurants.

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

Table B shows that between Q3: 2025 and Q4: 2025, the number of employed persons increased in seven of the ten industries. The largest increases in employment were recorded in the Community and social services industry (46 000), followed by the Construction (35 000), Finance (32 000) and Agriculture (30 000) industries. Decreases in employment were recorded in Trade (98 000), followed by the Manufacturing (61 000) and Mining (5 000) industries.

Compared with the same period last year, a net increase of 21 000 in total employment in Q4: 2025 was largely due to increases in the number of people employed in the Transport (76 000), Community and social services (75 000) and Construction (65 000) industries. Losses in employment were recorded in Manufacturing (127 000), followed by Trade (95 000), Mining (22 000) and Private households (17 000).

Figure 2: Employment by sector – (based on 21st ICLS resolution), Q3: 2025 and Q4: 2025



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

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

Figure 2 indicates the results of Q3: 2025 and Q4: 2025 based on the 21st ICLS resolution which recommends the three categories of sector, namely the formal sector (including Agriculture), informal sector (including Agriculture) and households sector. Between Q3: 2025 and Q4: 2025, informal sector employment decreased by 293 000 persons while the formal sector and households sector increased by 320 000 and 18 000 persons respectively.

Table C: Employment by occupation

| Occupation | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 2025 | Qtr-to-qtr change | Year-on-year change | Qtr-to-qtr change | Year-on-year change |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Thousand | | | | % | | |
| Total* | 17 078 | 17 055 | 17 099 | 44 | 21 | 0,3 | 0,1 |
| Manager | 1 496 | 1 453 | 1 433 | -20 | -62 | -1,3 | -4,2 |
| Professional | 869 | 909 | 952 | 43 | 83 | 4,7 | 9,6 |
| Technician | 1 398 | 1 488 | 1 575 | 87 | 177 | 5,9 | 12,7 |
| Clerk | 1 897 | 1 856 | 1 820 | -36 | -77 | -1,9 | -4,0 |
| Sales and services | 2 949 | 3 073 | 3 079 | 7 | 130 | 0,2 | 4,4 |
| Skilled agriculture | 71 | 97 | 60 | -37 | -12 | -38,6 | -16,4 |
| Craft and related trade | 1 932 | 1 991 | 1 943 | -48 | 11 | -2,4 | 0,6 |
| Plant and machine operator | 1 389 | 1 413 | 1 427 | 14 | 38 | 1,0 | 2,7 |
| Elementary | 4 215 | 3 903 | 3 916 | 14 | -299 | 0,3 | -7,1 |
| Domestic worker | 861 | 848 | 855 | 7 | -7 | 0,8 | -0,8 |

*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 Q4: 2025 compared with Q3: 2025. Increases in employment were observed in Technician occupations (87 000), followed by Professional (43 000), Elementary and Plant and machine operator (14 000 each), Domestic worker and Sales and services occupations (7 000 each). During the same period, employment losses were recorded in Craft and related trade (48 000), followed by Skilled agriculture (37 000), Clerical (36 000) and Managerial (20 000) occupations.

Year-on-year gains in employment were mainly driven by Technician occupations (177 000), followed by Sales and services (130 000) and Professional (83 000) occupations. Losses in employment were recorded among Elementary (299 000), Clerical (77 000), Managerial (62 000), Skilled agriculture (12 000) and Domestic worker (7 000) occupations.

Table D: Employment by province

| Province | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 2025 | Qtr-to-qtr change | Year-on-year change | Qtr-to-qtr change | Year-on-year change |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Thousand | | | | % | | |
| South Africa | 17 078 | 17 055 | 17 099 | 44 | 21 | 0,3 | 0,1 |
| Western Cape | 2 812 | 2 814 | 2 907 | 93 | 95 | 3,3 | 3,4 |
| Eastern Cape | 1 455 | 1 408 | 1 377 | -32 | -79 | -2,2 | -5,4 |
| Northern Cape | 355 | 319 | 337 | 17 | -18 | 5,5 | -5,0 |
| Free State | 750 | 782 | 771 | -11 | 21 | -1,4 | 2,8 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 2 892 | 2 757 | 2 716 | -41 | -176 | -1,5 | -6,1 |
| North West | 935 | 937 | 973 | 36 | 38 | 3,9 | 4,1 |
| Gauteng | 5 081 | 5 237 | 5 183 | -54 | 102 | -1,0 | 2,0 |
| Mpumalanga | 1 255 | 1 246 | 1 283 | 37 | 29 | 3,0 | 2,3 |
| Limpopo | 1 543 | 1 555 | 1 552 | -3 | 9 | -0,2 | 0,6 |

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

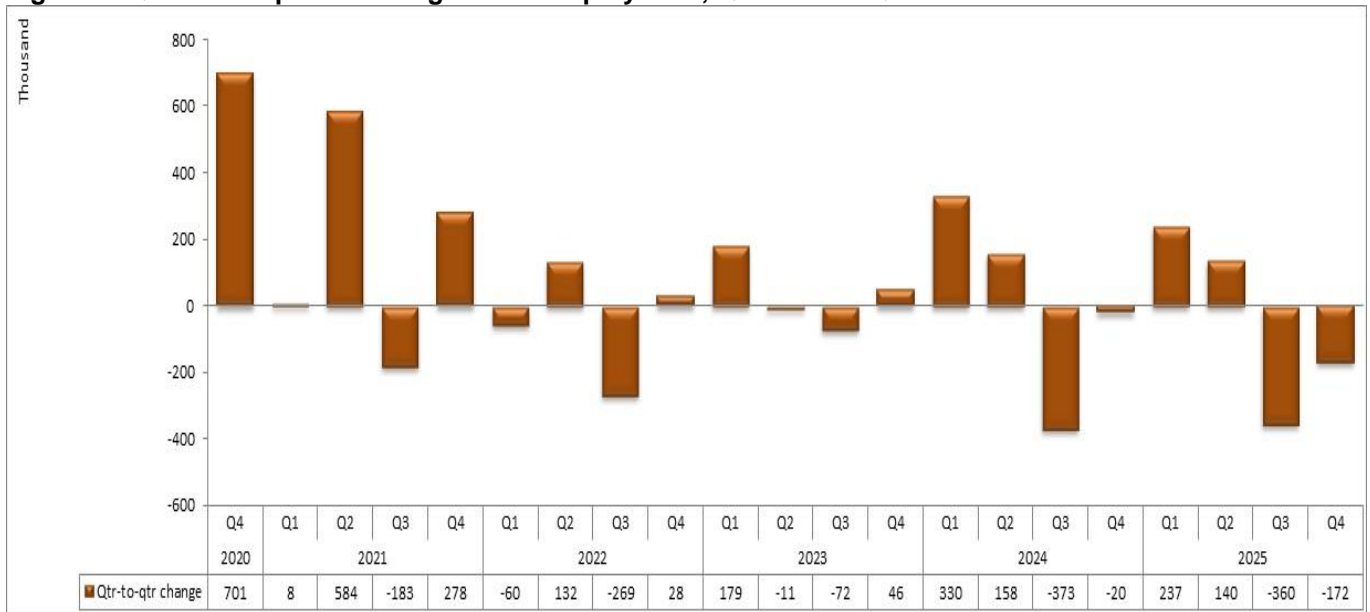
Table D shows that the number of employed persons increased in four provinces between Q3: 2025 and Q4: 2025. Employment gains were recorded in Western Cape (93 000), Mpumalanga (37 000), North West (36 000) and Northern Cape (17 000). During the same period, the largest employment losses were recorded in Gauteng (54 000), KwaZulu-Natal (41 000) and Eastern Cape (32 000).

Compared with Q4: 2024, increases in employment were recorded in Gauteng (102 000), Western Cape (95 000), North West (38 000), Mpumalanga (29 000), Free State (21 000) and Limpopo (9 000). Decreases in employment were recorded in KwaZulu-Natal (176 000), followed by Eastern Cape (79 000) and Northern Cape (18 000).

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

4.1 Unemployment

Figure 3: Quarter-to-quarter changes in unemployment, Q4: 2020 to Q4: 2025



The number of unemployed persons decreased by 172 000 in Q4: 2025 following a decrease of 360 000 in the previous quarter. Notably, Figure 3 shows that unemployment has always increased in the fourth quarter of each year, except for the decreases observed in 2024 and 2025.

Figure 4a: Unemployment rate by education level, Q3: 2025 and Q4: 2025

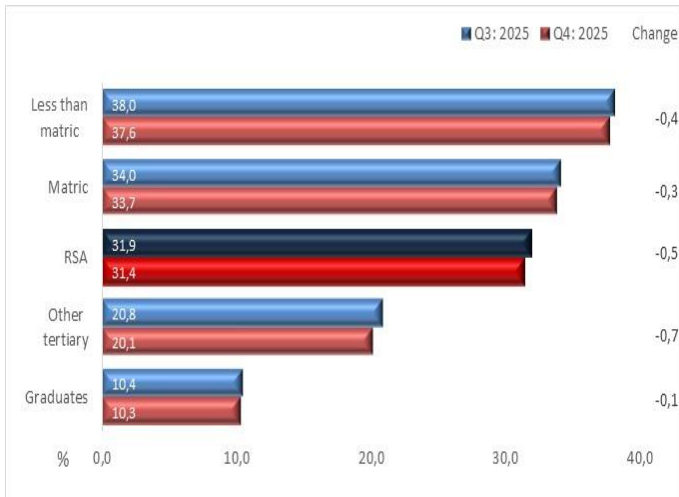
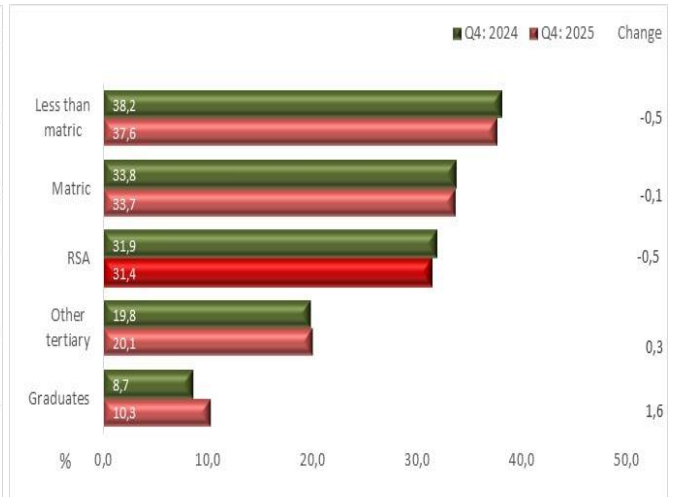


Figure 4b: Unemployment rate by education level, Q4: 2024 and Q4: 2025



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

Figures 4a and 4b show that in Q4: 2025, individuals without matric recorded an unemployment rate of 37,6% (down by 0,4 of a percentage point), while graduates had a rate of 10,3% (down by 0,1 of a percentage point) 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 and below but increased among graduates and those with other tertiary education levels.

Table E: Unemployment rate by province

| | Official unemployment rate | | | | | Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force (LU3) | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------------|--|--------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 2025 | Qtr-to-qtr change | Year-on-year change | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 2025 | Qtr-to-qtr change | Year-on-year change |
| | % | | | Percentage points | | % | | | Percentage points | |
| South Africa | 31,9 | 31,9 | 31,4 | -0,5 | -0,5 | 41,9 | 42,4 | 42,1 | -0,3 | 0,2 |
| Western Cape | 19,6 | 19,7 | 18,1 | -1,6 | -1,5 | 24,9 | 25,8 | 23,7 | -2,1 | -1,2 |
| Eastern Cape | 36,6 | 41,2 | 42,5 | 1,3 | 5,9 | 47,6 | 50,2 | 51,4 | 1,2 | 3,8 |
| Northern Cape | 27,4 | 31,2 | 27,1 | -4,1 | -0,3 | 39,8 | 46,5 | 42,9 | -3,6 | 3,1 |
| Free State | 37,9 | 36,2 | 37,2 | 1,0 | -0,7 | 44,3 | 42,7 | 44,1 | 1,4 | -0,2 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 28,6 | 31,7 | 32,3 | 0,6 | 3,7 | 44,7 | 46,6 | 47,1 | 0,5 | 2,4 |
| North West | 41,3 | 38,1 | 35,1 | -3,0 | -6,2 | 52,8 | 52,5 | 50,9 | -1,6 | -1,9 |
| Gauteng | 34,4 | 33,1 | 33,0 | -0,1 | -1,4 | 39,9 | 39,6 | 39,4 | -0,2 | -0,5 |
| Mpumalanga | 34,7 | 34,0 | 32,3 | -1,7 | -2,4 | 47,2 | 47,5 | 46,3 | -1,2 | -0,9 |
| Limpopo | 31,9 | 29,8 | 28,2 | -1,6 | -3,7 | 46,5 | 45,1 | 46,1 | 1,0 | -0,4 |

The official unemployment rate decreased by 0,5 of a percentage point to 31,4% in Q4: 2025 compared with Q3: 2025. The official unemployment rate decreased in six of the nine provinces. The largest decreases were recorded in Northern Cape (4,1 percentage points), followed by North West (3,0 percentage points) and Mpumalanga (1,7 percentage points). Increases in the unemployment rate were recorded in the Eastern Cape (1,3 percentage points), Free State (1,0 percentage point) and KwaZulu-Natal (0,6 of a percentage point).

Year-on-year, the official unemployment rate decreased by 0,5 of a percentage point. The official unemployment rate decreased in seven provinces. The largest decreases in the unemployment rate were recorded in North West (6,2 percentage points), followed by Limpopo (3,7 percentage points), and Mpumalanga (2,4 percentage points). Increases in the unemployment rate were recorded in Eastern Cape (5,9 percentage points) and KwaZulu-Natal (3,7 percentage points).

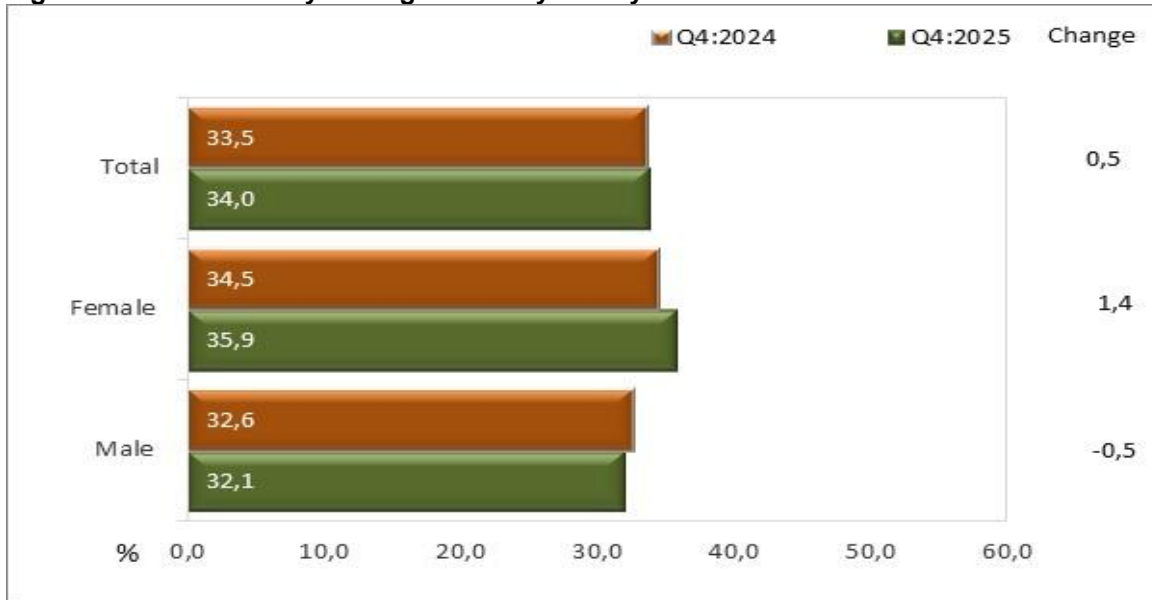
The combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force decreased by 0,3 of a percentage point in Q4: 2025 compared with Q3: 2025. This rate decreased in five provinces. The largest decreases were recorded in Northern Cape (3,6 percentage points), followed by Western Cape (2,1 percentage points) and North West (1,6 percentage points). Increases were recorded in Free State (1,4 percentage points), Eastern Cape (1,2 percentage points), Limpopo (1,0 percentage point) and KwaZulu-Natal (0,5 of a percentage point).

Compared with the same period last year, the combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force increased by 0,2 of a percentage point in Q4: 2025. Three out of the nine provinces recorded increases in the combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force. The increases in the combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force were recorded in Eastern Cape (3,8 percentage points), followed by Northern Cape (3,1 percentage points) and KwaZulu-Natal (2,4 percentage points). The largest decreases in the combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force were recorded in North West (1,9 percentage points), Western Cape (1,2 percentage points) and Mpumalanga (0,9 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.

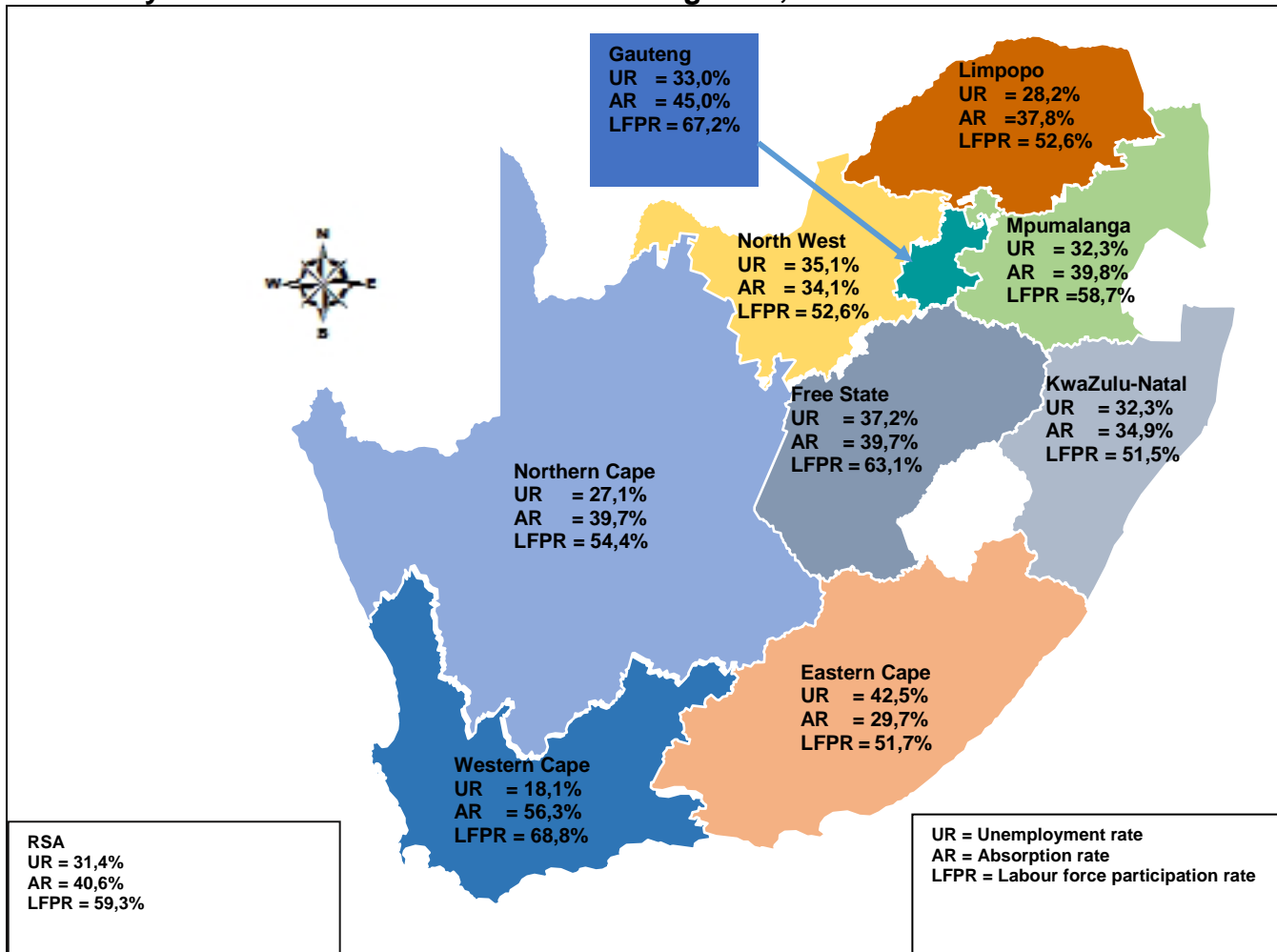
Figure 5: NEET rate for youth aged 15–24 years by sex



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

There were about 10,3 million young people aged 15–24 years in Q4: 2025, of which 34,0% were not in employment, education or training. This is 0,5 of a percentage point higher than the NEET rate in Q4: 2024. In this age group, the NEET rate for females increased by 1,4 percentage points while the rate for males decreased by 0,5 of a percentage point. The NEET rate for females was higher than that of their male counterparts in both years.

5. Summary of the labour market measures at a glance, Q4: 2025

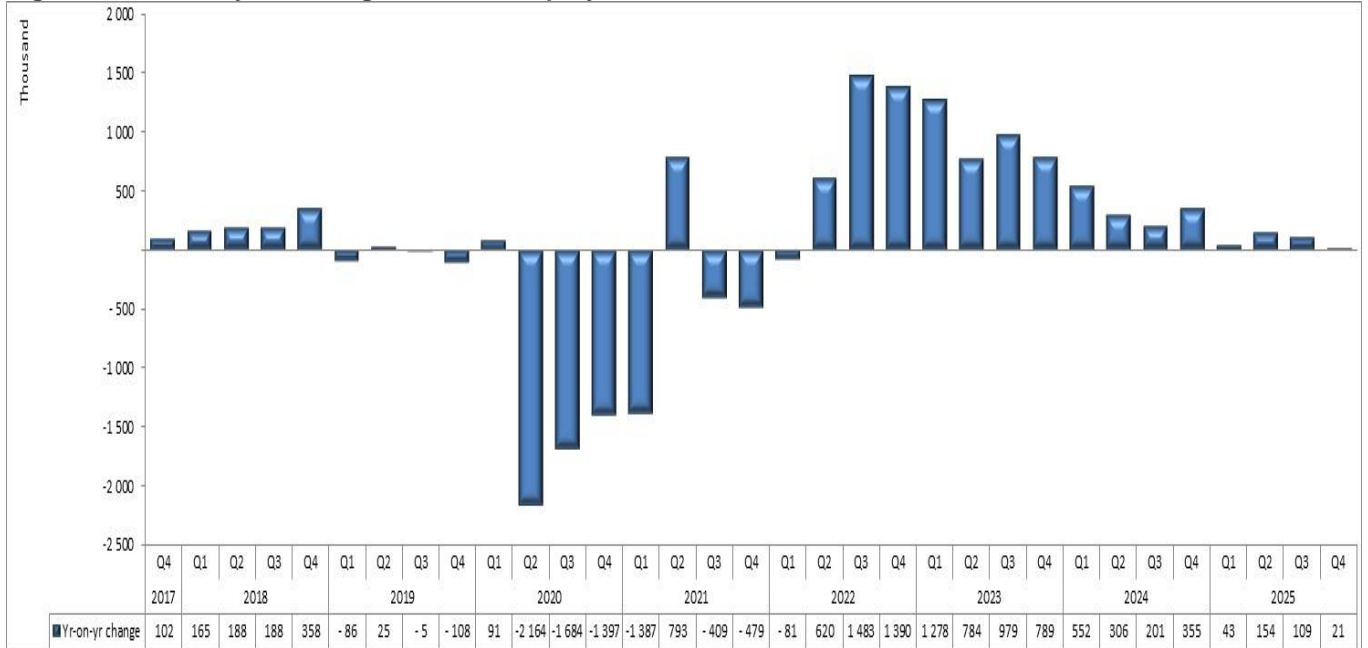


Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

6. Other labour market trends

6.1 Year-on-year changes

Figure 6: Year-on-year changes in total employment, Q4: 2017 to Q4: 2025



6.2 Trends in the unemployment rate

Figure 7: Unemployment rate by sex, Q4: 2017 to Q4: 2025

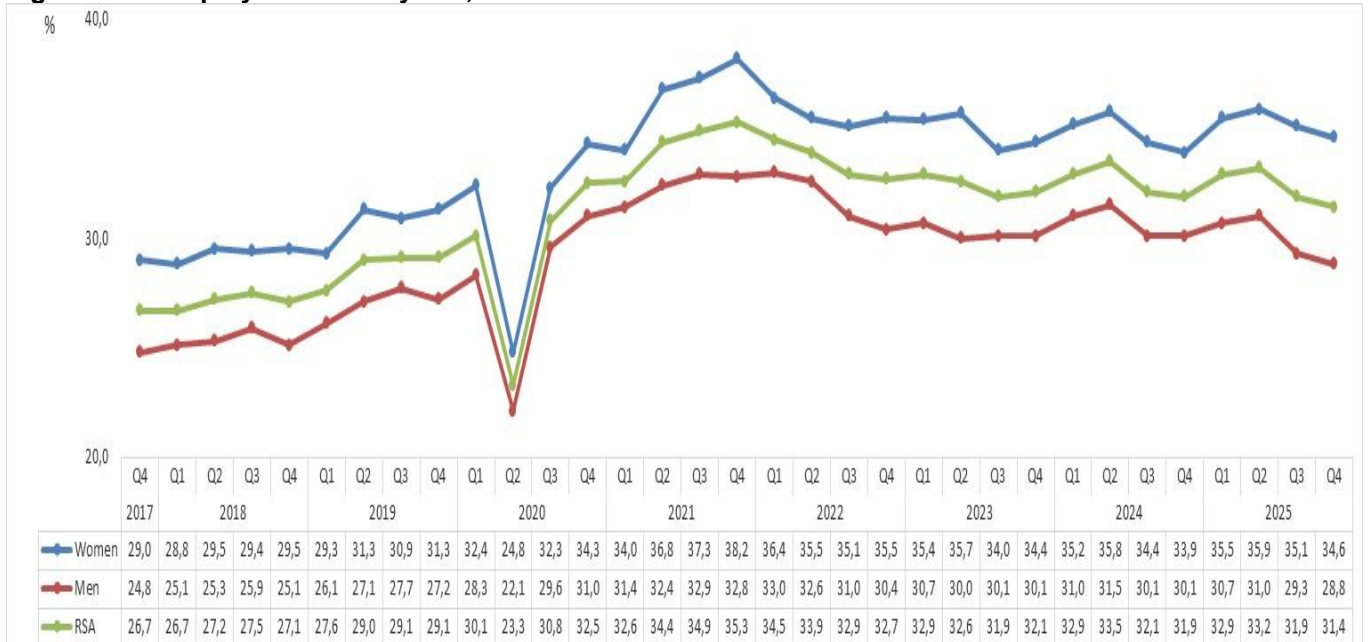
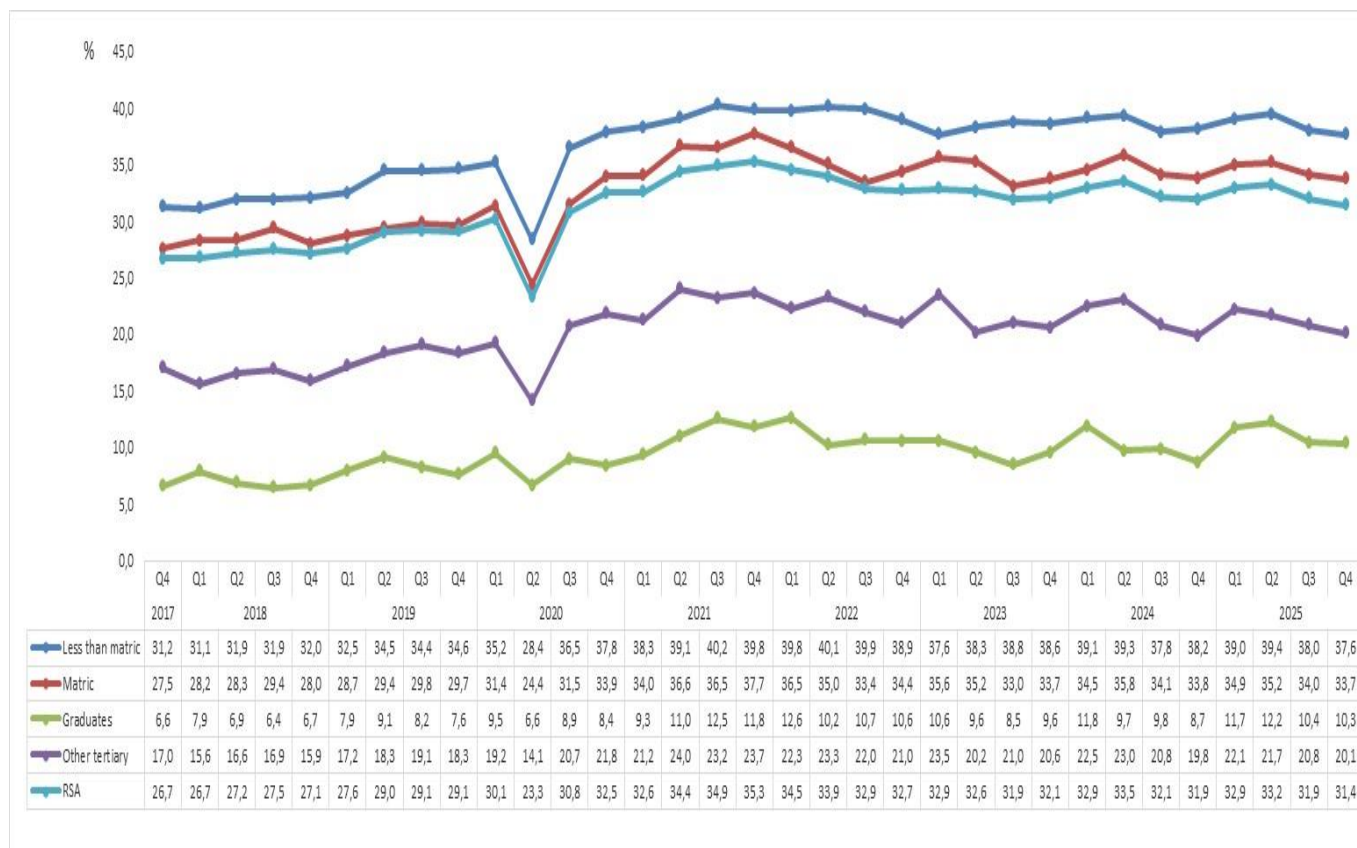


Figure 8: Unemployment rate by education status, Q4: 2017 to Q4: 2025



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 |

8. Technical notes

8.1 Response details

Table G: Response rates by province and metropolitan area

| Province / metropolitan area | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 2025 |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| National | 86,1 | 87,2 |
| Western Cape | 81,2 | 81,2 |
| Non-metro | 86,1 | 86,4 |
| City of Cape Town | 79,0 | 78,9 |
| Eastern Cape | 93,3 | 94,5 |
| Non-metro | 93,1 | 94,4 |
| Buffalo City | 94,9 | 94,7 |
| Nelson Mandela Bay | 92,7 | 94,5 |
| Northern Cape | 86,1 | 86,6 |
| Free State | 93,1 | 93,9 |
| Non-metro | 94,5 | 94,9 |
| Mangaung | 89,8 | 91,7 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 90,6 | 91,8 |
| Non-metro | 93,0 | 92,8 |
| eThekweni | 86,8 | 90,2 |
| North West | 89,8 | 92,3 |
| Gauteng | 74,6 | 75,9 |
| Non-metro | 82,4 | 83,0 |
| Ekurhuleni | 78,2 | 79,1 |
| City of Johannesburg | 67,5 | 69,0 |
| City of Tshwane | 78,3 | 80,2 |
| Mpumalanga | 94,0 | 95,4 |
| Limpopo | 94,9 | 96,1 |

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.
Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Quarter 4: 2025

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) | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 41 561 | 41 691 | 41 822 | 41 948 | 42 068 | 120 | 508 | 0,3 | 1,2 |
| Women | 20 920 | 20 982 | 21 043 | 21 103 | 21 158 | 56 | 238 | 0,3 | 1,1 |
| Men | 20 640 | 20 709 | 20 778 | 20 846 | 20 910 | 64 | 270 | 0,3 | 1,3 |
| Population groups | 41 561 | 41 691 | 41 822 | 41 948 | 42 068 | 120 | 508 | 0,3 | 1,2 |
| Black/African | 34 137 | 34 270 | 34 403 | 34 532 | 34 656 | 123 | 519 | 0,4 | 1,5 |
| Coloured | 3 616 | 3 620 | 3 624 | 3 629 | 3 633 | 4 | 17 | 0,1 | 0,5 |
| Indian/Asian | 1 058 | 1 060 | 1 062 | 1 064 | 1 066 | 2 | 8 | 0,2 | 0,8 |
| White | 2 750 | 2 741 | 2 733 | 2 724 | 2 715 | -9 | -36 | -0,3 | -1,3 |
| South Africa | 41 561 | 41 691 | 41 822 | 41 948 | 42 068 | 120 | 508 | 0,3 | 1,2 |
| Western Cape | 5 090 | 5 108 | 5 126 | 5 143 | 5 160 | 16 | 70 | 0,3 | 1,4 |
| Eastern Cape | 4 579 | 4 592 | 4 605 | 4 618 | 4 629 | 12 | 50 | 0,3 | 1,1 |
| Northern Cape | 843 | 844 | 846 | 847 | 849 | 1 | 6 | 0,2 | 0,7 |
| Free State | 1 941 | 1 942 | 1 943 | 1 944 | 1 944 | 0 | 3 | 0,0 | 0,1 |
| KwaZulu Natal | 7 683 | 7 707 | 7 732 | 7 756 | 7 779 | 23 | 96 | 0,3 | 1,3 |
| North West | 2 817 | 2 826 | 2 834 | 2 843 | 2 851 | 8 | 35 | 0,3 | 1,2 |
| Gauteng | 11 358 | 11 399 | 11 440 | 11 480 | 11 518 | 38 | 160 | 0,3 | 1,4 |
| Mpumalanga | 3 189 | 3 199 | 3 209 | 3 219 | 3 228 | 9 | 40 | 0,3 | 1,2 |
| Limpopo | 4 061 | 4 074 | 4 086 | 4 098 | 4 110 | 11 | 48 | 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 | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 41 561 | 41 691 | 41 822 | 41 948 | 42 068 | 120 | 508 | 0,3 | 1,2 |
| Labour Force | 25 069 | 25 015 | 25 174 | 25 062 | 24 935 | -128 | -134 | -0,5 | -0,5 |
| Employed | 17 078 | 16 787 | 16 807 | 17 055 | 17 099 | 44 | 21 | 0,3 | 0,1 |
| Formal sector | | | | 11 983 | 12 303 | 320 | | 2,7 | |
| Informal sector | | | | 3 961 | 3 667 | -293 | | -7,4 | |
| Household sector | 1 146 | 1 078 | 1 106 | 1 111 | 1 129 | 18 | -17 | 1,6 | -1,5 |
| Unemployed | 7 991 | 8 228 | 8 367 | 8 007 | 7 836 | -172 | -155 | -2,1 | -1,9 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 16 492 | 16 676 | 16 648 | 16 886 | 17 134 | 248 | 642 | 1,5 | 3,9 |
| Potential Labour Force | 4 324 | 4 480 | 4 299 | 4 529 | 4 611 | 82 | 287 | 1,8 | 6,6 |
| Available potential jobseekers | 4 300 | 4 464 | 4 280 | 4 446 | 4 569 | 123 | 269 | 2,8 | 6,3 |
| Discouraged work-seekers | 3 466 | 3 473 | 3 445 | 3 481 | 3 714 | 233 | 249 | 6,7 | 7,2 |
| Other (available potential jobseekers) | 835 | 991 | 836 | 965 | 855 | -110 | 20 | -11,4 | 2,4 |
| Unavailable jobseekers | 24 | 15 | 19 | 83 | 42 | -41 | 19 | -49,1 | 78,0 |
| Other (Outside the labour force) | 12 168 | 12 196 | 12 348 | 12 357 | 12 522 | 165 | 355 | 1,3 | 2,9 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 60,3 | 60,0 | 60,2 | 59,7 | 59,3 | -0,4 | -1,0 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 41,1 | 40,3 | 40,2 | 40,7 | 40,6 | -0,1 | -0,5 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 39,7 | 40,0 | 39,8 | 40,3 | 40,7 | 0,4 | 1,0 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 31,9 | 32,9 | 33,2 | 31,9 | 31,4 | -0,5 | -0,5 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 35,0 | 36,0 | 36,1 | 34,9 | 34,3 | -0,6 | -0,7 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 41,9 | 43,1 | 43,0 | 42,4 | 42,1 | -0,3 | 0,2 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 44,6 | 45,7 | 45,4 | 44,9 | 44,5 | -0,4 | -0,1 | | |

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

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

| Table 2: Labour force characteristics by sex - All population groups (continued) | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 20 920 | 20 982 | 21 043 | 21 103 | 21 158 | 56 | 238 | 0,3 | 1,1 |
| Labour Force | 11 557 | 11 491 | 11 549 | 11 450 | 11 419 | -31 | -138 | -0,3 | -1,2 |
| Employed | 7 636 | 7 412 | 7 400 | 7 429 | 7 470 | 41 | -165 | 0,5 | -2,2 |
| Formal sector | | | | 5 318 | 5 465 | 147 | | 2,8 | |
| Informal sector | | | | 1 292 | 1 161 | -131 | | -10,1 | |
| Household sector | 856 | 830 | 840 | 819 | 844 | 24 | -12 | 3,0 | -1,4 |
| Unemployed | 3 922 | 4 078 | 4 149 | 4 020 | 3 949 | -71 | 27 | -1,8 | 0,7 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 9 363 | 9 491 | 9 494 | 9 653 | 9 739 | 86 | 376 | 0,9 | 4,0 |
| Potential Labour Force | 2 396 | 2 516 | 2 432 | 2 554 | 2 569 | 15 | 173 | 0,6 | 7,2 |
| Available potential jobseekers | 2 385 | 2 509 | 2 424 | 2 504 | 2 541 | 36 | 156 | 1,4 | 6,5 |
| Discouraged work-seekers | 1 869 | 1 895 | 1 912 | 1 884 | 1 982 | 99 | 113 | 5,2 | 6,1 |
| Other (available potential jobseekers) | 516 | 613 | 511 | 621 | 558 | -63 | 43 | -10,1 | 8,3 |
| Unavailable jobseekers | 11 | 7 | 9 | 49 | 28 | -21 | 17 | -43,4 | 153,2 |
| Other (Outside the Labour Force) | 6 967 | 6 975 | 7 062 | 7 099 | 7 171 | 71 | 203 | 1,0 | 2,9 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 55,2 | 54,8 | 54,9 | 54,3 | 54,0 | -0,3 | -1,2 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 36,5 | 35,3 | 35,2 | 35,2 | 35,3 | 0,1 | -1,2 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 44,8 | 45,2 | 45,1 | 45,7 | 46,0 | 0,3 | 1,2 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 33,9 | 35,5 | 35,9 | 35,1 | 34,6 | -0,5 | 0,7 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 37,5 | 39,1 | 39,2 | 38,6 | 37,9 | -0,7 | 0,4 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 45,3 | 47,1 | 47,1 | 46,9 | 46,6 | -0,3 | 1,3 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 48,2 | 50,0 | 49,8 | 49,8 | 49,3 | -0,5 | 1,1 | | |

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

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

| Table 2: Labour force characteristics by sex - All population groups (concluded) | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 20 640 | 20 709 | 20 778 | 20 846 | 20 910 | 64 | 270 | 0,3 | 1,3 |
| Labour Force | 13 512 | 13 524 | 13 625 | 13 613 | 13 516 | -97 | 4 | -0,7 | 0,0 |
| Employed | 9 442 | 9 375 | 9 407 | 9 625 | 9 629 | 3 | 186 | 0,0 | 2,0 |
| Formal sector | | | | 6 665 | 6 838 | 173 | | 2,6 | |
| Informal sector | | | | 2 668 | 2 506 | -163 | | -6,1 | |
| Household sector | 291 | 248 | 266 | 292 | 285 | -7 | -6 | -2,4 | -1,9 |
| Unemployed | 4 069 | 4 150 | 4 218 | 3 987 | 3 887 | -100 | -182 | -2,5 | -4,5 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 7 129 | 7 185 | 7 153 | 7 233 | 7 395 | 161 | 266 | 2,2 | 3,7 |
| Potential Labour Force | 1 928 | 1 964 | 1 867 | 1 975 | 2 043 | 67 | 115 | 3,4 | 5,9 |
| Available potential jobseekers | 1 915 | 1 956 | 1 857 | 1 941 | 2 028 | 87 | 113 | 4,5 | 5,9 |
| Discouraged work-seekers | 1 597 | 1 578 | 1 532 | 1 597 | 1 732 | 135 | 135 | 8,4 | 8,5 |
| Other (available potential jobseekers) | 319 | 378 | 324 | 344 | 296 | -48 | -22 | -13,9 | -7,0 |
| Unavailable jobseekers | 13 | 8 | 10 | 34 | 15 | -20 | 2 | -57,3 | 13,4 |
| Other (Outside the Labour Force) | 5 200 | 5 221 | 5 286 | 5 258 | 5 352 | 94 | 151 | 1,8 | 2,9 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 65,5 | 65,3 | 65,6 | 65,3 | 64,6 | -0,7 | -0,9 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 45,7 | 45,3 | 45,3 | 46,2 | 46,0 | -0,2 | 0,3 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 34,5 | 34,7 | 34,4 | 34,7 | 35,4 | 0,7 | 0,9 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 30,1 | 30,7 | 31,0 | 29,3 | 28,8 | -0,5 | -1,3 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 32,9 | 33,4 | 33,4 | 31,9 | 31,2 | -0,7 | -1,7 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 38,8 | 39,5 | 39,3 | 38,3 | 38,1 | -0,2 | -0,7 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 41,3 | 41,9 | 41,4 | 40,5 | 40,2 | -0,3 | -1,1 | | |

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

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

| Table 2.1: Labour force characteristics by population group | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 41 561 | 41 691 | 41 822 | 41 948 | 42 068 | 120 | 508 | 0,3 | 1,2 |
| Labour Force | 25 069 | 25 015 | 25 174 | 25 062 | 24 935 | -128 | -134 | -0,5 | -0,5 |
| Employed | 17 078 | 16 787 | 16 807 | 17 055 | 17 099 | 44 | 21 | 0,3 | 0,1 |
| Unemployed | 7 991 | 8 228 | 8 367 | 8 007 | 7 836 | -172 | -155 | -2,1 | -1,9 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 16 492 | 16 676 | 16 648 | 16 886 | 17 134 | 248 | 642 | 1,5 | 3,9 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 60,3 | 60,0 | 60,2 | 59,7 | 59,3 | -0,4 | -1,0 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 41,1 | 40,3 | 40,2 | 40,7 | 40,6 | -0,1 | -0,5 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 39,7 | 40,0 | 39,8 | 40,3 | 40,7 | 0,4 | 1,0 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 31,9 | 32,9 | 33,2 | 31,9 | 31,4 | -0,5 | -0,5 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 35,0 | 36,0 | 36,1 | 34,9 | 34,3 | -0,6 | -0,7 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 41,9 | 43,1 | 43,0 | 42,4 | 42,1 | -0,3 | 0,2 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 44,6 | 45,7 | 45,4 | 44,9 | 44,5 | -0,4 | -0,1 | | |
| Black/African | | | | | | | | | |
| Population 15-64 years | 34 137 | 34 270 | 34 403 | 34 532 | 34 656 | 123 | 519 | 0,4 | 1,5 |
| Labour Force | 20 323 | 20 196 | 20 434 | 20 370 | 20 179 | -191 | -144 | -0,9 | -0,7 |
| Employed | 13 048 | 12 727 | 12 848 | 13 082 | 13 058 | -23 | 10 | -0,2 | 0,1 |
| Unemployed | 7 275 | 7 469 | 7 586 | 7 289 | 7 121 | -168 | -154 | -2,3 | -2,1 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 13 814 | 14 074 | 13 969 | 14 162 | 14 476 | 314 | 662 | 2,2 | 4,8 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 59,5 | 58,9 | 59,4 | 59,0 | 58,2 | -0,8 | -1,3 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 38,2 | 37,1 | 37,3 | 37,9 | 37,7 | -0,2 | -0,5 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 40,5 | 41,1 | 40,6 | 41,0 | 41,8 | 0,8 | 1,3 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 35,8 | 37,0 | 37,1 | 35,8 | 35,3 | -0,5 | -0,5 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 39,2 | 40,5 | 40,2 | 39,1 | 38,5 | -0,6 | -0,7 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 46,2 | 47,6 | 47,0 | 46,4 | 46,3 | -0,1 | 0,1 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 49,1 | 50,4 | 49,6 | 49,1 | 49,0 | -0,1 | -0,1 | | |

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) | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 3 616 | 3 620 | 3 624 | 3 629 | 3 633 | 4 | 17 | 0,1 | 0,5 |
| Labour Force | 2 237 | 2 263 | 2 215 | 2 167 | 2 215 | 48 | -22 | 2,2 | -1,0 |
| Employed | 1 737 | 1 730 | 1 683 | 1 687 | 1 746 | 58 | 9 | 3,5 | 0,5 |
| Unemployed | 500 | 533 | 532 | 479 | 469 | -10 | -31 | -2,1 | -6,1 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 1 379 | 1 357 | 1 409 | 1 462 | 1 418 | -44 | 39 | -3,0 | 2,8 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 61,9 | 62,5 | 61,1 | 59,7 | 61,0 | 1,3 | -0,9 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 48,0 | 47,8 | 46,4 | 46,5 | 48,1 | 1,6 | 0,1 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 38,1 | 37,5 | 38,9 | 40,3 | 39,0 | -1,3 | 0,9 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 22,3 | 23,6 | 24,0 | 22,1 | 21,2 | -0,9 | -1,1 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 24,6 | 26,1 | 26,2 | 24,8 | 23,4 | -1,4 | -1,2 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 31,0 | 32,7 | 34,6 | 33,4 | 31,7 | -1,7 | 0,7 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 33,0 | 35,0 | 36,4 | 35,6 | 33,6 | -2,0 | 0,6 | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Indian/Asian | | | | | | | | | |
| Population 15-64 years | 1 058 | 1 060 | 1 062 | 1 064 | 1 066 | 2 | 8 | 0,2 | 0,8 |
| Labour Force | 661 | 649 | 621 | 593 | 620 | 28 | -41 | 4,7 | -6,2 |
| Employed | 569 | 562 | 527 | 510 | 529 | 19 | -39 | 3,8 | -6,9 |
| Unemployed | 92 | 86 | 94 | 83 | 91 | 8 | -1 | 10,0 | -1,6 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 396 | 411 | 441 | 471 | 445 | -26 | 49 | -5,5 | 12,3 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 62,5 | 61,2 | 58,5 | 55,7 | 58,2 | 2,5 | -4,3 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 53,8 | 53,1 | 49,7 | 48,0 | 49,7 | 1,7 | -4,1 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 37,5 | 38,8 | 41,5 | 44,3 | 41,8 | -2,5 | 4,3 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 14,0 | 13,3 | 15,1 | 13,9 | 14,7 | 0,8 | 0,7 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 14,9 | 13,5 | 16,1 | 15,5 | 15,0 | -0,5 | 0,1 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 22,5 | 20,3 | 21,2 | 24,0 | 23,6 | -0,4 | 1,1 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 23,4 | 20,4 | 22,1 | 25,4 | 23,9 | -1,5 | 0,5 | | |

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

Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Quarter 4: 2025

| Table 2.1: Labour force characteristics by population group (concluded) | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 2 750 | 2 741 | 2 733 | 2 724 | 2 715 | -9 | -36 | -0,3 | -1,3 |
| Labour Force | 1 848 | 1 907 | 1 904 | 1 932 | 1 920 | -12 | 72 | -0,6 | 3,9 |
| Employed | 1 724 | 1 768 | 1 748 | 1 776 | 1 765 | -11 | 41 | -0,6 | 2,4 |
| Unemployed | 124 | 139 | 156 | 157 | 155 | -2 | 31 | -1,1 | 24,8 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 902 | 834 | 829 | 791 | 795 | 3 | -108 | 0,4 | -12,0 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 67,2 | 69,6 | 69,7 | 71,0 | 70,7 | -0,3 | 3,5 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 62,7 | 64,5 | 64,0 | 65,2 | 65,0 | -0,2 | 2,3 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 32,8 | 30,4 | 30,3 | 29,0 | 29,3 | 0,3 | -3,5 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 6,7 | 7,3 | 8,2 | 8,1 | 8,1 | 0,0 | 1,4 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 8,6 | 8,5 | 9,5 | 8,8 | 8,9 | 0,1 | 0,3 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 9,2 | 9,2 | 11,3 | 10,3 | 10,0 | -0,3 | 0,8 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 11,0 | 10,4 | 12,6 | 10,9 | 10,8 | -0,1 | -0,2 | | |

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 | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 41 561 | 41 691 | 41 822 | 41 948 | 42 068 | 120 | 508 | 0,3 | 1,2 |
| Labour Force | 25 069 | 25 015 | 25 174 | 25 062 | 24 935 | -128 | -134 | -0,5 | -0,5 |
| Employed | 17 078 | 16 787 | 16 807 | 17 055 | 17 099 | 44 | 21 | 0,3 | 0,1 |
| Unemployed | 7 991 | 8 228 | 8 367 | 8 007 | 7 836 | -172 | -155 | -2,1 | -1,9 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 16 492 | 16 676 | 16 648 | 16 886 | 17 134 | 248 | 642 | 1,5 | 3,9 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 60,3 | 60,0 | 60,2 | 59,7 | 59,3 | -0,4 | -1,0 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 41,1 | 40,3 | 40,2 | 40,7 | 40,6 | -0,1 | -0,5 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 39,7 | 40,0 | 39,8 | 40,3 | 40,7 | 0,4 | 1,0 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 31,9 | 32,9 | 33,2 | 31,9 | 31,4 | -0,5 | -0,5 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 35,0 | 36,0 | 36,1 | 34,9 | 34,3 | -0,6 | -0,7 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 41,9 | 43,1 | 43,0 | 42,4 | 42,1 | -0,3 | 0,2 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 44,6 | 45,7 | 45,4 | 44,9 | 44,5 | -0,4 | -0,1 | | |
| 15-24 years | | | | | | | | | |
| Population 15-24 years | 10 286 | 10 299 | 10 312 | 10 325 | 10 337 | 12 | 51 | 0,1 | 0,5 |
| Labour Force | 2 731 | 2 710 | 2 758 | 2 833 | 2 657 | -177 | -75 | -6,2 | -2,7 |
| Employed | 1 102 | 1 018 | 1 043 | 1 177 | 1 143 | -33 | 41 | -2,8 | 3,7 |
| Unemployed | 1 629 | 1 692 | 1 715 | 1 657 | 1 513 | -143 | -115 | -8,7 | -7,1 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 7 555 | 7 589 | 7 554 | 7 491 | 7 680 | 189 | 126 | 2,5 | 1,7 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 26,6 | 26,3 | 26,7 | 27,4 | 25,7 | -1,7 | -0,9 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 10,7 | 9,9 | 10,1 | 11,4 | 11,1 | -0,3 | 0,4 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 73,4 | 73,7 | 73,3 | 72,6 | 74,3 | 1,7 | 0,9 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 59,6 | 62,4 | 62,2 | 58,5 | 57,0 | -1,5 | -2,6 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 61,4 | 63,9 | 64,4 | 60,7 | 58,8 | -1,9 | -2,6 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 70,3 | 72,5 | 71,8 | 69,3 | 68,3 | -1,0 | -2,0 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 71,6 | 73,6 | 73,4 | 70,9 | 69,6 | -1,3 | -2,0 | | |

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) | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 25-34 years | 10 613 | 10 617 | 10 621 | 10 622 | 10 619 | -3 | 6 | 0,0 | 0,1 |
| Labour Force | 7 783 | 7 802 | 7 823 | 7 765 | 7 745 | -20 | -38 | -0,3 | -0,5 |
| Employed | 4 719 | 4 651 | 4 656 | 4 787 | 4 707 | -80 | -12 | -1,7 | -0,3 |
| Unemployed | 3 064 | 3 151 | 3 167 | 2 978 | 3 038 | 60 | -26 | 2,0 | -0,8 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 2 830 | 2 815 | 2 798 | 2 857 | 2 874 | 17 | 44 | 0,6 | 1,5 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 73,3 | 73,5 | 73,7 | 73,1 | 72,9 | -0,2 | -0,4 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 44,5 | 43,8 | 43,8 | 45,1 | 44,3 | -0,8 | -0,2 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 26,7 | 26,5 | 26,3 | 26,9 | 27,1 | 0,2 | 0,4 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 39,4 | 40,4 | 40,5 | 38,4 | 39,2 | 0,8 | -0,2 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 42,0 | 43,4 | 43,0 | 41,1 | 41,7 | 0,6 | -0,3 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 48,9 | 50,1 | 49,5 | 48,2 | 49,1 | 0,9 | 0,2 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 51,2 | 52,7 | 51,6 | 50,5 | 51,2 | 0,7 | 0,0 | | |
| 35-44 years | | | | | | | | | |
| Population 35-44 years | 9 218 | 9 257 | 9 295 | 9 332 | 9 366 | 34 | 148 | 0,4 | 1,6 |
| Labour Force | 7 328 | 7 269 | 7 326 | 7 250 | 7 294 | 44 | -34 | 0,6 | -0,5 |
| Employed | 5 334 | 5 247 | 5 222 | 5 234 | 5 294 | 60 | -40 | 1,2 | -0,7 |
| Unemployed | 1 994 | 2 022 | 2 104 | 2 017 | 2 000 | -17 | 5 | -0,8 | 0,3 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 1 890 | 1 987 | 1 969 | 2 082 | 2 072 | -9 | 182 | -0,4 | 9,6 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 79,5 | 78,5 | 78,8 | 77,7 | 77,9 | 0,2 | -1,6 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 57,9 | 56,7 | 56,2 | 56,1 | 56,5 | 0,4 | -1,4 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 20,5 | 21,5 | 21,2 | 22,3 | 22,1 | -0,2 | 1,6 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 27,2 | 27,8 | 28,7 | 27,8 | 27,4 | -0,4 | 0,2 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 30,7 | 31,0 | 31,3 | 30,8 | 30,2 | -0,6 | -0,5 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 35,9 | 36,7 | 37,4 | 37,1 | 37,0 | -0,1 | 1,1 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 39,0 | 39,6 | 39,6 | 39,6 | 39,3 | -0,3 | 0,3 | | |

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

| Table 2.2: Labour force characteristics by age group (concluded) | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 45-54 years | 6 975 | 7 020 | 7 065 | 7 109 | 7 149 | 41 | 174 | 0,6 | 2,5 |
| Labour Force | 5 224 | 5 217 | 5 241 | 5 195 | 5 168 | -27 | -56 | -0,5 | -1,1 |
| Employed | 4 148 | 4 099 | 4 119 | 4 102 | 4 115 | 13 | -33 | 0,3 | -0,8 |
| Unemployed | 1 075 | 1 118 | 1 123 | 1 093 | 1 052 | -40 | -23 | -3,7 | -2,1 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 1 752 | 1 803 | 1 824 | 1 914 | 1 982 | 68 | 230 | 3,5 | 13,1 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 74,9 | 74,3 | 74,2 | 73,1 | 72,3 | -0,8 | -2,6 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 59,5 | 58,4 | 58,3 | 57,7 | 57,6 | -0,1 | -1,9 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 25,1 | 25,7 | 25,8 | 26,9 | 27,7 | 0,8 | 2,6 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 20,6 | 21,4 | 21,4 | 21,0 | 20,4 | -0,6 | -0,2 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 24,4 | 25,0 | 25,2 | 24,8 | 24,0 | -0,8 | -0,4 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 29,7 | 30,7 | 30,7 | 30,9 | 31,0 | 0,1 | 1,3 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 33,0 | 33,9 | 34,0 | 34,3 | 34,2 | -0,1 | 1,2 | | |
| 55-64 years | | | | | | | | | |
| Population 55-64 years | 4 468 | 4 498 | 4 528 | 4 562 | 4 598 | 36 | 129 | 0,8 | 2,9 |
| Labour Force | 2 003 | 2 017 | 2 025 | 2 019 | 2 072 | 53 | 69 | 2,6 | 3,4 |
| Employed | 1 775 | 1 772 | 1 766 | 1 755 | 1 840 | 84 | 65 | 4,8 | 3,7 |
| Unemployed | 228 | 245 | 259 | 263 | 232 | -31 | 4 | -11,7 | 1,7 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 2 465 | 2 481 | 2 503 | 2 543 | 2 526 | -17 | 61 | -0,7 | 2,5 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 44,8 | 44,8 | 44,7 | 44,3 | 45,1 | 0,8 | 0,3 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 39,7 | 39,4 | 39,0 | 38,5 | 40,0 | 1,5 | 0,3 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 55,2 | 55,2 | 55,3 | 55,7 | 54,9 | -0,8 | -0,3 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 11,4 | 12,1 | 12,8 | 13,0 | 11,2 | -1,8 | -0,2 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 15,4 | 16,3 | 16,1 | 16,1 | 14,7 | -1,4 | -0,7 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 20,2 | 21,6 | 22,2 | 22,2 | 21,3 | -0,9 | 1,1 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 23,8 | 25,3 | 25,1 | 24,9 | 24,4 | -0,5 | 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 | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 41 561 | 41 691 | 41 822 | 41 948 | 42 068 | 120 | 508 | 0,3 | 1,2 |
| Labour Force | 25 069 | 25 015 | 25 174 | 25 062 | 24 935 | -128 | -134 | -0,5 | -0,5 |
| Employed | 17 078 | 16 787 | 16 807 | 17 055 | 17 099 | 44 | 21 | 0,3 | 0,1 |
| Unemployed | 7 991 | 8 228 | 8 367 | 8 007 | 7 836 | -172 | -155 | -2,1 | -1,9 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 16 492 | 16 676 | 16 648 | 16 886 | 17 134 | 248 | 642 | 1,5 | 3,9 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 60,3 | 60,0 | 60,2 | 59,7 | 59,3 | -0,4 | -1,0 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 41,1 | 40,3 | 40,2 | 40,7 | 40,6 | -0,1 | -0,5 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 39,7 | 40,0 | 39,8 | 40,3 | 40,7 | 0,4 | 1,0 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 31,9 | 32,9 | 33,2 | 31,9 | 31,4 | -0,5 | -0,5 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 35,0 | 36,0 | 36,1 | 34,9 | 34,3 | -0,6 | -0,7 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 41,9 | 43,1 | 43,0 | 42,4 | 42,1 | -0,3 | 0,2 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 44,6 | 45,7 | 45,4 | 44,9 | 44,5 | -0,4 | -0,1 | | |
| Western Cape | | | | | | | | | |
| Population 15-64 years | 5 090 | 5 108 | 5 126 | 5 143 | 5 160 | 16 | 70 | 0,3 | 1,4 |
| Labour Force | 3 498 | 3 558 | 3 479 | 3 505 | 3 548 | 43 | 50 | 1,2 | 1,4 |
| Employed | 2 812 | 2 861 | 2 744 | 2 814 | 2 907 | 93 | 95 | 3,3 | 3,4 |
| Unemployed | 686 | 697 | 735 | 692 | 641 | -50 | -45 | -7,3 | -6,5 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 1 593 | 1 550 | 1 647 | 1 638 | 1 612 | -26 | 19 | -1,6 | 1,2 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 68,7 | 69,6 | 67,9 | 68,1 | 68,8 | 0,7 | 0,1 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 55,2 | 56,0 | 53,5 | 54,7 | 56,3 | 1,6 | 1,1 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 31,3 | 30,4 | 32,1 | 31,9 | 31,2 | -0,7 | -0,1 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 19,6 | 19,6 | 21,1 | 19,7 | 18,1 | -1,6 | -1,5 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 22,3 | 22,2 | 23,6 | 22,0 | 20,4 | -1,6 | -1,9 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 24,9 | 24,8 | 27,0 | 25,8 | 23,7 | -2,1 | -1,2 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 27,4 | 27,3 | 29,3 | 27,9 | 25,9 | -2,0 | -1,5 | | |

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) | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 1 847 | 1 854 | 1 860 | 1 866 | 1 872 | 6 | 25 | 0,3 | 1,3 |
| Labour Force | 1 202 | 1 219 | 1 150 | 1 174 | 1 184 | 10 | -17 | 0,9 | -1,4 |
| Employed | 1 030 | 1 034 | 958 | 987 | 1 012 | 25 | -18 | 2,5 | -1,7 |
| Unemployed | 172 | 186 | 192 | 187 | 173 | -14 | 1 | -7,7 | 0,3 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 646 | 634 | 710 | 692 | 688 | -4 | 42 | -0,6 | 6,5 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 65,1 | 65,8 | 61,8 | 62,9 | 63,3 | 0,4 | -1,8 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 55,7 | 55,8 | 51,5 | 52,9 | 54,0 | 1,1 | -1,7 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 34,9 | 34,2 | 38,2 | 37,1 | 36,7 | -0,4 | 1,8 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 14,3 | 15,2 | 16,7 | 15,9 | 14,6 | -1,3 | 0,3 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 17,2 | 17,7 | 19,7 | 18,5 | 17,3 | -1,2 | 0,1 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 23,5 | 24,8 | 29,4 | 28,1 | 27,1 | -1,0 | 3,6 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 26,1 | 27,0 | 32,0 | 30,3 | 29,4 | -0,9 | 3,3 | | |
| Western Cape - City of Cape Town | | | | | | | | | |
| Population 15-64 years | 3 243 | 3 255 | 3 266 | 3 277 | 3 288 | 11 | 45 | 0,3 | 1,4 |
| Labour Force | 2 296 | 2 338 | 2 329 | 2 331 | 2 364 | 33 | 68 | 1,4 | 3,0 |
| Employed | 1 782 | 1 827 | 1 786 | 1 826 | 1 895 | 69 | 113 | 3,8 | 6,4 |
| Unemployed | 514 | 511 | 543 | 505 | 469 | -36 | -45 | -7,1 | -8,8 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 947 | 916 | 937 | 946 | 924 | -22 | -23 | -2,3 | -2,4 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 70,8 | 71,8 | 71,3 | 71,1 | 71,9 | 0,8 | 1,1 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 54,9 | 56,1 | 54,7 | 55,7 | 57,6 | 1,9 | 2,7 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 29,2 | 28,2 | 28,7 | 28,9 | 28,1 | -0,8 | -1,1 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 22,4 | 21,9 | 23,3 | 21,6 | 19,8 | -1,8 | -2,6 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 25,0 | 24,5 | 25,6 | 23,8 | 22,0 | -1,8 | -3,0 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 25,7 | 24,8 | 25,6 | 24,5 | 21,7 | -2,8 | -4,0 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 28,2 | 27,4 | 27,8 | 26,6 | 23,8 | -2,8 | -4,4 | | |

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) | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 4 579 | 4 592 | 4 605 | 4 618 | 4 629 | 12 | 50 | 0,3 | 1,1 |
| Labour Force | 2 297 | 2 261 | 2 418 | 2 393 | 2 393 | 0 | 97 | 0,0 | 4,2 |
| Employed | 1 455 | 1 373 | 1 462 | 1 408 | 1 377 | -32 | -79 | -2,2 | -5,4 |
| Unemployed | 841 | 889 | 956 | 985 | 1 016 | 31 | 175 | 3,2 | 20,8 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 2 283 | 2 331 | 2 187 | 2 224 | 2 236 | 12 | -47 | 0,5 | -2,0 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 50,2 | 49,2 | 52,5 | 51,8 | 51,7 | -0,1 | 1,5 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 31,8 | 29,9 | 31,7 | 30,5 | 29,7 | -0,8 | -2,1 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 49,8 | 50,8 | 47,5 | 48,2 | 48,3 | 0,1 | -1,5 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 36,6 | 39,3 | 39,5 | 41,2 | 42,5 | 1,3 | 5,9 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 40,5 | 42,5 | 43,5 | 44,1 | 44,7 | 0,6 | 4,2 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 47,6 | 49,0 | 47,7 | 50,2 | 51,4 | 1,2 | 3,8 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 50,8 | 51,7 | 51,1 | 52,7 | 53,2 | 0,5 | 2,4 | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Eastern Cape - Non Metro | | | | | | | | | |
| Population 15-64 years | 3 119 | 3 126 | 3 134 | 3 141 | 3 148 | 7 | 29 | 0,2 | 0,9 |
| Labour Force | 1 372 | 1 373 | 1 453 | 1 517 | 1 507 | -10 | 135 | -0,7 | 9,9 |
| Employed | 774 | 743 | 760 | 768 | 731 | -37 | -43 | -4,8 | -5,5 |
| Unemployed | 598 | 630 | 693 | 749 | 776 | 27 | 178 | 3,6 | 29,8 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 1 747 | 1 753 | 1 681 | 1 624 | 1 640 | 17 | -106 | 1,0 | -6,1 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 44,0 | 43,9 | 46,4 | 48,3 | 47,9 | -0,4 | 3,9 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 24,8 | 23,8 | 24,3 | 24,5 | 23,2 | -1,3 | -1,6 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 56,0 | 56,1 | 53,6 | 51,7 | 52,1 | 0,4 | -3,9 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 43,6 | 45,9 | 47,7 | 49,4 | 51,5 | 2,1 | 7,9 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 46,3 | 50,0 | 50,8 | 52,8 | 53,2 | 0,4 | 6,9 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 57,2 | 57,9 | 56,4 | 59,4 | 61,2 | 1,8 | 4,0 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 59,3 | 61,1 | 59,0 | 62,1 | 62,6 | 0,5 | 3,3 | | |

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

| Table 2.3: Labour force characteristics by province and metro (continued) | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 563 | 565 | 567 | 569 | 571 | 2 | 8 | 0,3 | 1,4 |
| Labour Force | 412 | 402 | 394 | 376 | 385 | 9 | -27 | 2,3 | -6,6 |
| Employed | 281 | 252 | 282 | 276 | 286 | 10 | 5 | 3,7 | 1,9 |
| Unemployed | 132 | 150 | 113 | 101 | 99 | -1 | -32 | -1,3 | -24,6 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 151 | 163 | 173 | 193 | 186 | -7 | 35 | -3,6 | 23,1 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 73,2 | 71,1 | 69,5 | 66,1 | 67,4 | 1,3 | -5,8 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 49,8 | 44,5 | 49,6 | 48,5 | 50,1 | 1,6 | 0,3 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 26,8 | 28,9 | 30,5 | 33,9 | 32,6 | -1,3 | 5,8 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 31,9 | 37,3 | 28,6 | 26,7 | 25,7 | -1,0 | -6,2 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 41,6 | 38,7 | 33,8 | 27,3 | 29,3 | 2,0 | -12,3 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 34,5 | 38,5 | 31,0 | 30,6 | 28,4 | -2,2 | -6,1 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 43,8 | 39,8 | 36,1 | 31,2 | 31,8 | 0,6 | -12,0 | | |
| Eastern Cape - Nelson Mandela Bay | | | | | | | | | |
| Population 15-64 years | 897 | 900 | 904 | 907 | 910 | 3 | 13 | 0,3 | 1,5 |
| Labour Force | 512 | 486 | 571 | 500 | 501 | 1 | -12 | 0,2 | -2,3 |
| Employed | 401 | 378 | 420 | 364 | 360 | -5 | -41 | -1,3 | -10,3 |
| Unemployed | 112 | 108 | 151 | 135 | 141 | 6 | 29 | 4,3 | 26,3 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 385 | 414 | 333 | 407 | 410 | 2 | 25 | 0,5 | 6,5 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 57,1 | 54,0 | 63,1 | 55,1 | 55,0 | -0,1 | -2,1 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 44,7 | 41,9 | 46,5 | 40,2 | 39,5 | -0,7 | -5,2 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 42,9 | 46,0 | 36,9 | 44,9 | 45,0 | 0,1 | 2,1 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 21,8 | 22,3 | 26,4 | 27,1 | 28,2 | 1,1 | 6,4 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 24,1 | 24,6 | 31,5 | 30,2 | 30,9 | 0,7 | 6,8 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 26,2 | 27,1 | 35,0 | 32,4 | 34,3 | 1,9 | 8,1 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 28,4 | 29,2 | 39,5 | 35,3 | 36,7 | 1,4 | 8,3 | | |

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

| Table 2.3: Labour force characteristics by province and metro (continued) | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 843 | 844 | 846 | 847 | 849 | 1 | 6 | 0,2 | 0,7 |
| Labour Force | 488 | 486 | 466 | 464 | 462 | -2 | -26 | -0,5 | -5,4 |
| Employed | 355 | 343 | 314 | 319 | 337 | 17 | -18 | 5,5 | -5,0 |
| Unemployed | 134 | 143 | 152 | 145 | 125 | -20 | -9 | -13,6 | -6,5 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 354 | 359 | 380 | 383 | 387 | 4 | 32 | 1,0 | 9,2 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 57,9 | 57,5 | 55,1 | 54,8 | 54,4 | -0,4 | -3,5 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 42,1 | 40,6 | 37,1 | 37,7 | 39,7 | 2,0 | -2,4 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 42,1 | 42,5 | 44,9 | 45,2 | 45,6 | 0,4 | 3,5 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 27,4 | 29,5 | 32,7 | 31,2 | 27,1 | -4,1 | -0,3 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 31,0 | 34,5 | 35,8 | 35,0 | 30,0 | -5,0 | -1,0 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 39,8 | 43,1 | 47,0 | 46,5 | 42,9 | -3,6 | 3,1 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 42,8 | 47,1 | 49,4 | 49,4 | 45,2 | -4,2 | 2,4 | | |
| Free State | | | | | | | | | |
| Population 15-64 years | 1 941 | 1 942 | 1 943 | 1 944 | 1 944 | 0 | 3 | 0,0 | 0,1 |
| Labour Force | 1 207 | 1 214 | 1 245 | 1 226 | 1 227 | 1 | 21 | 0,1 | 1,7 |
| Employed | 750 | 754 | 766 | 782 | 771 | -11 | 21 | -1,4 | 2,8 |
| Unemployed | 457 | 460 | 479 | 444 | 456 | 12 | 0 | 2,7 | -0,1 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 735 | 729 | 698 | 718 | 717 | -1 | -18 | -0,1 | -2,5 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 62,2 | 62,5 | 64,1 | 63,1 | 63,1 | 0,0 | 0,9 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 38,6 | 38,8 | 39,4 | 40,2 | 39,7 | -0,5 | 1,1 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 37,8 | 37,5 | 35,9 | 36,9 | 36,9 | 0,0 | -0,9 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 37,9 | 37,9 | 38,5 | 36,2 | 37,2 | 1,0 | -0,7 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 41,8 | 42,3 | 42,2 | 39,7 | 40,9 | 1,2 | -0,9 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 44,3 | 44,9 | 43,8 | 42,7 | 44,1 | 1,4 | -0,2 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 47,8 | 48,8 | 47,2 | 45,8 | 47,3 | 1,5 | -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)

| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 1 384 | 1 385 | 1 385 | 1 385 | 0 | 2 | 0,0 | 0,1 |
| Labour Force | 865 | 859 | 877 | 891 | 892 | 2 | 27 | 0,2 | 3,2 |
| Employed | 505 | 506 | 514 | 540 | 548 | 9 | 44 | 1,6 | 8,7 |
| Unemployed | 361 | 353 | 363 | 351 | 344 | -7 | -16 | -1,9 | -4,5 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 518 | 525 | 507 | 494 | 493 | -2 | -25 | -0,3 | -4,9 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 62,5 | 62,1 | 63,4 | 64,3 | 64,4 | 0,1 | 1,9 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 36,5 | 36,6 | 37,1 | 39,0 | 39,6 | 0,6 | 3,1 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 37,5 | 37,9 | 36,6 | 35,7 | 35,6 | -0,1 | -1,9 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 41,7 | 41,0 | 41,4 | 39,4 | 38,6 | -0,8 | -3,1 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 45,6 | 45,4 | 44,9 | 42,8 | 42,2 | -0,6 | -3,4 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 48,0 | 48,0 | 46,5 | 44,8 | 44,9 | 0,1 | -3,1 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 51,5 | 51,9 | 49,7 | 47,9 | 48,2 | 0,3 | -3,3 | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Free State - Mangaung | | | | | | | | | |
| Population 15-64 years | 558 | 558 | 558 | 559 | 559 | 0 | 1 | 0,0 | 0,1 |
| Labour Force | 342 | 355 | 368 | 336 | 335 | -1 | -7 | -0,2 | -1,9 |
| Employed | 245 | 247 | 252 | 242 | 223 | -19 | -23 | -8,0 | -9,2 |
| Unemployed | 96 | 107 | 116 | 93 | 112 | 19 | 16 | 20,2 | 16,5 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 216 | 204 | 191 | 223 | 224 | 1 | 7 | 0,3 | 3,4 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 61,2 | 63,5 | 65,8 | 60,1 | 59,9 | -0,2 | -1,3 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 44,0 | 44,3 | 45,1 | 43,4 | 39,9 | -3,5 | -4,1 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 38,8 | 36,5 | 34,2 | 39,9 | 40,1 | 0,2 | 1,3 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 28,2 | 30,2 | 31,5 | 27,8 | 33,5 | 5,7 | 5,3 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 32,0 | 34,9 | 35,7 | 31,4 | 37,2 | 5,8 | 5,2 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 34,9 | 36,9 | 37,5 | 37,3 | 41,9 | 4,6 | 7,0 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 38,4 | 41,1 | 41,3 | 40,4 | 45,2 | 4,8 | 6,8 | | |

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) | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 7 683 | 7 707 | 7 732 | 7 756 | 7 779 | 23 | 96 | 0,3 | 1,3 |
| Labour Force | 4 051 | 4 116 | 4 058 | 4 035 | 4 010 | -25 | -41 | -0,6 | -1,0 |
| Employed | 2 892 | 2 788 | 2 702 | 2 757 | 2 716 | -41 | -176 | -1,5 | -6,1 |
| Unemployed | 1 159 | 1 328 | 1 356 | 1 278 | 1 294 | 16 | 135 | 1,3 | 11,6 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 3 632 | 3 591 | 3 674 | 3 721 | 3 769 | 48 | 138 | 1,3 | 3,8 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 52,7 | 53,4 | 52,5 | 52,0 | 51,5 | -0,5 | -1,2 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 37,6 | 36,2 | 35,0 | 35,5 | 34,9 | -0,6 | -2,7 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 47,3 | 46,6 | 47,5 | 48,0 | 48,5 | 0,5 | 1,2 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 28,6 | 32,3 | 33,4 | 31,7 | 32,3 | 0,6 | 3,7 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 32,2 | 35,6 | 36,3 | 35,1 | 34,8 | -0,3 | 2,6 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 44,7 | 46,9 | 47,9 | 46,6 | 47,1 | 0,5 | 2,4 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 47,5 | 49,5 | 50,1 | 49,3 | 49,1 | -0,2 | 1,6 | | |
| KwaZulu-Natal - Non Metro | | | | | | | | | |
| Population 15-64 years | 4 989 | 5 003 | 5 018 | 5 032 | 5 046 | 13 | 57 | 0,3 | 1,1 |
| Labour Force | 2 444 | 2 462 | 2 420 | 2 365 | 2 338 | -27 | -105 | -1,1 | -4,3 |
| Employed | 1 559 | 1 487 | 1 503 | 1 551 | 1 448 | -103 | -111 | -6,7 | -7,1 |
| Unemployed | 885 | 975 | 917 | 814 | 891 | 76 | 6 | 9,4 | 0,7 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 2 545 | 2 541 | 2 598 | 2 667 | 2 707 | 40 | 163 | 1,5 | 6,4 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 49,0 | 49,2 | 48,2 | 47,0 | 46,3 | -0,7 | -2,7 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 31,2 | 29,7 | 30,0 | 30,8 | 28,7 | -2,1 | -2,5 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 51,0 | 50,8 | 51,8 | 53,0 | 53,7 | 0,7 | 2,7 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 36,2 | 39,6 | 37,9 | 34,4 | 38,1 | 3,7 | 1,9 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 39,9 | 43,1 | 40,9 | 38,1 | 41,2 | 3,1 | 1,3 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 50,7 | 52,8 | 51,8 | 50,1 | 52,5 | 2,4 | 1,8 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 53,6 | 55,5 | 54,1 | 52,9 | 54,9 | 2,0 | 1,3 | | |

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

| Table 2.3: Labour force characteristics by province and metro (continued) | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 2 694 | 2 704 | 2 714 | 2 724 | 2 733 | 9 | 39 | 0,3 | 1,5 |
| Labour Force | 1 607 | 1 654 | 1 638 | 1 670 | 1 671 | 2 | 64 | 0,1 | 4,0 |
| Employed | 1 333 | 1 301 | 1 199 | 1 206 | 1 268 | 62 | -65 | 5,1 | -4,9 |
| Unemployed | 274 | 353 | 439 | 464 | 403 | -60 | 129 | -13,0 | 47,1 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 1 087 | 1 050 | 1 076 | 1 054 | 1 062 | 8 | -25 | 0,7 | -2,3 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 59,7 | 61,2 | 60,3 | 61,3 | 61,2 | -0,1 | 1,5 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 49,5 | 48,1 | 44,2 | 44,3 | 46,4 | 2,1 | -3,1 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 40,3 | 38,8 | 39,7 | 38,7 | 38,8 | 0,1 | -1,5 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 17,1 | 21,4 | 26,8 | 27,8 | 24,1 | -3,7 | 7,0 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 20,5 | 24,5 | 29,4 | 30,9 | 26,0 | -4,9 | 5,5 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 35,7 | 38,0 | 42,1 | 41,5 | 39,2 | -2,3 | 3,5 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 38,3 | 40,5 | 44,2 | 44,0 | 40,7 | -3,3 | 2,4 | | |
| North West | | | | | | | | | |
| Population 15-64 years | 2 817 | 2 826 | 2 834 | 2 843 | 2 851 | 8 | 35 | 0,3 | 1,2 |
| Labour Force | 1 593 | 1 475 | 1 493 | 1 513 | 1 500 | -13 | -93 | -0,9 | -5,8 |
| Employed | 935 | 879 | 895 | 937 | 973 | 36 | 38 | 3,9 | 4,1 |
| Unemployed | 658 | 596 | 599 | 576 | 527 | -49 | -131 | -8,6 | -19,9 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 1 224 | 1 351 | 1 341 | 1 330 | 1 352 | 21 | 128 | 1,6 | 10,4 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 56,6 | 52,2 | 52,7 | 53,2 | 52,6 | -0,6 | -4,0 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 33,2 | 31,1 | 31,6 | 33,0 | 34,1 | 1,1 | 0,9 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 43,4 | 47,8 | 47,3 | 46,8 | 47,4 | 0,6 | 4,0 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 41,3 | 40,4 | 40,1 | 38,1 | 35,1 | -3,0 | -6,2 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 42,6 | 41,2 | 40,8 | 39,3 | 38,1 | -1,2 | -4,5 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 52,8 | 56,0 | 54,7 | 52,5 | 50,9 | -1,6 | -1,9 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 53,8 | 56,6 | 55,3 | 53,4 | 53,2 | -0,2 | -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 (continued) | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 11 358 | 11 399 | 11 440 | 11 480 | 11 518 | 38 | 160 | 0,3 | 1,4 |
| Labour Force | 7 748 | 7 799 | 7 831 | 7 823 | 7 739 | -84 | -9 | -1,1 | -0,1 |
| Employed | 5 081 | 5 091 | 5 186 | 5 237 | 5 183 | -54 | 102 | -1,0 | 2,0 |
| Unemployed | 2 667 | 2 708 | 2 645 | 2 586 | 2 556 | -30 | -111 | -1,2 | -4,2 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 3 610 | 3 600 | 3 608 | 3 657 | 3 779 | 122 | 170 | 3,3 | 4,7 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 68,2 | 68,4 | 68,5 | 68,1 | 67,2 | -0,9 | -1,0 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 44,7 | 44,7 | 45,3 | 45,6 | 45,0 | -0,6 | 0,3 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 31,8 | 31,6 | 31,5 | 31,9 | 32,8 | 0,9 | 1,0 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 34,4 | 34,7 | 33,8 | 33,1 | 33,0 | -0,1 | -1,4 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 36,9 | 37,5 | 36,0 | 35,5 | 35,4 | -0,1 | -1,5 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 39,9 | 40,1 | 39,2 | 39,6 | 39,4 | -0,2 | -0,5 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 42,2 | 42,6 | 41,2 | 41,8 | 41,6 | -0,2 | -0,6 | | |
| Gauteng - Non Metro | | | | | | | | | |
| Population 15-64 years | 1 504 | 1 509 | 1 515 | 1 521 | 1 526 | 5 | 22 | 0,4 | 1,5 |
| Labour Force | 1 049 | 1 087 | 1 081 | 1 062 | 1 037 | -24 | -12 | -2,3 | -1,2 |
| Employed | 607 | 633 | 650 | 702 | 707 | 5 | 100 | 0,7 | 16,5 |
| Unemployed | 443 | 455 | 431 | 359 | 330 | -29 | -112 | -8,1 | -25,4 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 454 | 422 | 434 | 459 | 489 | 30 | 35 | 6,5 | 7,7 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 69,8 | 72,0 | 71,4 | 69,8 | 68,0 | -1,8 | -1,8 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 40,3 | 41,9 | 42,9 | 46,2 | 46,3 | 0,1 | 6,0 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 30,2 | 28,0 | 28,6 | 30,2 | 32,0 | 1,8 | 1,8 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 42,2 | 41,8 | 39,9 | 33,9 | 31,8 | -2,1 | -10,4 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 43,5 | 43,3 | 41,4 | 37,8 | 33,6 | -4,2 | -9,9 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 48,6 | 46,6 | 45,5 | 41,7 | 39,6 | -2,1 | -9,0 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 49,7 | 48,0 | 46,9 | 45,1 | 41,1 | -4,0 | -8,6 | | |

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) | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 2 853 | 2 863 | 2 874 | 2 884 | 2 894 | 10 | 41 | 0,3 | 1,4 |
| Labour Force | 1 820 | 1 779 | 1 838 | 1 819 | 1 838 | 19 | 18 | 1,1 | 1,0 |
| Employed | 1 255 | 1 202 | 1 200 | 1 235 | 1 248 | 13 | -6 | 1,1 | -0,5 |
| Unemployed | 566 | 578 | 638 | 584 | 590 | 6 | 25 | 1,1 | 4,4 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 1 033 | 1 084 | 1 036 | 1 065 | 1 055 | -10 | 23 | -0,9 | 2,2 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 63,8 | 62,1 | 63,9 | 63,1 | 63,5 | 0,4 | -0,3 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 44,0 | 42,0 | 41,8 | 42,8 | 43,1 | 0,3 | -0,9 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 36,2 | 37,9 | 36,1 | 36,9 | 36,5 | -0,4 | 0,3 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 31,1 | 32,5 | 34,7 | 32,1 | 32,1 | 0,0 | 1,0 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 32,3 | 33,6 | 36,0 | 33,5 | 32,9 | -0,6 | 0,6 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 39,2 | 41,2 | 42,7 | 42,2 | 41,5 | -0,7 | 2,3 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 40,3 | 42,2 | 43,8 | 43,4 | 42,2 | -1,2 | 1,9 | | |
| Gauteng - City of Johannesburg | | | | | | | | | |
| Population 15-64 years | 4 212 | 4 227 | 4 242 | 4 256 | 4 270 | 14 | 58 | 0,3 | 1,4 |
| Labour Force | 2 965 | 3 010 | 2 983 | 3 001 | 2 891 | -109 | -74 | -3,6 | -2,5 |
| Employed | 1 935 | 1 977 | 2 000 | 1 963 | 1 915 | -49 | -20 | -2,5 | -1,1 |
| Unemployed | 1 030 | 1 032 | 983 | 1 037 | 976 | -61 | -53 | -5,9 | -5,2 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 1 247 | 1 217 | 1 259 | 1 255 | 1 379 | 123 | 132 | 9,8 | 10,6 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 70,4 | 71,2 | 70,3 | 70,5 | 67,7 | -2,8 | -2,7 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 45,9 | 46,8 | 47,1 | 46,1 | 44,8 | -1,3 | -1,1 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 29,6 | 28,8 | 29,7 | 29,5 | 32,3 | 2,8 | 2,7 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 34,7 | 34,3 | 33,0 | 34,6 | 33,8 | -0,8 | -0,9 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 38,1 | 37,7 | 35,9 | 37,0 | 37,4 | 0,4 | -0,7 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 38,6 | 38,0 | 37,3 | 39,2 | 38,9 | -0,3 | 0,3 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 41,7 | 41,3 | 40,0 | 41,5 | 42,2 | 0,7 | 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) | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 2 789 | 2 799 | 2 809 | 2 819 | 2 828 | 9 | 39 | 0,3 | 1,4 |
| Labour Force | 1 913 | 1 923 | 1 929 | 1 941 | 1 972 | 30 | 59 | 1,6 | 3,1 |
| Employed | 1 285 | 1 279 | 1 336 | 1 336 | 1 313 | -23 | 28 | -1,7 | 2,2 |
| Unemployed | 628 | 644 | 593 | 605 | 659 | 53 | 30 | 8,8 | 4,8 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 876 | 876 | 880 | 878 | 856 | -21 | -19 | -2,4 | -2,2 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 68,6 | 68,7 | 68,7 | 68,9 | 69,7 | 0,8 | 1,1 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 46,1 | 45,7 | 47,6 | 47,4 | 46,4 | -1,0 | 0,3 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 31,4 | 31,3 | 31,3 | 31,1 | 30,3 | -0,8 | -1,1 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 32,8 | 33,5 | 30,8 | 31,2 | 33,4 | 2,2 | 0,6 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 35,8 | 37,3 | 33,0 | 33,7 | 35,7 | 2,0 | -0,1 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 37,8 | 38,4 | 35,0 | 36,3 | 38,1 | 1,8 | 0,3 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 40,6 | 41,9 | 37,1 | 38,7 | 40,2 | 1,5 | -0,4 | | |
| Mpumalanga | | | | | | | | | |
| Population 15-64 years | 3 189 | 3 199 | 3 209 | 3 219 | 3 228 | 9 | 40 | 0,3 | 1,2 |
| Labour Force | 1 920 | 1 876 | 1 853 | 1 889 | 1 895 | 6 | -26 | 0,3 | -1,3 |
| Employed | 1 255 | 1 212 | 1 223 | 1 246 | 1 283 | 37 | 29 | 3,0 | 2,3 |
| Unemployed | 666 | 664 | 631 | 643 | 611 | -31 | -54 | -4,9 | -8,1 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 1 268 | 1 323 | 1 356 | 1 330 | 1 333 | 3 | 65 | 0,2 | 5,1 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 60,2 | 58,6 | 57,8 | 58,7 | 58,7 | 0,0 | -1,5 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 39,3 | 37,9 | 38,1 | 38,7 | 39,8 | 1,1 | 0,5 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 39,8 | 41,4 | 42,2 | 41,3 | 41,3 | 0,0 | 1,5 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 34,7 | 35,4 | 34,0 | 34,0 | 32,3 | -1,7 | -2,4 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 38,2 | 39,7 | 37,6 | 38,6 | 35,7 | -2,9 | -2,5 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 47,2 | 49,3 | 48,4 | 47,5 | 46,3 | -1,2 | -0,9 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 50,0 | 52,7 | 51,2 | 51,1 | 49,0 | -2,1 | -1,0 | | |

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

| Table 2.3: Labour force characteristics by province and metro (concluded) | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 4 061 | 4 074 | 4 086 | 4 098 | 4 110 | 11 | 48 | 0,3 | 1,2 |
| Labour Force | 2 267 | 2 231 | 2 329 | 2 214 | 2 160 | -54 | -107 | -2,4 | -4,7 |
| Employed | 1 543 | 1 488 | 1 515 | 1 555 | 1 552 | -3 | 9 | -0,2 | 0,6 |
| Unemployed | 724 | 743 | 814 | 659 | 609 | -50 | -116 | -7,6 | -16,0 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 1 794 | 1 843 | 1 757 | 1 884 | 1 949 | 65 | 155 | 3,4 | 8,6 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 55,8 | 54,8 | 57,0 | 54,0 | 52,6 | -1,4 | -3,2 | | |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 38,0 | 36,5 | 37,1 | 37,9 | 37,8 | -0,1 | -0,2 | | |
| Inactivity rate | 44,2 | 45,2 | 43,0 | 46,0 | 47,4 | 1,4 | 3,2 | | |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| LU1- Unemployment rate | 31,9 | 33,3 | 35,0 | 29,8 | 28,2 | -1,6 | -3,7 | | |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 37,0 | 37,4 | 39,4 | 34,4 | 33,3 | -1,1 | -3,7 | | |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 46,5 | 48,6 | 47,7 | 45,1 | 46,1 | 1,0 | -0,4 | | |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 50,5 | 51,8 | 51,3 | 48,7 | 50,0 | 1,3 | -0,5 | | |

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 | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 17 078 | 16 787 | 16 807 | 17 055 | 17 099 | 44 | 21 | 0,3 | 0,1 |
| Agriculture | 924 | 930 | 906 | 920 | 950 | 30 | 26 | 3,3 | 2,8 |
| Mining | 466 | 431 | 434 | 449 | 444 | -5 | -22 | -1,2 | -4,7 |
| Manufacturing | 1 675 | 1 677 | 1 672 | 1 610 | 1 548 | -61 | -127 | -3,8 | -7,6 |
| Utilities | 111 | 145 | 139 | 109 | 134 | 24 | 23 | 22,4 | 20,9 |
| Construction | 1 359 | 1 240 | 1 259 | 1 390 | 1 425 | 35 | 65 | 2,5 | 4,8 |
| Trade | 3 421 | 3 228 | 3 315 | 3 424 | 3 326 | -98 | -95 | -2,9 | -2,8 |
| Transport | 1 064 | 1 131 | 1 115 | 1 113 | 1 140 | 28 | 76 | 2,5 | 7,2 |
| Finance | 2 948 | 3 008 | 2 983 | 2 930 | 2 962 | 32 | 14 | 1,1 | 0,5 |
| Community and social services | 3 959 | 3 914 | 3 872 | 3 988 | 4 034 | 46 | 75 | 1,2 | 1,9 |
| Private households | 1 146 | 1 078 | 1 106 | 1 111 | 1 129 | 18 | -17 | 1,6 | -1,5 |
| Other | 5 | 6 | 4 | 11 | 7 | -4 | 2 | -36,7 | 40,1 |
| Women | 7 636 | 7 412 | 7 400 | 7 429 | 7 470 | 41 | -165 | 0,5 | -2,2 |
| Agriculture | 296 | 279 | 257 | 272 | 281 | 9 | -15 | 3,3 | -5,1 |
| Mining | 88 | 86 | 73 | 72 | 81 | 9 | -7 | 13,0 | -7,6 |
| Manufacturing | 642 | 589 | 570 | 543 | 543 | -1 | -100 | -0,1 | -15,5 |
| Utilities | 33 | 50 | 43 | 30 | 34 | 4 | 1 | 14,6 | 4,0 |
| Construction | 152 | 140 | 143 | 142 | 148 | 7 | -4 | 4,7 | -2,5 |
| Trade | 1 634 | 1 505 | 1 527 | 1 606 | 1 559 | -46 | -75 | -2,9 | -4,6 |
| Transport | 200 | 223 | 183 | 201 | 195 | -6 | -5 | -3,1 | -2,6 |
| Finance | 1 257 | 1 279 | 1 333 | 1 264 | 1 260 | -4 | 3 | -0,3 | 0,2 |
| Community and social services | 2 478 | 2 430 | 2 429 | 2 478 | 2 522 | 44 | 44 | 1,8 | 1,8 |
| Private households | 856 | 830 | 840 | 819 | 844 | 24 | -12 | 3,0 | -1,4 |
| Other | | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 0 | | 13,8 | |

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) | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 9 442 | 9 375 | 9 407 | 9 625 | 9 629 | 3 | 186 | 0,0 | 2,0 |
| Agriculture | 628 | 651 | 648 | 648 | 669 | 21 | 41 | 3,2 | 6,6 |
| Mining | 378 | 345 | 360 | 377 | 363 | -15 | -15 | -3,9 | -4,0 |
| Manufacturing | 1 033 | 1 088 | 1 102 | 1 066 | 1 006 | -61 | -27 | -5,7 | -2,6 |
| Utilities | 78 | 96 | 96 | 79 | 100 | 20 | 22 | 25,4 | 28,1 |
| Construction | 1 207 | 1 099 | 1 117 | 1 248 | 1 276 | 28 | 69 | 2,3 | 5,7 |
| Trade | 1 787 | 1 722 | 1 788 | 1 818 | 1 766 | -52 | -21 | -2,8 | -1,2 |
| Transport | 864 | 908 | 932 | 912 | 946 | 34 | 82 | 3,7 | 9,4 |
| Finance | 1 691 | 1 729 | 1 650 | 1 666 | 1 702 | 36 | 11 | 2,2 | 0,6 |
| Community and social services | 1 481 | 1 484 | 1 444 | 1 510 | 1 513 | 2 | 31 | 0,2 | 2,1 |
| Private households | 291 | 248 | 266 | 292 | 285 | -7 | -6 | -2,4 | -1,9 |
| Other | 5 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 4 | -5 | -1 | -55,3 | -27,9 |

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 | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 924 | 930 | 906 | 920 | 950 | 30 | 26 | 3,3 | 2,8 |
| Western Cape | 193 | 244 | 202 | 190 | 215 | 25 | 22 | 12,9 | 11,3 |
| Eastern Cape | 90 | 78 | 99 | 104 | 83 | -21 | -7 | -20,2 | -8,2 |
| Northern Cape | 52 | 62 | 38 | 42 | 59 | 17 | 7 | 39,7 | 12,9 |
| Free State | 66 | 64 | 85 | 71 | 92 | 20 | 25 | 28,6 | 38,4 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 152 | 132 | 118 | 122 | 139 | 17 | -13 | 14,3 | -8,7 |
| North West | 63 | 58 | 67 | 70 | 65 | -5 | 2 | -7,3 | 2,4 |
| Gauteng | 49 | 38 | 25 | 39 | 42 | 3 | -7 | 7,8 | -14,1 |
| Mpumalanga | 131 | 116 | 126 | 113 | 114 | 2 | -16 | 1,5 | -12,6 |
| Limpopo | 128 | 138 | 146 | 170 | 142 | -27 | 15 | -16,2 | 11,6 |
| Mining | 466 | 431 | 434 | 449 | 444 | -5 | -22 | -1,2 | -4,7 |
| Western Cape | 10 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 5 | -1 | -5 | -16,6 | -47,9 |
| Eastern Cape | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Northern Cape | 39 | 37 | 32 | 35 | 28 | -7 | -12 | -20,5 | -29,5 |
| Free State | 20 | 21 | 25 | 26 | 26 | 0 | 6 | 0,2 | 29,3 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 4 | 9 | 6 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 6 | 3,5 | 140,9 |
| North West | 107 | 110 | 98 | 99 | 100 | 1 | -8 | 1,3 | -7,2 |
| Gauteng | 88 | 81 | 93 | 101 | 100 | -2 | 11 | -1,5 | 12,8 |
| Mpumalanga | 70 | 55 | 50 | 58 | 63 | 5 | -7 | 8,4 | -10,3 |
| Limpopo | 126 | 112 | 126 | 115 | 113 | -2 | -13 | -1,8 | -10,4 |

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) | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 1 675 | 1 677 | 1 672 | 1 610 | 1 548 | -61 | -127 | -3,8 | -7,6 |
| Western Cape | 307 | 337 | 301 | 296 | 320 | 24 | 13 | 8,2 | 4,3 |
| Eastern Cape | 139 | 135 | 146 | 118 | 112 | -6 | -27 | -5,2 | -19,5 |
| Northern Cape | 11 | 11 | 15 | 18 | 8 | -9 | -3 | -53,6 | -25,2 |
| Free State | 46 | 62 | 52 | 47 | 47 | 0 | 2 | 0,1 | 3,4 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 368 | 331 | 355 | 364 | 344 | -20 | -24 | -5,5 | -6,4 |
| North West | 45 | 48 | 45 | 63 | 67 | 4 | 22 | 6,9 | 48,7 |
| Gauteng | 568 | 548 | 548 | 526 | 491 | -35 | -77 | -6,7 | -13,5 |
| Mpumalanga | 106 | 109 | 99 | 83 | 66 | -18 | -40 | -21,3 | -37,9 |
| Limpopo | 86 | 96 | 110 | 95 | 93 | -1 | 7 | -1,6 | 7,8 |
| Utilities | 111 | 145 | 139 | 109 | 134 | 24 | 23 | 22,4 | 20,9 |
| Western Cape | 10 | 11 | 12 | 9 | 13 | 4 | 3 | 49,3 | 28,7 |
| Eastern Cape | 9 | 13 | 9 | 4 | 10 | 7 | 2 | 197,5 | 23,5 |
| Northern Cape | 5 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 28,4 | -6,8 |
| Free State | 5 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | -3 | -2,3 | -62,0 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 5 | 17 | 19 | 7 | 12 | 4 | 6 | 56,8 | 121,7 |
| North West | 6 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 0 | -3 | 4,4 | -43,9 |
| Gauteng | 29 | 43 | 41 | 36 | 36 | -1 | 7 | -1,5 | 23,8 |
| Mpumalanga | 26 | 31 | 33 | 31 | 35 | 4 | 9 | 13,7 | 36,1 |
| Limpopo | 16 | 22 | 16 | 13 | 17 | 4 | 2 | 30,1 | 10,6 |

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) | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 1 359 | 1 240 | 1 259 | 1 390 | 1 425 | 35 | 65 | 2,5 | 4,8 |
| Western Cape | 245 | 245 | 224 | 259 | 267 | 8 | 22 | 3,0 | 8,9 |
| Eastern Cape | 126 | 111 | 132 | 117 | 117 | -1 | -10 | -0,8 | -7,6 |
| Northern Cape | 19 | 18 | 19 | 25 | 22 | -2 | 3 | -8,7 | 16,3 |
| Free State | 54 | 53 | 45 | 60 | 55 | -5 | 1 | -8,9 | 1,1 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 240 | 200 | 212 | 235 | 235 | 0 | -5 | -0,1 | -2,1 |
| North West | 73 | 65 | 74 | 62 | 73 | 11 | -1 | 16,8 | -0,7 |
| Gauteng | 340 | 334 | 325 | 372 | 400 | 28 | 60 | 7,7 | 17,7 |
| Mpumalanga | 97 | 90 | 97 | 101 | 113 | 12 | 16 | 11,9 | 16,2 |
| Limpopo | 164 | 124 | 131 | 158 | 143 | -15 | -21 | -9,6 | -12,7 |
| Trade | 3 421 | 3 228 | 3 315 | 3 424 | 3 326 | -98 | -95 | -2,9 | -2,8 |
| Western Cape | 509 | 492 | 535 | 559 | 557 | -3 | 47 | -0,5 | 9,3 |
| Eastern Cape | 295 | 232 | 292 | 273 | 296 | 24 | 1 | 8,7 | 0,4 |
| Northern Cape | 58 | 55 | 57 | 52 | 56 | 4 | -2 | 7,2 | -3,6 |
| Free State | 144 | 148 | 144 | 152 | 157 | 5 | 13 | 3,5 | 9,2 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 595 | 579 | 533 | 548 | 501 | -48 | -94 | -8,7 | -15,8 |
| North West | 203 | 153 | 159 | 170 | 172 | 2 | -31 | 1,5 | -15,1 |
| Gauteng | 1 029 | 1 027 | 1 062 | 1 059 | 986 | -73 | -43 | -6,9 | -4,2 |
| Mpumalanga | 241 | 226 | 223 | 265 | 286 | 21 | 45 | 7,8 | 18,7 |
| Limpopo | 347 | 315 | 311 | 346 | 315 | -31 | -32 | -9,0 | -9,3 |

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

| Table 3.2: Employed by industry and province (continued) | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 1 064 | 1 131 | 1 115 | 1 113 | 1 140 | 28 | 76 | 2,5 | 7,2 |
| Western Cape | 184 | 195 | 181 | 199 | 191 | -8 | 7 | -3,9 | 3,8 |
| Eastern Cape | 101 | 117 | 105 | 86 | 81 | -4 | -19 | -5,1 | -19,2 |
| Northern Cape | 12 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 3 | -2 | 44,8 | -13,8 |
| Free State | 38 | 28 | 29 | 42 | 36 | -7 | -3 | -16,4 | -7,2 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 176 | 176 | 181 | 196 | 221 | 24 | 44 | 12,4 | 25,2 |
| North West | 36 | 48 | 44 | 28 | 28 | 0 | -8 | 1,8 | -21,2 |
| Gauteng | 377 | 425 | 430 | 409 | 430 | 21 | 53 | 5,1 | 14,1 |
| Mpumalanga | 67 | 68 | 67 | 62 | 55 | -6 | | -10,1 | -16,6 |
| Limpopo | 74 | 69 | 71 | 84 | 88 | 4 | 14 | 5,0 | 19,2 |
| Finance | 2 948 | 3 008 | 2 983 | 2 930 | 2 962 | 32 | 14 | 1,1 | 0,5 |
| Western Cape | 587 | 595 | 550 | 569 | 573 | 4 | -14 | 0,7 | -2,3 |
| Eastern Cape | 185 | 193 | 187 | 193 | 172 | -21 | -13 | -10,8 | -7,1 |
| Northern Cape | 49 | 42 | 34 | 29 | 37 | 8 | -12 | 26,3 | -25,3 |
| Free State | 94 | 101 | 99 | 94 | 80 | -15 | -14 | -15,5 | -15,2 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 424 | 461 | 441 | 395 | 416 | 21 | -8 | 5,2 | -1,9 |
| North West | 128 | 122 | 121 | 130 | 143 | 13 | 15 | 10,0 | 11,7 |
| Gauteng | 1 182 | 1 193 | 1 223 | 1 210 | 1 202 | -8 | 20 | -0,7 | 1,7 |
| Mpumalanga | 148 | 157 | 166 | 179 | 184 | 4 | 36 | 2,5 | 24,4 |
| Limpopo | 152 | 145 | 163 | 131 | 156 | 26 | 4 | 19,6 | 2,7 |

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 (concluded) | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 3 959 | 3 914 | 3 872 | 3 988 | 4 034 | 46 | 75 | 1,2 | 1,9 |
| Western Cape | 608 | 576 | 571 | 558 | 609 | 51 | 1 | 9,2 | 0,2 |
| Eastern Cape | 397 | 408 | 386 | 421 | 413 | -8 | 15 | -2,0 | 3,9 |
| Northern Cape | 90 | 87 | 90 | 88 | 94 | 6 | 4 | 7,2 | 4,5 |
| Free State | 216 | 201 | 214 | 222 | 205 | -18 | -12 | -8,0 | -5,4 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 711 | 686 | 654 | 676 | 648 | -28 | -64 | -4,1 | -8,9 |
| North West | 222 | 221 | 235 | 256 | 254 | -2 | 32 | -0,9 | 14,4 |
| Gauteng | 1 067 | 1 088 | 1 111 | 1 139 | 1 166 | 26 | 99 | 2,3 | 9,3 |
| Mpumalanga | 285 | 278 | 275 | 271 | 275 | 4 | -10 | 1,5 | -3,5 |
| Limpopo | 363 | 370 | 336 | 357 | 371 | 14 | 9 | 4,1 | 2,4 |
| Private households | 1 146 | 1 078 | 1 106 | 1 111 | 1 129 | 18 | -17 | 1,6 | -1,5 |
| Western Cape | 158 | 158 | 165 | 164 | 153 | -11 | -5 | -6,5 | -3,1 |
| Eastern Cape | 113 | 86 | 106 | 92 | 93 | 1 | -20 | 1,3 | -17,8 |
| Northern Cape | 19 | 22 | 17 | 21 | 18 | -2 | -1 | -11,6 | -5,0 |
| Free State | 67 | 72 | 71 | 65 | 72 | 7 | 5 | 10,9 | 7,5 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 216 | 197 | 184 | 202 | 191 | -11 | -25 | -5,5 | -11,6 |
| North West | 52 | 55 | 49 | 57 | 68 | 11 | 16 | 19,1 | 30,2 |
| Gauteng | 349 | 309 | 324 | 342 | 330 | -13 | -19 | -3,7 | -5,5 |
| Mpumalanga | 85 | 82 | 85 | 83 | 92 | 9 | 7 | 11,4 | 8,2 |
| Limpopo | 88 | 96 | 104 | 87 | 113 | 26 | 25 | 29,5 | 28,4 |

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 | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | | | | 17 055 | 17 099 | 44 | | 0,3 | |
| Formal and informal sector* | | | | 15 944 | 15 970 | 27 | | 0,2 | |
| Agriculture | | | | 920 | 950 | 30 | | 3,3 | |
| Mining | | | | 449 | 444 | -5 | | -1,2 | |
| Manufacturing | | | | 1 610 | 1 548 | -61 | | -3,8 | |
| Utilities | | | | 109 | 134 | 24 | | 22,4 | |
| Construction | | | | 1 390 | 1 425 | 35 | | 2,5 | |
| Trade | | | | 3 424 | 3 326 | -98 | | -2,9 | |
| Transport | | | | 1 113 | 1 140 | 28 | | 2,5 | |
| Finance | | | | 2 930 | 2 962 | 32 | | 1,1 | |
| Community and social services | | | | 3 988 | 4 034 | 46 | | 1,2 | |
| Other | | | | 11 | 7 | -4 | | -36,7 | |
| Formal sector* | | | | 11 983 | 12 303 | 320 | | 2,7 | |
| Agriculture | | | | 575 | 683 | 109 | | 18,9 | |
| Mining | | | | 434 | 435 | 1 | | 0,2 | |
| Manufacturing | | | | 1 300 | 1 297 | -4 | | -0,3 | |
| Utilities | | | | 106 | 131 | 25 | | 23,1 | |
| Construction | | | | 711 | 738 | 28 | | 3,9 | |
| Trade | | | | 2 136 | 2 138 | 2 | | 0,1 | |
| Transport | | | | 678 | 703 | 24 | | 3,6 | |
| Finance | | | | 2 547 | 2 618 | 71 | | 2,8 | |
| Community and social services | | | | 3 490 | 3 553 | 63 | | 1,8 | |
| Other | | | | 6 | 6 | 1 | | 15,3 | |

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

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

| Table 3.3: Employed by sector and industry - South Africa (concluded) | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 3 667 | -293 | | -7,4 | |
| Agriculture | | | | 346 | 267 | -79 | | -22,7 | |
| Mining | | | | 15 | 9 | -6 | | -41,5 | |
| Manufacturing | | | | 309 | 252 | -58 | | -18,6 | |
| Utilities | | | | 3 | 3 | 0 | | -1,5 | |
| Construction | | | | 679 | 686 | 7 | | 1,0 | |
| Trade | | | | 1 288 | 1 188 | -100 | | -7,8 | |
| Transport | | | | 435 | 438 | 3 | | 0,8 | |
| Finance | | | | 383 | 343 | -39 | | -10,3 | |
| Community and social services | | | | 498 | 481 | -17 | | -3,4 | |
| Other | | | | 6 | 1 | -5 | | -87,2 | |
| Household sector | 1 146 | 1 078 | 1 106 | 1 111 | 1 129 | 18 | -17 | 1,6 | -1,5 |

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

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

| Table 3.4: Employed by province, metro and sector | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 17 078 | 16 787 | 16 807 | 17 055 | 17 099 | 44 | 21 | 0,3 | 0,1 |
| Formal sector* | | | | 11 983 | 12 303 | 320 | | 2,7 | |
| Informal sector* | | | | 3 961 | 3 667 | -293 | | -7,4 | |
| Household sector | 1 146 | 1 078 | 1 106 | 1 111 | 1 129 | 18 | -17 | 1,6 | -1,5 |
| Western Cape | 2 812 | 2 861 | 2 744 | 2 814 | 2 907 | 93 | 95 | 3,3 | 3,4 |
| Formal sector* | | | | 2 165 | 2 274 | 109 | | 5,0 | |
| Informal sector* | | | | 484 | 480 | -5 | | -1,0 | |
| Household sector | 158 | 158 | 165 | 164 | 153 | -11 | -5 | -6,5 | -3,1 |
| Western Cape - Non-Metro | 1 030 | 1 034 | 958 | 987 | 1 012 | 25 | -18 | 2,5 | -1,7 |
| Formal sector* | | | | 741 | 783 | 42 | | 5,7 | |
| Informal sector* | | | | 188 | 169 | -18 | | -9,8 | |
| Household sector | 64 | 58 | 56 | 59 | 59 | 1 | -5 | 1,3 | -7,8 |
| Western Cape - City of Cape Town | 1 782 | 1 827 | 1 786 | 1 826 | 1 895 | 69 | 113 | 3,8 | 6,4 |
| Formal sector* | | | | 1 424 | 1 491 | 67 | | 4,7 | |
| Informal sector* | | | | 297 | 310 | 14 | | 4,6 | |
| Household sector | 94 | 101 | 110 | 105 | 94 | -11 | 0 | -10,8 | 0,0 |
| Eastern Cape | 1 455 | 1 373 | 1 462 | 1 408 | 1 377 | -32 | -79 | -2,2 | -5,4 |
| Formal sector* | | | | 946 | 957 | 12 | | 1,3 | |
| Informal sector* | | | | 371 | 327 | -45 | | -12,0 | |
| Household sector | 113 | 86 | 106 | 92 | 93 | 1 | -20 | 1,3 | -17,8 |

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

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

| Table 3.4: Employed by province, metro and sector (continued) | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 774 | 743 | 760 | 768 | 731 | -37 | -43 | -4,8 | -5,5 |
| Formal sector* | | | | 472 | 442 | -30 | | -6,4 | |
| Informal sector* | | | | 236 | 228 | -9 | | -3,6 | |
| Household sector | 67 | 57 | 59 | 60 | 62 | 2 | -5 | 3,1 | -7,8 |
| Eastern Cape - Buffalo City | 281 | 252 | 282 | 276 | 286 | 10 | 5 | 3,7 | 1,9 |
| Formal sector* | | | | 185 | 218 | 33 | | 18,0 | |
| Informal sector* | | | | 78 | 51 | -26 | | -33,8 | |
| Household sector | 27 | 9 | 21 | 14 | 17 | 3 | -10 | 22,7 | -37,2 |
| Eastern Cape - Nelson Mandela bay | 401 | 378 | 420 | 364 | 360 | -5 | -41 | -1,3 | -10,3 |
| Formal sector* | | | | 289 | 298 | 9 | | 3,1 | |
| Informal sector* | | | | 57 | 47 | -10 | | -17,1 | |
| Household sector | 19 | 20 | 25 | 18 | 14 | -4 | -5 | -20,8 | -25,5 |
| Northern Cape | 355 | 343 | 314 | 319 | 337 | 17 | -18 | 5,5 | -5,0 |
| Formal sector* | | | | 255 | 287 | 32 | | 12,7 | |
| Informal sector* | | | | 44 | 32 | -13 | | -28,4 | |
| Household sector | 19 | 22 | 17 | 21 | 18 | -2 | -1 | -11,6 | -5,0 |
| Free State | 750 | 754 | 766 | 782 | 771 | -11 | 21 | -1,4 | 2,8 |
| Formal sector* | | | | 553 | 541 | -12 | | -2,2 | |
| Informal sector* | | | | 164 | 159 | -6 | | -3,5 | |
| Household sector | 67 | 72 | 71 | 65 | 72 | 7 | 5 | 10,9 | 7,5 |

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

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

| Table 3.4: Employed by province, metro and sector (continued) | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 505 | 506 | 514 | 540 | 548 | 9 | 44 | 1,6 | 8,7 |
| Formal sector* | | | | 373 | 380 | 7 | | 1,9 | |
| Informal sector* | | | | 120 | 117 | -3 | | -2,7 | |
| Household sector | 45 | 51 | 56 | 46 | 51 | 5 | 6 | 10,8 | 13,6 |
| Free State - Mangaung | 245 | 247 | 252 | 242 | 223 | -19 | -23 | -8,0 | -9,2 |
| Formal sector* | | | | 180 | 161 | -19 | | -10,7 | |
| Informal sector* | | | | 44 | 42 | -2 | | -5,4 | |
| Household sector | 21 | 21 | 15 | 18 | 20 | 2 | -1 | 11,3 | -5,1 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 2 892 | 2 788 | 2 702 | 2 757 | 2 716 | -41 | -176 | -1,5 | -6,1 |
| Formal sector* | | | | 1 781 | 1 832 | 51 | | 2,9 | |
| Informal sector* | | | | 774 | 693 | -81 | | -10,5 | |
| Household sector | 216 | 197 | 184 | 202 | 191 | -11 | -25 | -5,5 | -11,6 |
| KwaZulu-Natal - Non-Metro | 1 559 | 1 487 | 1 503 | 1 551 | 1 448 | -103 | -111 | -6,7 | -7,1 |
| Formal sector* | | | | 982 | 957 | -25 | | -2,5 | |
| Informal sector* | | | | 463 | 399 | -64 | | -13,8 | |
| Household sector | 119 | 105 | 97 | 106 | 92 | -14 | -28 | -13,5 | -23,1 |
| KwaZulu-Natal - eThekweni | 1 333 | 1 301 | 1 199 | 1 206 | 1 268 | 62 | -65 | 5,1 | -4,9 |
| Formal sector* | | | | 799 | 875 | 76 | | 9,5 | |
| Informal sector* | | | | 311 | 294 | -17 | | -5,5 | |
| Household sector | 97 | 93 | 87 | 96 | 99 | 3 | 3 | 3,4 | 2,7 |

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

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

| Table 3.4: Employed by province, metro and sector (continued) | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 935 | 879 | 895 | 937 | 973 | 36 | 38 | 3,9 | 4,1 |
| Formal sector* | | | | 649 | 657 | 8 | | 1,2 | |
| Informal sector* | | | | 231 | 248 | 17 | | 7,5 | |
| Household sector | 52 | 55 | 49 | 57 | 68 | 11 | 16 | 19,1 | 30,2 |
| Gauteng | 5 081 | 5 091 | 5 186 | 5 237 | 5 183 | -54 | 102 | -1,0 | 2,0 |
| Formal sector* | | | | 3 871 | 3 943 | 71 | | 1,8 | |
| Informal sector* | | | | 1 023 | 911 | -112 | | -11,0 | |
| Household sector | 349 | 309 | 324 | 342 | 330 | -13 | -19 | -3,7 | -5,5 |
| Gauteng - Non-Metro | 607 | 633 | 650 | 702 | 707 | 5 | 100 | 0,7 | 16,5 |
| Formal sector* | | | | 555 | 572 | 17 | | 3,1 | |
| Informal sector* | | | | 108 | 98 | -9 | | -8,5 | |
| Household sector | 42 | 38 | 36 | 40 | 37 | -3 | -6 | -7,7 | -13,4 |
| Gauteng - Ekurhuleni | 1 255 | 1 202 | 1 200 | 1 235 | 1 248 | 13 | -6 | 1,1 | -0,5 |
| Formal sector* | | | | 969 | 990 | 21 | | 2,2 | |
| Informal sector* | | | | 211 | 207 | -4 | | -1,9 | |
| Household sector | 69 | 62 | 58 | 54 | 51 | -4 | -18 | -7,0 | -26,2 |
| Gauteng - City of Johannesburg | 1 935 | 1 977 | 2 000 | 1 963 | 1 915 | -49 | -20 | -2,5 | -1,1 |
| Formal sector* | | | | 1 341 | 1 328 | -13 | | -1,0 | |
| Informal sector* | | | | 473 | 439 | -34 | | -7,2 | |
| Household sector | 148 | 128 | 142 | 149 | 147 | -2 | -1 | -1,2 | -0,6 |

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

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

| Table 3.4: Employed by province, metro and sector (concluded) | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 1 285 | 1 279 | 1 336 | 1 336 | 1 313 | -23 | 28 | -1,7 | 2,2 |
| Formal sector* | | | | 1 006 | 1 053 | 46 | | 4,6 | |
| Informal sector* | | | | 231 | 166 | -65 | | -28,3 | |
| Household sector | 90 | 82 | 87 | 99 | 95 | -4 | 5 | -4,1 | 6,0 |
| Mpumalanga | 1 255 | 1 212 | 1 223 | 1 246 | 1 283 | 37 | 29 | 3,0 | 2,3 |
| Formal sector* | | | | 838 | 839 | 1 | | 0,1 | |
| Informal sector* | | | | 326 | 353 | 27 | | 8,3 | |
| Household sector | 85 | 82 | 85 | 83 | 92 | 9 | 7 | 11,4 | 8,2 |
| Limpopo | 1 543 | 1 488 | 1 515 | 1 555 | 1 552 | -3 | 9 | -0,2 | 0,6 |
| Formal sector* | | | | 925 | 973 | 47 | | 5,1 | |
| Informal sector* | | | | 542 | 466 | -76 | | -14,1 | |
| Household sector | 88 | 96 | 104 | 87 | 113 | 26 | 25 | 29,5 | 28,4 |

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

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

| Table 3.5: Employed by sex and occupation - South Africa | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 17 078 | 16 787 | 16 807 | 17 055 | 17 099 | 44 | 21 | 0,3 | 0,1 |
| Manager | 1 496 | 1 430 | 1 507 | 1 453 | 1 433 | -20 | -62 | -1,3 | -4,2 |
| Professional | 869 | 980 | 983 | 909 | 952 | 43 | 83 | 4,7 | 9,6 |
| Technician | 1 398 | 1 503 | 1 565 | 1 488 | 1 575 | 87 | 177 | 5,9 | 12,7 |
| Clerk | 1 897 | 1 854 | 1 813 | 1 856 | 1 820 | -36 | -77 | -1,9 | -4,0 |
| Sales and services | 2 949 | 2 929 | 2 875 | 3 073 | 3 079 | 7 | 130 | 0,2 | 4,4 |
| Skilled agriculture | 71 | 62 | 47 | 97 | 60 | -37 | -12 | -38,6 | -16,4 |
| Craft and related trade | 1 932 | 1 862 | 1 858 | 1 991 | 1 943 | -48 | 11 | -2,4 | 0,6 |
| Plant and machine operator | 1 389 | 1 386 | 1 396 | 1 413 | 1 427 | 14 | 38 | 1,0 | 2,7 |
| Elementary | 4 215 | 3 964 | 3 923 | 3 903 | 3 916 | 14 | -299 | 0,3 | -7,1 |
| Domestic worker | 861 | 818 | 839 | 848 | 855 | 7 | -7 | 0,8 | -0,8 |
| Other | 1 | | | 25 | 39 | 13 | 37 | 52,7 | 2898,7 |
| Women | 7 636 | 7 412 | 7 400 | 7 429 | 7 470 | 41 | -165 | 0,5 | -2,2 |
| Manager | 532 | 480 | 501 | 508 | 497 | -12 | -36 | -2,3 | -6,7 |
| Professional | 479 | 517 | 563 | 495 | 550 | 55 | 71 | 11,0 | 14,7 |
| Technician | 724 | 758 | 784 | 726 | 807 | 81 | 84 | 11,2 | 11,6 |
| Clerk | 1 380 | 1 321 | 1 299 | 1 341 | 1 312 | -29 | -68 | -2,2 | -4,9 |
| Sales and services | 1 457 | 1 466 | 1 422 | 1 550 | 1 546 | -4 | 89 | -0,3 | 6,1 |
| Skilled agriculture | 24 | 14 | 11 | 25 | 24 | -1 | 0 | -3,9 | -1,2 |
| Craft and related trade | 275 | 243 | 258 | 257 | 234 | -23 | -41 | -8,8 | -14,9 |
| Plant and machine operator | 192 | 196 | 166 | 180 | 165 | -15 | -27 | -8,4 | -14,3 |
| Elementary | 1 759 | 1 637 | 1 593 | 1 539 | 1 509 | -30 | -250 | -2,0 | -14,2 |
| Domestic worker | 813 | 780 | 802 | 798 | 813 | 15 | 0 | 1,9 | 0,0 |
| Other | | | | 10 | 14 | 4 | | 38,4 | |

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) | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 9 442 | 9 375 | 9 407 | 9 625 | 9 629 | 3 | 186 | 0,0 | 2,0 |
| Manager | 963 | 950 | 1 007 | 945 | 937 | -8 | -27 | -0,8 | -2,8 |
| Professional | 389 | 463 | 420 | 414 | 402 | -12 | 12 | -2,9 | 3,2 |
| Technician | 674 | 744 | 781 | 762 | 768 | 6 | 93 | 0,8 | 13,8 |
| Clerk | 517 | 533 | 514 | 515 | 508 | -7 | -9 | -1,3 | -1,7 |
| Sales and services | 1 492 | 1 462 | 1 452 | 1 523 | 1 533 | 11 | 41 | 0,7 | 2,8 |
| Skilled agriculture | 47 | 48 | 36 | 72 | 36 | -36 | -11 | -50,4 | -24,0 |
| Craft and related trade | 1 656 | 1 618 | 1 601 | 1 734 | 1 709 | -25 | 52 | -1,5 | 3,2 |
| Plant and machine operator | 1 197 | 1 190 | 1 230 | 1 233 | 1 263 | 29 | 66 | 2,4 | 5,5 |
| Elementary | 2 456 | 2 327 | 2 330 | 2 363 | 2 407 | 44 | -49 | 1,9 | -2,0 |
| Domestic worker | 48 | 38 | 37 | 50 | 42 | -8 | -6 | -15,4 | -13,3 |
| Other | 1 | | | 15 | 25 | 9 | 23 | 62,1 | 1812,8 |

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 | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 17 078 | 16 787 | 16 807 | 17 055 | 17 099 | 44 | 21 | 0,3 | 0,1 |
| Employee | 14 087 | 13 797 | 13 836 | 14 093 | 14 269 | 176 | 181 | 1,2 | 1,3 |
| Employer | 966 | 953 | 947 | 776 | 805 | 29 | -161 | 3,7 | -16,7 |
| Own-account worker | 1 932 | 1 926 | 1 926 | 2 069 | 1 931 | -138 | -1 | -6,7 | -0,1 |
| Unpaid household member | 92 | 111 | 97 | 117 | 94 | -22 | 2 | -19,0 | 2,5 |
| Women | 7 636 | 7 412 | 7 400 | 7 429 | 7 470 | 41 | -165 | 0,5 | -2,2 |
| Employee | 6 516 | 6 372 | 6 351 | 6 385 | 6 513 | 129 | -3 | 2,0 | 0,0 |
| Employer | 245 | 224 | 220 | 172 | 164 | -8 | -81 | -4,6 | -33,0 |
| Own-account worker | 824 | 755 | 781 | 816 | 748 | -68 | -77 | -8,3 | -9,3 |
| Unpaid household member | 50 | 61 | 49 | 57 | 45 | -12 | -5 | -21,4 | -9,5 |
| Men | 9 442 | 9 375 | 9 407 | 9 625 | 9 629 | 3 | 186 | 0,0 | 2,0 |
| Employee | 7 571 | 7 425 | 7 486 | 7 709 | 7 755 | 47 | 184 | 0,6 | 2,4 |
| Employer | 721 | 729 | 728 | 603 | 640 | 37 | -80 | 6,1 | -11,1 |
| Own-account worker | 1 108 | 1 171 | 1 145 | 1 254 | 1 183 | -70 | 75 | -5,6 | 6,8 |
| Unpaid household member | 43 | 50 | 48 | 60 | 50 | -10 | 7 | -16,8 | 16,3 |

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 | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | | | | 17 055 | 17 099 | 44 | | 0,3 | |
| Employers | | | | 788 | 825 | 37 | | 4,7 | |
| Independent workers without employees | | | | 1 738 | 1 611 | -127 | | -7,3 | |
| Dependent contractors | | | | 642 | 540 | -102 | | -15,9 | |
| Employees | | | | 13 826 | 14 084 | 258 | | 1,9 | |
| Contributing family workers | | | | 61 | 39 | -22 | | -35,8 | |
| Women | | | | 7 429 | 7 470 | 41 | | 0,5 | |
| Employers | | | | 179 | 177 | -2 | | -1,3 | |
| Independent workers without employees | | | | 704 | 640 | -64 | | -9,0 | |
| Dependent contractors | | | | 208 | 176 | -31 | | -15,1 | |
| Employees | | | | 6 311 | 6 460 | 149 | | 2,4 | |
| Contributing family workers | | | | 28 | 17 | -11 | | -39,8 | |
| Men | | | | 9 625 | 9 629 | 3 | | 0,0 | |
| Employers | | | | 608 | 648 | 40 | | 6,5 | |
| Independent workers without employees | | | | 1 034 | 971 | -63 | | -6,1 | |
| Dependent contractors | | | | 434 | 363 | -71 | | -16,3 | |
| Employees | | | | 7 516 | 7 624 | 109 | | 1,4 | |
| Contributing family workers | | | | 33 | 22 | -11 | | -32,4 | |

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 | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | | | | 17 055 | 17 099 | 44 | | 0,3 | |
| Employers in corporations | | | | 195 | 173 | -21 | | -11,0 | |
| Employers in household market units | | | | 593 | 652 | 59 | | 9,9 | |
| Owners-operators of corporations without employees | | | | 96 | 78 | -18 | | -18,8 | |
| Own-account workers in household market units | | | | 1 642 | 1 533 | -109 | | -6,6 | |
| Dependent contractors | | | | 642 | 540 | -102 | | -15,9 | |
| Permanent employees | | | | 11 616 | 12 022 | 407 | | 3,5 | |
| Fixed-term employees | | | | 1 559 | 1 491 | -68 | | -4,3 | |
| Short term and casual employees | | | | 291 | 291 | 0 | | 0,1 | |
| Paid apprentices, trainees and interns | | | | 87 | 66 | -22 | | -24,9 | |
| Employees not elsewhere classified | | | | 274 | 214 | -60 | | -21,8 | |
| Contributing family workers | | | | 61 | 39 | -22 | | -35,8 | |
| Women | | | | 7 429 | 7 470 | 41 | | 0,5 | |
| Employers in corporations | | | | 49 | 55 | 6 | | 12,9 | |
| Employers in household market units | | | | 131 | 122 | -9 | | -6,6 | |
| Owners-operators of corporations without employees | | | | 28 | 21 | -8 | | -27,3 | |
| Own-account workers in household market units | | | | 676 | 620 | -56 | | -8,3 | |
| Dependent contractors | | | | 208 | 176 | -31 | | -15,1 | |
| Permanent employees | | | | 5 257 | 5 478 | 221 | | 4,2 | |
| Fixed-term employees | | | | 796 | 747 | -49 | | -6,2 | |
| Short term and casual employees | | | | 99 | 121 | 22 | | 22,2 | |
| Paid apprentices, trainees and interns | | | | 50 | 40 | -10 | | -20,0 | |
| Employees not elsewhere classified | | | | 108 | 73 | -35 | | -32,3 | |
| Contributing family workers | | | | 28 | 17 | -11 | | -39,8 | |

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

| Table 36c: Employed by sex and status in employment (ICSE-18 detailed) - South Africa (concluded) | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | | | | 9 593 | 9 606 | 14 | | 0,1 | |
| Employees not elsewhere classified | | | | 166 | 141 | -25 | | -15,0 | |
| Employers in corporations | | | | 146 | 118 | -28 | | -18,9 | |
| Employers in household market units | | | | 462 | 530 | 67 | | 14,5 | |
| Owners-operators of corporations without employees | | | | 67 | 57 | -10 | | -15,3 | |
| Own-account workers in household market units | | | | 967 | 914 | -53 | | -5,5 | |
| Dependent contractors | | | | 434 | 363 | -71 | | -16,3 | |
| Permanent employees | | | | 6 359 | 6 544 | 185 | | 2,9 | |
| Fixed-term employees | | | | 762 | 744 | -18 | | -2,4 | |
| Short term and casual employees | | | | 192 | 170 | -22 | | -11,2 | |
| Paid apprentices, trainees and interns | | | | 37 | 25 | -12 | | -31,5 | |
| Contributing family workers | | | | 33 | 22 | -11 | | -32,4 | |

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 | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 17 078 | 16 787 | 16 807 | 17 055 | 17 099 | 44 | 21 | 0,3 | 0,1 |
| Working less than 15 hours per week | 509 | 518 | 496 | 585 | 433 | -152 | -75 | -26,0 | -14,8 |
| Working 15-29 hours per week | 1 256 | 1 230 | 1 179 | 1 111 | 1 073 | -38 | -183 | -3,4 | -14,6 |
| Working 30-39 hours per week | 1 230 | 1 195 | 1 079 | 1 176 | 1 168 | -8 | -62 | -0,7 | -5,1 |
| Working 40-45 hours per week | 9 554 | 9 375 | 9 402 | 9 556 | 9 858 | 302 | 304 | 3,2 | 3,2 |
| Working more than 45 hours per week | 4 529 | 4 470 | 4 650 | 4 626 | 4 566 | -60 | 36 | -1,3 | 0,8 |
| Women | 7 636 | 7 412 | 7 400 | 7 429 | 7 470 | 41 | -165 | 0,5 | -2,2 |
| Working less than 15 hours per week | 260 | 277 | 283 | 327 | 219 | -108 | -41 | -32,9 | -15,6 |
| Working 15-29 hours per week | 782 | 751 | 729 | 647 | 650 | 2 | -132 | 0,4 | -16,9 |
| Working 30-39 hours per week | 684 | 677 | 597 | 657 | 701 | 44 | 17 | 6,7 | 2,5 |
| Working 40-45 hours per week | 4 386 | 4 240 | 4 248 | 4 352 | 4 453 | 101 | 67 | 2,3 | 1,5 |
| Working more than 45 hours per week | 1 523 | 1 468 | 1 542 | 1 446 | 1 445 | -1 | -78 | 0,0 | -5,1 |
| Men | 9 442 | 9 375 | 9 407 | 9 625 | 9 629 | 3 | 186 | 0,0 | 2,0 |
| Working less than 15 hours per week | 249 | 242 | 212 | 258 | 214 | -45 | -35 | -17,3 | -14,0 |
| Working 15-29 hours per week | 474 | 479 | 450 | 464 | 424 | -40 | -51 | -8,6 | -10,7 |
| Working 30-39 hours per week | 546 | 518 | 482 | 519 | 466 | -53 | -79 | -10,2 | -14,5 |
| Working 40-45 hours per week | 5 168 | 5 134 | 5 154 | 5 204 | 5 405 | 201 | 237 | 3,9 | 4,6 |
| Working more than 45 hours per week | 3 006 | 3 002 | 3 108 | 3 180 | 3 120 | -60 | 114 | -1,9 | 3,8 |

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 | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 14 087 | 13 797 | 13 836 | 14 093 | 14 269 | 176 | 181 | 1,2 | 1,3 |
| Yes | 6 305 | 6 290 | 6 194 | 6 180 | 6 337 | 157 | 31 | 2,5 | 0,5 |
| No | 7 398 | 7 107 | 7 236 | 7 433 | 7 487 | 55 | 89 | 0,7 | 1,2 |
| Don't know | 384 | 400 | 407 | 481 | 445 | -36 | 61 | -7,5 | 15,8 |
| Women | 6 516 | 6 372 | 6 351 | 6 385 | 6 513 | 129 | -3 | 2,0 | 0,0 |
| Yes | 2 856 | 2 846 | 2 825 | 2 837 | 2 907 | 69 | 50 | 2,4 | 1,8 |
| No | 3 510 | 3 340 | 3 340 | 3 325 | 3 424 | 99 | -86 | 3,0 | -2,4 |
| Don't know | 150 | 186 | 185 | 222 | 183 | -39 | 32 | -17,7 | 21,6 |
| Men | 7 571 | 7 425 | 7 486 | 7 709 | 7 755 | 47 | 184 | 0,6 | 2,4 |
| Yes | 3 449 | 3 445 | 3 368 | 3 343 | 3 430 | 87 | -19 | 2,6 | -0,6 |
| No | 3 888 | 3 767 | 3 896 | 4 108 | 4 064 | -44 | 175 | -1,1 | 4,5 |
| Don't know | 234 | 214 | 222 | 258 | 262 | 3 | 28 | 1,3 | 12,0 |
| Entitled to any paid leave | | | | | | | | | |
| Both sexes | 14 087 | 13 797 | 13 836 | 14 093 | 14 269 | 176 | 181 | 1,2 | 1,3 |
| Yes | 9 303 | 9 352 | 9 219 | 9 166 | 9 562 | 395 | 259 | 4,3 | 2,8 |
| No | 4 594 | 4 278 | 4 437 | 4 722 | 4 498 | -224 | -96 | -4,8 | -2,1 |
| Don't know | 191 | 167 | 181 | 205 | 209 | 5 | 19 | 2,2 | 9,8 |
| Women | 6 516 | 6 372 | 6 351 | 6 385 | 6 513 | 129 | -3 | 2,0 | 0,0 |
| Yes | 4 350 | 4 350 | 4 311 | 4 260 | 4 438 | 178 | 88 | 4,2 | 2,0 |
| No | 2 093 | 1 964 | 1 967 | 2 021 | 1 997 | -24 | -97 | -1,2 | -4,6 |
| Don't know | 73 | 59 | 73 | 104 | 79 | -25 | 6 | -24,1 | 8,1 |
| Men | 7 571 | 7 425 | 7 486 | 7 709 | 7 755 | 47 | 184 | 0,6 | 2,4 |
| Yes | 4 952 | 5 002 | 4 909 | 4 906 | 5 124 | 218 | 171 | 4,4 | 3,5 |
| No | 2 501 | 2 314 | 2 469 | 2 702 | 2 501 | -200 | 0 | -7,4 | 0,0 |
| Don't know | 118 | 109 | 108 | 101 | 130 | 29 | 13 | 29,2 | 10,8 |

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

| Table 3.8: Conditions of employment based on ICSE-93 - South Africa (concluded) | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 14 087 | 13 797 | 13 836 | 14 093 | 14 269 | 176 | 181 | 1,2 | 1,3 |
| Yes | 10 027 | 10 052 | 9 982 | 10 078 | 10 483 | 405 | 456 | 4,0 | 4,5 |
| No | 3 868 | 3 578 | 3 687 | 3 820 | 3 569 | -251 | -300 | -6,6 | -7,7 |
| Don't know | 192 | 168 | 167 | 196 | 217 | 22 | 25 | 11,0 | 13,2 |
| Women | 6 516 | 6 372 | 6 351 | 6 385 | 6 513 | 129 | -3 | 2,0 | 0,0 |
| Yes | 4 684 | 4 678 | 4 619 | 4 648 | 4 841 | 193 | 157 | 4,2 | 3,4 |
| No | 1 756 | 1 636 | 1 661 | 1 645 | 1 584 | -61 | -172 | -3,7 | -9,8 |
| Don't know | 77 | 58 | 71 | 92 | 89 | -3 | 12 | -3,0 | 15,4 |
| Men | 7 571 | 7 425 | 7 486 | 7 709 | 7 755 | 47 | 184 | 0,6 | 2,4 |
| Yes | 5 343 | 5 373 | 5 364 | 5 430 | 5 642 | 212 | 299 | 3,9 | 5,6 |
| No | 2 113 | 1 942 | 2 026 | 2 175 | 1 985 | -190 | -128 | -8,7 | -6,0 |
| Don't know | 115 | 110 | 96 | 104 | 128 | 24 | 13 | 23,4 | 11,7 |
| Entitled to maternity/paternity leave | | | | | | | | | |
| Both sexes | 14 087 | 13 797 | 13 836 | 14 093 | 14 269 | 176 | 181 | 1,2 | 1,3 |
| Yes | 7 810 | 7 805 | 7 725 | 7 892 | 8 131 | 238 | 321 | 3,0 | 4,1 |
| No | 5 912 | 5 635 | 5 762 | 5 807 | 5 697 | -110 | -215 | -1,9 | -3,6 |
| Don't know | 366 | 357 | 349 | 394 | 441 | 47 | 75 | 12,0 | 20,6 |
| Women | 6 516 | 6 372 | 6 351 | 6 385 | 6 513 | 129 | -3 | 2,0 | 0,0 |
| Yes | 3 785 | 3 817 | 3 773 | 3 874 | 3 971 | 97 | 186 | 2,5 | 4,9 |
| No | 2 593 | 2 425 | 2 447 | 2 343 | 2 369 | 26 | -223 | 1,1 | -8,6 |
| Don't know | 139 | 131 | 130 | 168 | 174 | 6 | 34 | 3,4 | 24,8 |
| Men | 7 571 | 7 425 | 7 486 | 7 709 | 7 755 | 47 | 184 | 0,6 | 2,4 |
| Yes | 4 025 | 3 988 | 3 951 | 4 019 | 4 160 | 141 | 135 | 3,5 | 3,4 |
| No | 3 319 | 3 211 | 3 315 | 3 464 | 3 328 | -136 | 8 | -3,9 | 0,3 |
| Don't know | 227 | 226 | 219 | 226 | 268 | 41 | 41 | 18,3 | 18,0 |

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.

Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Quarter 4: 2025

| Table 3.8b: Conditions of employment based on ICSE-93 - South Africa | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 14 087 | 13 797 | 13 836 | 14 093 | 14 269 | 176 | 181 | 1,2 | 1,3 |
| Yes | 8 571 | 8 446 | 8 532 | 8 737 | 8 937 | 200 | 365 | 2,3 | 4,3 |
| No | 5 184 | 5 042 | 4 993 | 4 993 | 4 962 | -31 | -223 | -0,6 | -4,3 |
| Don't know | 332 | 309 | 312 | 364 | 370 | 7 | 39 | 1,8 | 11,6 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Women | 6 516 | 6 372 | 6 351 | 6 385 | 6 513 | 129 | -3 | 2,0 | 0,0 |
| Yes | 3 790 | 3 735 | 3 760 | 3 833 | 3 923 | 90 | 133 | 2,4 | 3,5 |
| No | 2 589 | 2 494 | 2 447 | 2 367 | 2 423 | 55 | -167 | 2,3 | -6,4 |
| Don't know | 137 | 143 | 143 | 184 | 168 | -17 | 30 | -9,0 | 22,1 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Men | 7 571 | 7 425 | 7 486 | 7 709 | 7 755 | 47 | 184 | 0,6 | 2,4 |
| Yes | 4 782 | 4 711 | 4 772 | 4 904 | 5 014 | 110 | 232 | 2,2 | 4,9 |
| No | 2 595 | 2 548 | 2 546 | 2 626 | 2 539 | -86 | -56 | -3,3 | -2,2 |
| Don't know | 194 | 166 | 168 | 179 | 203 | 23 | 8 | 13,0 | 4,2 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Medical aid benefits | | | | | | | | | |
| Both sexes | 14 087 | 13 797 | 13 836 | 14 093 | 14 269 | 176 | 181 | 1,2 | 1,3 |
| Yes | 4 228 | 4 220 | 4 191 | 4 292 | 4 364 | 72 | 136 | 1,7 | 3,2 |
| No | 9 649 | 9 378 | 9 451 | 9 525 | 9 640 | 114 | -9 | 1,2 | -0,1 |
| Don't know | 211 | 199 | 194 | 276 | 265 | -11 | 54 | -3,8 | 25,7 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Women | 6 516 | 6 372 | 6 351 | 6 385 | 6 513 | 129 | -3 | 2,0 | 0,0 |
| Yes | 1 955 | 1 987 | 1 961 | 2 046 | 2 065 | 20 | 111 | 1,0 | 5,7 |
| No | 4 465 | 4 290 | 4 302 | 4 199 | 4 322 | 124 | -143 | 2,9 | -3,2 |
| Don't know | 97 | 95 | 88 | 140 | 126 | -14 | 29 | -10,2 | 29,9 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Men | 7 571 | 7 425 | 7 486 | 7 709 | 7 755 | 47 | 184 | 0,6 | 2,4 |
| Yes | 2 273 | 2 233 | 2 230 | 2 246 | 2 299 | 52 | 25 | 2,3 | 1,1 |
| No | 5 184 | 5 088 | 5 149 | 5 327 | 5 317 | -9 | 134 | -0,2 | 2,6 |
| Don't know | 114 | 104 | 107 | 136 | 140 | 4 | 25 | 2,8 | 22,2 |

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) | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 14 087 | 13 797 | 13 836 | 14 093 | 14 269 | 176 | 181 | 1,2 | 1,3 |
| Yes | 7 777 | 7 679 | 7 630 | 7 951 | 8 128 | 176 | 351 | 2,2 | 4,5 |
| No | 5 866 | 5 705 | 5 774 | 5 698 | 5 697 | -1 | -169 | 0,0 | -2,9 |
| Don't know | 445 | 414 | 432 | 444 | 444 | 0 | -1 | 0,0 | -0,2 |
| Women | 6 516 | 6 372 | 6 351 | 6 385 | 6 513 | 129 | -3 | 2,0 | 0,0 |
| Yes | 3 554 | 3 465 | 3 492 | 3 622 | 3 735 | 113 | 182 | 3,1 | 5,1 |
| No | 2 798 | 2 745 | 2 673 | 2 550 | 2 590 | 40 | -209 | 1,6 | -7,5 |
| Don't know | 164 | 161 | 185 | 213 | 188 | -24 | 24 | -11,3 | 14,6 |
| Men | 7 571 | 7 425 | 7 486 | 7 709 | 7 755 | 47 | 184 | 0,6 | 2,4 |
| Yes | 4 223 | 4 214 | 4 138 | 4 329 | 4 392 | 63 | 169 | 1,5 | 4,0 |
| No | 3 068 | 2 959 | 3 101 | 3 148 | 3 107 | -41 | 40 | -1,3 | 1,3 |
| Don't know | 280 | 252 | 247 | 231 | 256 | 24 | -25 | 10,4 | -8,8 |
| Condition of employment | | | | | | | | | |
| Both sexes | 14 087 | 13 797 | 13 836 | 14 093 | 14 269 | 176 | 181 | 1,2 | 1,3 |
| Written contract | 11 462 | 11 329 | 11 364 | 11 548 | 11 849 | 301 | 387 | 2,6 | 3,4 |
| Verbal agreement | 2 625 | 2 468 | 2 473 | 2 545 | 2 420 | -126 | -205 | -4,9 | -7,8 |
| Women | 6 516 | 6 372 | 6 351 | 6 385 | 6 513 | 129 | -3 | 2,0 | 0,0 |
| Written contract | 5 418 | 5 360 | 5 350 | 5 382 | 5 528 | 147 | 110 | 2,7 | 2,0 |
| Verbal agreement | 1 098 | 1 012 | 1 001 | 1 003 | 985 | -18 | -113 | -1,8 | -10,3 |
| Men | 7 571 | 7 425 | 7 486 | 7 709 | 7 755 | 47 | 184 | 0,6 | 2,4 |
| Written contract | 6 044 | 5 970 | 6 014 | 6 166 | 6 321 | 155 | 277 | 2,5 | 4,6 |
| Verbal agreement | 1 527 | 1 456 | 1 472 | 1 542 | 1 434 | -108 | -92 | -7,0 | -6,1 |

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 3.8c: Conditions of employment based on ICSE-93 - South Africa | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 14 087 | 13 797 | 13 836 | 14 093 | 14 269 | 176 | 181 | 1,2 | 1,3 |
| For a specified period of time | | | | 1 869 | 1 770 | -100 | | -5,3 | |
| Until the date a task is completed | | | | 340 | 298 | -42 | | -12,4 | |
| Permanent or until retirement | | | | 7 881 | 8 128 | 247 | | 3,1 | |
| Ongoing with no specified end date | | | | 3 902 | 3 994 | 92 | | 2,4 | |
| Don't know | | | | 101 | 79 | -21 | | -21,3 | |
| Women | 6 516 | 6 372 | 6 351 | 6 385 | 6 513 | 129 | -3 | 2,0 | 0,0 |
| For a specified period of time | | | | 920 | 888 | -32 | | -3,5 | |
| Until the date a task is completed | | | | 95 | 83 | -11 | | -12,1 | |
| Permanent or until retirement | | | | 3 616 | 3 740 | 124 | | 3,4 | |
| Ongoing with no specified end date | | | | 1 697 | 1 776 | 78 | | 4,6 | |
| Don't know | | | | 56 | 26 | -30 | | -53,6 | |
| Men | 7 571 | 7 425 | 7 486 | 7 709 | 7 755 | 47 | 184 | 0,6 | 2,4 |
| For a specified period of time | | | | 949 | 882 | -67 | | -7,1 | |
| Until the date a task is completed | | | | 245 | 215 | -31 | | -12,5 | |
| Permanent or until retirement | | | | 4 264 | 4 387 | 123 | | 2,9 | |
| Ongoing with no specified end date | | | | 2 205 | 2 218 | 13 | | 0,6 | |
| Don't know | | | | 44 | 53 | 9 | | 19,8 | |
| Trade union membership (Both sexes) | | | | | | | | | |
| Both sexes | 14 087 | 13 797 | 13 836 | 14 093 | 14 269 | 176 | 181 | 1,2 | 1,3 |
| Yes | 3 863 | 3 871 | 3 998 | 3 908 | 3 973 | 65 | 110 | 1,7 | 2,9 |
| No | 9 697 | 9 405 | 9 292 | 9 564 | 9 709 | 145 | 12 | 1,5 | 0,1 |
| Don't know | 528 | 522 | 546 | 622 | 587 | -35 | 59 | -5,6 | 11,2 |

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

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

| Table 3.8c: Conditions of employment based on ICSE-93 - South Africa (continued) | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 6 516 | 6 372 | 6 351 | 6 385 | 6 513 | 129 | -3 | 2,0 | 0,0 |
| Yes | 1 771 | 1 744 | 1 822 | 1 773 | 1 828 | 55 | 57 | 3,1 | 3,2 |
| No | 4 529 | 4 409 | 4 278 | 4 329 | 4 426 | 98 | -103 | 2,3 | -2,3 |
| Don't know | 216 | 219 | 250 | 283 | 259 | -24 | 43 | -8,4 | 19,8 |
| Men | 7 571 | 7 425 | 7 486 | 7 709 | 7 755 | 47 | 184 | 0,6 | 2,4 |
| Yes | 2 092 | 2 127 | 2 176 | 2 135 | 2 145 | 10 | 53 | 0,5 | 2,6 |
| No | 5 168 | 4 996 | 5 014 | 5 235 | 5 283 | 48 | 115 | 0,9 | 2,2 |
| Don't know | 311 | 303 | 296 | 339 | 328 | -11 | 16 | -3,3 | 5,3 |
| How annual salary increment is negotiated | | | | | | | | | |
| Both sexes | 14 087 | 13 797 | 13 836 | 14 093 | 14 269 | 176 | 181 | 1,2 | 1,3 |
| Individual and employer | 1 088 | 1 090 | 1 010 | 1 066 | 1 116 | 51 | 29 | 4,8 | 2,6 |
| Union and employer | 2 911 | 2 764 | 2 890 | 2 838 | 2 769 | -69 | -142 | -2,4 | -4,9 |
| Bargaining council | 1 432 | 1 437 | 1 359 | 1 274 | 1 436 | 162 | 4 | 12,7 | 0,3 |
| Employer only | 7 832 | 7 693 | 7 752 | 7 931 | 7 929 | -2 | 98 | 0,0 | 1,2 |
| No regular increment | 797 | 780 | 773 | 930 | 968 | 38 | 171 | 4,1 | 21,4 |
| Other | 28 | 33 | 52 | 54 | 50 | -4 | 23 | -7,2 | 82,0 |
| Women | 6 516 | 6 372 | 6 351 | 6 385 | 6 513 | 129 | -3 | 2,0 | 0,0 |
| Individual and employer | 473 | 464 | 429 | 452 | 471 | 19 | -2 | 4,2 | -0,4 |
| Union and employer | 1 292 | 1 186 | 1 270 | 1 223 | 1 201 | -23 | -91 | -1,8 | -7,0 |
| Bargaining council | 726 | 757 | 713 | 684 | 738 | 54 | 12 | 7,9 | 1,6 |
| Employer only | 3 628 | 3 578 | 3 564 | 3 581 | 3 645 | 64 | 17 | 1,8 | 0,5 |
| No regular increment | 389 | 370 | 351 | 421 | 438 | 17 | 49 | 4,0 | 12,5 |
| Other | 8 | 17 | 23 | 23 | 21 | -2 | 12 | -9,6 | 146,5 |

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

| Table 3.8c: Conditions of employment based on ICSE-93 - South Africa (concluded) | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 7 571 | 7 425 | 7 486 | 7 709 | 7 755 | 47 | 184 | 0,6 | 2,4 |
| Individual and employer | 615 | 626 | 581 | 614 | 646 | 32 | 31 | 5,2 | 5,0 |
| Union and employer | 1 619 | 1 578 | 1 621 | 1 614 | 1 568 | -46 | -51 | -2,9 | -3,2 |
| Bargaining council | 706 | 680 | 646 | 590 | 698 | 108 | -8 | 18,3 | -1,2 |
| Employer only | 4 204 | 4 115 | 4 188 | 4 350 | 4 285 | -66 | 81 | -1,5 | 1,9 |
| No regular increment | 408 | 410 | 422 | 510 | 530 | 21 | 122 | 4,1 | 29,9 |
| Other | 19 | 17 | 29 | 31 | 29 | -2 | 10 | -5,4 | 53,4 |

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 | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 788 | 781 | 710 | 747 | 705 | -42 | -83 | -5,6 | -10,5 |
| Women | 409 | 410 | 382 | 397 | 378 | -19 | -31 | -4,7 | -7,6 |
| Men | 379 | 372 | 328 | 350 | 327 | -23 | -52 | -6,5 | -13,6 |
| As percentage of the labour force (Both sexes) | 3,1 | 3,1 | 2,8 | 3,0 | 2,8 | -0,2 | -0,3 | | |
| Women | 3,5 | 3,6 | 3,3 | 3,5 | 3,3 | -0,2 | -0,2 | | |
| Men | 2,8 | 2,7 | 2,4 | 2,6 | 2,4 | -0,2 | -0,4 | | |
| As percentage of total employment (Both sexes) | 4,6 | 4,7 | 4,2 | 4,4 | 4,1 | -0,3 | -0,5 | | |
| Women | 5,4 | 5,5 | 5,2 | 5,3 | 5,1 | -0,2 | -0,3 | | |
| Men | 4,0 | 4,0 | 3,5 | 3,6 | 3,4 | -0,2 | -0,6 | | |

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 3.9: Time-related underemployment - South Africa (concluded) | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 788 | 781 | 710 | 747 | 705 | -42 | -83 | -5,6 | -10,5 |
| Agriculture | 27 | 28 | 18 | 21 | 22 | 1 | -5 | 2,6 | -17,9 |
| Mining | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | |
| Manufacturing | 43 | 37 | 23 | 38 | 31 | -7 | -12 | -18,6 | -28,3 |
| Utilities | | 2 | | | | | | | |
| Construction | 91 | 95 | 68 | 86 | 83 | -3 | -8 | -3,3 | -8,9 |
| Trade | 104 | 115 | 136 | 142 | 102 | -40 | -2 | -28,2 | -1,4 |
| Transport | 25 | 27 | 33 | 23 | 20 | -3 | -5 | -14,0 | -21,3 |
| Finance | 89 | 83 | 74 | 72 | 75 | 2 | -14 | 3,4 | -15,6 |
| Community and social services | 210 | 203 | 181 | 193 | 177 | -16 | -33 | -8,2 | -15,9 |
| Private households | 200 | 191 | 177 | 170 | 196 | 26 | -4 | 15,5 | -1,8 |
| Other | . | . | . | 1 | | | | | |
| Occupation | 788 | 781 | 710 | 747 | 705 | -42 | -83 | -5,6 | -10,5 |
| Manager | 25 | 26 | 23 | 17 | 23 | 6 | -1 | 35,4 | -6,0 |
| Professional | 9 | 23 | 14 | 9 | 12 | 3 | 4 | 33,8 | 41,9 |
| Technician | 39 | 38 | 41 | 35 | 36 | 1 | -3 | 3,1 | -6,6 |
| Clerk | 22 | 31 | 15 | 19 | 16 | -3 | -7 | -17,3 | -30,3 |
| Sales and services | 87 | 89 | 83 | 96 | 90 | -6 | 2 | -6,3 | 2,7 |
| Skilled agriculture | 7 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 1 | -1 | 23,2 | -11,8 |
| Craft and related trade | 115 | 100 | 87 | 110 | 92 | -18 | -23 | -16,4 | -19,7 |
| Plant and machine operator | 21 | 18 | 26 | 26 | 17 | -9 | -3 | -34,8 | -16,8 |
| Elementary | 324 | 318 | 295 | 311 | 270 | -41 | -55 | -13,2 | -16,8 |
| Domestic worker | 139 | 132 | 124 | 117 | 142 | 25 | 3 | 21,5 | 2,0 |
| Other | . | . | . | 1 | 1 | -1 | | -52,2 | |

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 10: Formal and informal employment | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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) | | | | 17 055 | 17 099 | 44 | | 0,3 | |
| Formal employment* | | | | 11 032 | 11 377 | 345 | | 3,1 | |
| Informal employment* | | | | 6 023 | 5 722 | -301 | | -5,0 | |
| Employed (Women) | | | | 7 429 | 7 470 | 41 | | 0,5 | |
| Formal employment* | | | | 4 934 | 5 081 | 147 | | 3,0 | |
| Informal employment* | | | | 2 495 | 2 389 | -106 | | -4,3 | |
| Employed (Men) | | | | 9 625 | 9 629 | 3 | | 0,0 | |
| Formal employment* | | | | 6 098 | 6 295 | 198 | | 3,2 | |
| Informal employment* | | | | 3 528 | 3 333 | -194 | | -5,5 | |
| Formal employment* | | | | 11 032 | 11 377 | 345 | | 3,1 | |
| 15-24 yrs | | | | 603 | 566 | -38 | | -6,2 | |
| 25-34 yrs | | | | 2 992 | 3 010 | 18 | | 0,6 | |
| 35-44 yrs | | | | 3 440 | 3 623 | 184 | | 5,3 | |
| 45-54 yrs | | | | 2 801 | 2 894 | 93 | | 3,3 | |
| 55-64 yrs | | | | 1 197 | 1 284 | 87 | | 7,3 | |
| Informal employment* | | | | 6 023 | 5 722 | -301 | | -5,0 | |
| 15-24 yrs | | | | 574 | 578 | 4 | | 0,7 | |
| 25-34 yrs | | | | 1 795 | 1 697 | -98 | | -5,5 | |
| 35-44 yrs | | | | 1 794 | 1 671 | -123 | | -6,9 | |
| 45-54 yrs | | | | 1 301 | 1 221 | -80 | | -6,2 | |
| 55-64 yrs | | | | 559 | 556 | -3 | | -0,5 | |

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

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up

* Definition of informal employment from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy.

| Table 3 10: Formal and informal employment (continued) | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 11 377 | 345 | | 3,1 | |
| No schooling | | | | 67 | 88 | 21 | | 31,3 | |
| Less than primary completed | | | | 276 | 299 | 23 | | 8,2 | |
| Primary completed | | | | 188 | 217 | 29 | | 15,5 | |
| Secondary not completed | | | | 2 720 | 2 804 | 83 | | 3,1 | |
| Secondary completed | | | | 4 372 | 4 427 | 56 | | 1,3 | |
| Tertiary | | | | 3 241 | 3 371 | 130 | | 4,0 | |
| Other | | | | 168 | 171 | 3 | | 1,5 | |
| Informal employment* | | | | 6 023 | 5 722 | -301 | | -5,0 | |
| No schooling | | | | 86 | 81 | -5 | | -6,0 | |
| Less than primary completed | | | | 359 | 287 | -72 | | -20,0 | |
| Primary completed | | | | 248 | 226 | -22 | | -9,0 | |
| Secondary not completed | | | | 2 414 | 2 196 | -218 | | -9,0 | |
| Secondary completed | | | | 2 009 | 2 011 | 2 | | 0,1 | |
| Tertiary | | | | 766 | 819 | 54 | | 7,0 | |
| Other | | | | 141 | 101 | -39 | | -28,1 | |

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.

* Definition of informal employment from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy.

| Table 3.10b: Formal and informal employment (continued) | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 11 377 | 345 | | 3,1 | |
| Agriculture | | | | 401 | 490 | 90 | | 22,4 | |
| Mining | | | | 400 | 417 | 17 | | 4,2 | |
| Manufacturing | | | | 1 245 | 1 194 | -51 | | -4,1 | |
| Utilities | | | | 98 | 119 | 22 | | 22,2 | |
| Construction | | | | 634 | 729 | 96 | | 15,1 | |
| Trade | | | | 2 331 | 2 317 | -13 | | -0,6 | |
| Transport | | | | 600 | 623 | 23 | | 3,8 | |
| Finance | | | | 2 173 | 2 191 | 19 | | 0,9 | |
| Community and social services | | | | 2 954 | 3 038 | 85 | | 2,9 | |
| Private households | | | | 195 | 251 | 56 | | 28,5 | |
| Other | | | | 13 | 36 | 23 | | 314,7 | |
| Informal employment* | | | | 6 023 | 5 722 | -301 | | -5,0 | |
| Agriculture | | | | 519 | 460 | -60 | | -11,5 | |
| Mining | | | | 49 | 26 | -22 | | -45,7 | |
| Manufacturing | | | | 365 | 355 | -10 | | -2,9 | |
| Utilities | | | | 12 | 14 | 3 | | 24,8 | |
| Construction | | | | 756 | 695 | -61 | | -8,0 | |
| Trade | | | | 1 093 | 1 008 | -85 | | -7,8 | |
| Transport | | | | 513 | 517 | 4 | | 0,9 | |
| Finance | | | | 757 | 770 | 13 | | 1,8 | |
| Community and social services | | | | 1 035 | 996 | -38 | | -3,7 | |
| Private households | | | | 916 | 878 | -38 | | -4,2 | |
| Other | | | | 23 | 9 | -14 | | -126,6 | |

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.

* Definition of informal employment from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy.

| Table 3.10b: Formal and informal employment (concluded) | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 11 377 | 345 | | 3,1 | |
| Manager | | | | 957 | 958 | 1 | | 0,1 | |
| Professional | | | | 766 | 788 | 22 | | 2,9 | |
| Technician | | | | 1 248 | 1 318 | 70 | | 5,6 | |
| Clerk | | | | 1 513 | 1 513 | -1 | | -0,1 | |
| Sales and services | | | | 2 097 | 2 121 | 24 | | 1,1 | |
| Skilled agriculture | | | | 38 | 32 | -6 | | -15,6 | |
| Craft and related trade | | | | 1 242 | 1 260 | 18 | | 1,5 | |
| Plant and machine operator | | | | 878 | 920 | 43 | | 4,9 | |
| Elementary | | | | 2 120 | 2 234 | 115 | | 5,4 | |
| Domestic worker | | | | 162 | 202 | 40 | | 24,4 | |
| Informal employment* | | | | 6 023 | 5 722 | -301 | | -5,0 | |
| Manager | | | | 496 | 476 | -20 | | -4,1 | |
| Professional | | | | 143 | 163 | 21 | | 14,6 | |
| Technician | | | | 240 | 258 | 17 | | 7,2 | |
| Clerk | | | | 342 | 307 | -35 | | -10,2 | |
| Sales and services | | | | 976 | 959 | -17 | | -1,8 | |
| Skilled agriculture | | | | 59 | 27 | -32 | | -53,6 | |
| Craft and related trade | | | | 749 | 683 | -66 | | -8,8 | |
| Plant and machine operator | | | | 536 | 507 | -29 | | -5,3 | |
| Elementary | | | | 1 783 | 1 682 | -101 | | -5,7 | |
| Domestic worker | | | | 685 | 653 | -32 | | -4,7 | |

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.

* Definition of informal employment from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy.

| Table 4: Characteristics of the unemployed - South Africa | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 7 991 | 8 228 | 8 367 | 8 007 | 7 836 | -172 | -155 | -2,1 | -1,9 |
| Job losers | 2 060 | 2 165 | 2 106 | 1 961 | 2 006 | 46 | -53 | 2,3 | -2,6 |
| Job leavers | 220 | 214 | 244 | 247 | 184 | -63 | -36 | -25,6 | -16,3 |
| New entrants | 3 421 | 3 547 | 3 611 | 3 472 | 3 317 | -154 | -104 | -4,4 | -3,0 |
| Re-entrants | 401 | 325 | 323 | 281 | 325 | 44 | -77 | 15,6 | -19,1 |
| Other | 1 889 | 1 977 | 2 083 | 2 047 | 2 003 | -43 | 114 | -2,1 | 6,1 |
| Unemployed | 7 991 | 8 228 | 8 367 | 8 007 | 7 836 | -172 | -155 | -2,1 | -1,9 |
| Long-term unemployment (1 year and more) | 6 213 | 6 295 | 6 411 | 6 163 | 6 247 | 85 | 34 | 1,4 | 0,6 |
| Short-term unemployment (less than 1 year) | 1 778 | 1 933 | 1 956 | 1 845 | 1 588 | -256 | -190 | -13,9 | -10,7 |
| Long-term unemployment (%) | | | | | | | | | |
| Proportion of the labour force | 24,8 | 25,2 | 25,5 | 24,6 | 25,1 | 0,5 | 0,3 | | |
| Proportion of the unemployed | 77,7 | 76,5 | 76,6 | 77,0 | 79,7 | 2,7 | 2,0 | | |
| Those who have worked in the past 5 years | | | | | | | | | |
| Previous occupation | 2 681 | 2 704 | 2 673 | 2 489 | 2 515 | 26 | -166 | 1,1 | -6,2 |
| Manager | 51 | 55 | 56 | 47 | 57 | 11 | 7 | 23,3 | 12,7 |
| Professional | 54 | 57 | 75 | 51 | 57 | 5 | 3 | 10,4 | 5,1 |
| Technician | 129 | 134 | 117 | 136 | 142 | 6 | 13 | 4,6 | 10,4 |
| Clerk | 268 | 327 | 304 | 279 | 270 | -9 | 2 | -3,2 | 0,8 |
| Sales and services | 552 | 515 | 511 | 479 | 512 | 33 | -40 | 6,8 | -7,3 |
| Skilled agriculture | 11 | 8 | 11 | 8 | 11 | 3 | -1 | 37,5 | -5,7 |
| Craft and related trade | 411 | 406 | 391 | 324 | 346 | 22 | -65 | 6,8 | -15,7 |
| Plant and machine operator | 187 | 172 | 186 | 181 | 158 | -23 | -29 | -12,7 | -15,5 |
| Elementary | 850 | 856 | 873 | 837 | 793 | -44 | -57 | -5,2 | -6,7 |
| Domestic worker | 169 | 174 | 149 | 141 | 160 | 19 | -9 | 13,3 | -5,2 |
| Other | | | | 6 | 9 | 3 | | 43,9 | |

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

| Table 4: Characteristics of the unemployed - South Africa (concluded) | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 2 681 | 2 704 | 2 673 | 2 489 | 2 515 | 26 | -166 | 1,1 | -6,2 |
| Agriculture | 168 | 167 | 170 | 163 | 162 | -2 | -6 | -1,1 | -3,7 |
| Mining | 48 | 63 | 63 | 37 | 41 | 4 | -7 | 9,5 | -15,5 |
| Manufacturing | 239 | 222 | 256 | 239 | 215 | -24 | -24 | -10,0 | -10,0 |
| Utilities | 19 | 16 | 11 | 18 | 14 | -5 | -5 | -25,7 | -28,6 |
| Construction | 392 | 388 | 379 | 327 | 336 | 9 | -55 | 2,8 | -14,1 |
| Trade | 556 | 562 | 578 | 537 | 536 | -1 | -19 | -0,2 | -3,4 |
| Transport | 137 | 150 | 143 | 141 | 149 | 8 | 12 | 5,3 | 8,4 |
| Finance | 362 | 376 | 341 | 340 | 352 | 12 | -9 | 3,5 | -2,6 |
| Community and social services | 529 | 525 | 504 | 462 | 495 | 32 | -35 | 6,9 | -6,6 |
| Private households | 232 | 235 | 229 | 217 | 210 | -7 | -22 | -3,4 | -9,4 |
| Other | | | | 5 | 6 | 0 | | 8,0 | |

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 5: Characteristics of Outside the Labour Force - South Africa | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 16 492 | 16 676 | 16 648 | 16 886 | 17 134 | 248 | 642 | 1,5 | 3,9 |
| Student | 6 144 | 5 939 | 6 090 | 6 038 | 6 281 | 243 | 137 | 4,0 | 2,2 |
| Home-maker | 2 243 | 2 245 | 2 373 | 2 417 | 2 403 | -15 | 160 | -0,6 | 7,1 |
| Illness/disability | 1 533 | 1 587 | 1 600 | 1 724 | 1 668 | -56 | 136 | -3,2 | 8,9 |
| Too old/young to work | 1 792 | 1 796 | 1 762 | 1 801 | 1 770 | -31 | -22 | -1,7 | -1,2 |
| Discouraged work seekers | 3 466 | 3 473 | 3 445 | 3 481 | 3 714 | 233 | 249 | 6,7 | 7,2 |
| Other | 1 315 | 1 636 | 1 379 | 1 426 | 1 298 | -128 | -17 | -9,0 | -1,3 |
| Inactivity rate by age (Both sexes) | 39,7 | 40,0 | 39,8 | 40,3 | 40,7 | 0,4 | 1,0 | | |
| 15-24 years | 73,4 | 73,7 | 73,3 | 72,6 | 74,3 | 1,7 | 0,9 | | |
| 25-54 years | 24,1 | 24,6 | 24,4 | 25,3 | 25,5 | 0,2 | 1,4 | | |
| 55-64 years | 55,2 | 55,2 | 55,3 | 55,7 | 54,9 | -0,8 | -0,3 | | |
| Inactivity rate by age (Women) | 44,8 | 45,2 | 45,1 | 45,7 | 46,0 | 0,3 | 1,2 | | |
| 15-24 years | 75,7 | 76,1 | 75,4 | 75,0 | 76,8 | 1,8 | 1,1 | | |
| 25-54 years | 29,8 | 30,4 | 30,3 | 31,5 | 31,2 | -0,3 | 1,4 | | |
| 55-64 years | 61,3 | 61,4 | 62,0 | 62,2 | 62,6 | 0,4 | 1,3 | | |
| Inactivity rate by age (Men) | 34,5 | 34,7 | 34,4 | 34,7 | 35,4 | 0,7 | 0,9 | | |
| 15-24 years | 71,2 | 71,3 | 71,1 | 70,1 | 71,8 | 1,7 | 0,6 | | |
| 25-54 years | 18,6 | 18,8 | 18,6 | 19,3 | 20,0 | 0,7 | 1,4 | | |
| 55-64 years | 47,7 | 47,5 | 47,0 | 47,8 | 45,5 | -2,3 | -2,2 | | |

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 6: Socio-demographic characteristics - South Africa | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 17 078 | 16 787 | 16 807 | 17 055 | 17 099 | 44 | 21 | 0,3 | 0,1 |
| 15-24 years | 1 102 | 1 018 | 1 043 | 1 177 | 1 143 | -33 | 41 | -2,8 | 3,7 |
| 25-34 years | 4 719 | 4 651 | 4 656 | 4 787 | 4 707 | -80 | -12 | -1,7 | -0,3 |
| 35-44 years | 5 334 | 5 247 | 5 222 | 5 234 | 5 294 | 60 | -40 | 1,2 | -0,7 |
| 45-54 years | 4 148 | 4 099 | 4 119 | 4 102 | 4 115 | 13 | -33 | 0,3 | -0,8 |
| 55-64 years | 1 775 | 1 772 | 1 766 | 1 755 | 1 840 | 84 | 65 | 4,8 | 3,7 |
| Age group of the unemployed | 7 991 | 8 228 | 8 367 | 8 007 | 7 836 | -172 | -155 | -2,1 | -1,9 |
| 15-24 years | 1 629 | 1 692 | 1 715 | 1 657 | 1 513 | -143 | -115 | -8,7 | -7,1 |
| 25-34 years | 3 064 | 3 151 | 3 167 | 2 978 | 3 038 | 60 | -26 | 2,0 | -0,8 |
| 35-44 years | 1 994 | 2 022 | 2 104 | 2 017 | 2 000 | -17 | 5 | -0,8 | 0,3 |
| 45-54 years | 1 075 | 1 118 | 1 123 | 1 093 | 1 052 | -40 | -23 | -3,7 | -2,1 |
| 55-64 years | 228 | 245 | 259 | 263 | 232 | -31 | 4 | -11,7 | 1,7 |
| Age group of Outside the Labour Force | 16 492 | 16 676 | 16 648 | 16 886 | 17 134 | 248 | 642 | 1,5 | 3,9 |
| 15-24 years | 7 555 | 7 589 | 7 554 | 7 491 | 7 680 | 189 | 126 | 2,5 | 1,7 |
| 25-34 years | 2 830 | 2 815 | 2 798 | 2 857 | 2 874 | 17 | 44 | 0,6 | 1,5 |
| 35-44 years | 1 890 | 1 987 | 1 969 | 2 082 | 2 072 | -9 | 182 | -0,4 | 9,6 |
| 45-54 years | 1 752 | 1 803 | 1 824 | 1 914 | 1 982 | 68 | 230 | 3,5 | 13,1 |
| 55-64 years | 2 465 | 2 481 | 2 503 | 2 543 | 2 526 | -17 | 61 | -0,7 | 2,5 |
| Highest level of education of the employed | 17 078 | 16 787 | 16 807 | 17 055 | 17 099 | 44 | 21 | 0,3 | 0,1 |
| No schooling | 190 | 169 | 153 | 154 | 169 | 16 | -21 | 10,3 | -10,9 |
| Less than primary completed | 662 | 651 | 603 | 635 | 586 | -49 | -76 | -7,8 | -11,5 |
| Primary completed | 491 | 466 | 432 | 436 | 443 | 7 | -48 | 1,6 | -9,8 |
| Secondary not completed | 5 188 | 4 979 | 5 087 | 5 134 | 5 000 | -135 | -188 | -2,6 | -3,6 |
| Secondary completed | 6 280 | 6 167 | 6 230 | 6 381 | 6 439 | 58 | 159 | 0,9 | 2,5 |
| Tertiary | 3 996 | 4 046 | 4 016 | 4 007 | 4 190 | 184 | 195 | 4,6 | 4,9 |
| Other | 271 | 310 | 287 | 309 | 272 | -37 | 1 | -12,0 | 0,4 |

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) | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 7 991 | 8 228 | 8 367 | 8 007 | 7 836 | -172 | -155 | -2,1 | -1,9 |
| No schooling | 65 | 56 | 52 | 66 | 52 | -14 | -13 | -21,4 | -19,9 |
| Less than primary completed | 306 | 321 | 298 | 282 | 280 | -2 | -25 | -0,7 | -8,3 |
| Primary completed | 242 | 234 | 234 | 240 | 202 | -38 | -40 | -15,8 | -16,5 |
| Secondary not completed | 3 413 | 3 381 | 3 493 | 3 292 | 3 195 | -97 | -217 | -2,9 | -6,4 |
| Secondary completed | 3 203 | 3 313 | 3 385 | 3 294 | 3 274 | -20 | 71 | -0,6 | 2,2 |
| Tertiary | 697 | 856 | 844 | 766 | 769 | 4 | 73 | 0,5 | 10,4 |
| Other | 67 | 68 | 61 | 68 | 63 | -5 | -4 | -7,1 | -5,7 |
| Highest level of education of Outside the Labour Force | 16 492 | 16 676 | 16 648 | 16 886 | 17 134 | 248 | 642 | 1,5 | 3,9 |
| No schooling | 454 | 478 | 495 | 470 | 454 | -16 | 0 | -3,4 | 0,0 |
| Less than primary completed | 1 165 | 1 074 | 1 098 | 1 161 | 1 115 | -46 | -50 | -4,0 | -4,3 |
| Primary completed | 904 | 791 | 875 | 920 | 981 | 61 | 77 | 6,6 | 8,5 |
| Secondary not completed | 8 689 | 8 579 | 8 562 | 8 844 | 8 963 | 119 | 273 | 1,3 | 3,1 |
| Secondary completed | 4 244 | 4 705 | 4 604 | 4 446 | 4 538 | 92 | 294 | 2,1 | 6,9 |
| Tertiary | 803 | 810 | 805 | 834 | 844 | 11 | 41 | 1,3 | 5,2 |
| Other | 232 | 239 | 209 | 213 | 240 | 26 | 7 | 12,4 | 3,2 |
| Employed | 17 078 | 16 787 | 16 807 | 17 055 | 17 099 | 44 | 21 | 0,3 | 0,1 |
| Attending educational institution | 301 | 332 | 343 | 339 | 302 | -36 | 1 | -10,7 | 0,4 |
| Not attending educational institution | 16 777 | 16 456 | 16 464 | 16 716 | 16 797 | 80 | 20 | 0,5 | 0,1 |
| Unemployed | 7 991 | 8 228 | 8 367 | 8 007 | 7 836 | -172 | -155 | -2,1 | -1,9 |
| Attending educational institution | 147 | 139 | 143 | 117 | 117 | 0 | -29 | -0,1 | -20,0 |
| Not attending educational institution | 7 844 | 8 089 | 8 225 | 7 890 | 7 718 | -171 | -126 | -2,2 | -1,6 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 16 492 | 16 676 | 16 648 | 16 886 | 17 134 | 248 | 642 | 1,5 | 3,9 |
| Attending educational institution | 6 023 | 5 734 | 5 949 | 5 977 | 5 994 | 17 | -29 | 0,3 | -0,5 |
| Not attending educational institution | 10 469 | 10 942 | 10 699 | 10 909 | 11 140 | 231 | 671 | 2,1 | 6,4 |

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

| Table 6b: Socio-demographic characteristics - South Africa (concluded) | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 17 078 | 16 787 | 16 807 | 17 055 | 17 099 | 44 | 21 | 0,3 | 0,1 |
| Married | 6 031 | 5 896 | 5 826 | 5 766 | 5 834 | 68 | -197 | 1,2 | -3,3 |
| Living together like husband and wife | 2 091 | 2 169 | 2 111 | 2 110 | 2 240 | 130 | 149 | 6,2 | 7,1 |
| Widow/widower | 390 | 364 | 373 | 381 | 366 | -15 | -24 | -4,0 | -6,2 |
| Divorced or separated | 486 | 472 | 470 | 479 | 460 | -19 | -26 | -4,0 | -5,4 |
| Never married | 8 079 | 7 887 | 8 026 | 8 318 | 8 199 | -120 | 119 | -1,4 | 1,5 |
| Current marital status of the unemployed | 7 991 | 8 228 | 8 367 | 8 007 | 7 836 | -172 | -155 | -2,1 | -1,9 |
| Married | 956 | 974 | 958 | 994 | 912 | -82 | -44 | -8,2 | -4,6 |
| Living together like husband and wife | 809 | 851 | 821 | 751 | 729 | -23 | -81 | -3,1 | -10,0 |
| Widow/widower | 71 | 83 | 72 | 62 | 57 | -5 | -13 | -7,8 | -19,0 |
| Divorced or separated | 114 | 152 | 118 | 113 | 124 | 11 | 10 | 10,0 | 8,5 |
| Never married | 6 041 | 6 169 | 6 398 | 6 087 | 6 014 | -73 | -27 | -1,2 | -0,4 |
| Current marital status of Outside the Labour Force | 16 492 | 16 676 | 16 648 | 16 886 | 17 134 | 248 | 642 | 1,5 | 3,9 |
| Married | 2 566 | 2 498 | 2 563 | 2 586 | 2 451 | -135 | -114 | -5,2 | -4,5 |
| Living together like husband and wife | 967 | 1 016 | 982 | 982 | 1 068 | 86 | 101 | 8,8 | 10,5 |
| Widow/widower | 605 | 567 | 580 | 537 | 554 | 18 | -50 | 3,3 | -8,3 |
| Divorced or separated | 286 | 264 | 273 | 317 | 308 | -9 | 21 | -2,9 | 7,4 |
| Never married | 12 068 | 12 331 | 12 250 | 12 464 | 12 752 | 288 | 684 | 2,3 | 5,7 |

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 7: Profile of Youth (15-24 years) not in Employment Education or Training (NEET) - South Africa | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 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 | 3 450 | 3 825 | 3 625 | 3 497 | 3 515 | 17 | 65 | 0,5 | 1,9 |
| Women | 1 770 | 1 927 | 1 880 | 1 828 | 1 850 | 22 | 80 | 1,2 | 4,5 |
| Men | 1 680 | 1 897 | 1 745 | 1 669 | 1 665 | -5 | -16 | -0,3 | -0,9 |
| Population groups | 3 450 | 3 825 | 3 625 | 3 497 | 3 515 | 17 | 65 | 0,5 | 1,9 |
| Black/African | 3 019 | 3 378 | 3 152 | 3 069 | 3 096 | 27 | 77 | 0,9 | 2,5 |
| Coloured | 304 | 315 | 331 | 310 | 306 | -3 | 2 | -1,1 | 0,6 |
| Indian/Asian | 41 | 44 | 48 | 45 | 43 | -2 | 2 | -5,4 | 3,7 |
| White | 85 | 88 | 95 | 73 | 70 | -3 | -15 | -4,6 | -18,1 |
| South Africa | 3 450 | 3 825 | 3 625 | 3 497 | 3 515 | 17 | 65 | 0,5 | 1,9 |
| Western Cape | 325 | 314 | 361 | 344 | 321 | -23 | -4 | -6,6 | -1,1 |
| Eastern Cape | 441 | 508 | 477 | 481 | 465 | -16 | 24 | -3,3 | 5,4 |
| Northern Cape | 81 | 87 | 90 | 81 | 87 | 6 | 5 | 6,9 | 6,5 |
| Free State | 169 | 186 | 171 | 163 | 163 | 0 | -6 | 0,0 | -3,3 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 731 | 840 | 733 | 715 | 733 | 19 | 3 | 2,6 | 0,4 |
| North West | 285 | 351 | 333 | 314 | 319 | 5 | 34 | 1,6 | 11,9 |
| Gauteng | 781 | 829 | 777 | 778 | 805 | 27 | 24 | 3,5 | 3,1 |
| Mpumalanga | 316 | 328 | 316 | 277 | 284 | 6 | -32 | 2,3 | -10,3 |
| Limpopo | 321 | 382 | 368 | 345 | 338 | -7 | 17 | -2,0 | 5,2 |

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

| Table 7b: NEET Rate Among Youth (15-24 years) Not in Employment, Education or Training - South Africa | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 33,5 | 37,1 | 35,2 | 33,9 | 34,0 | 0,1 | 0,5 | | |
| Women | 34,5 | 37,5 | 36,6 | 35,5 | 35,9 | 0,4 | 1,4 | | |
| Men | 32,6 | 36,7 | 33,7 | 32,2 | 32,1 | -0,1 | -0,5 | | |
| Population group | 33,5 | 37,1 | 35,2 | 33,9 | 34,0 | 0,1 | 0,5 | | |
| Black/African | 34,7 | 38,7 | 36,1 | 35,0 | 35,3 | 0,3 | 0,6 | | |
| Coloured | 35,3 | 36,6 | 38,6 | 36,1 | 35,8 | -0,3 | 0,5 | | |
| Indian/Asian | 21,2 | 22,2 | 24,2 | 23,1 | 21,8 | -1,3 | 0,6 | | |
| White | 16,4 | 17,1 | 18,4 | 14,2 | 13,6 | -0,6 | -2,8 | | |
| South Africa | 33,5 | 37,1 | 35,2 | 33,9 | 34,0 | 0,1 | 0,5 | | |
| Western Cape | 29,3 | 29,0 | 32,2 | 30,3 | 29,3 | -1,0 | 0,0 | | |
| Eastern Cape | 33,5 | 37,1 | 34,5 | 35,6 | 35,0 | -0,6 | 1,5 | | |
| Northern Cape | 37,0 | 42,8 | 42,6 | 40,5 | 44,5 | 4,0 | 7,5 | | |
| Free State | 33,8 | 36,2 | 34,1 | 32,5 | 33,0 | 0,5 | -0,8 | | |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 35,8 | 40,9 | 36,4 | 35,7 | 36,0 | 0,3 | 0,2 | | |
| North West | 37,4 | 45,9 | 42,8 | 39,9 | 39,7 | -0,2 | 2,3 | | |
| Gauteng | 32,0 | 34,4 | 32,5 | 31,5 | 32,1 | 0,6 | 0,1 | | |
| Mpumalanga | 36,1 | 38,6 | 37,7 | 34,4 | 35,2 | 0,8 | -0,9 | | |
| Limpopo | 31,4 | 36,3 | 34,1 | 31,9 | 31,7 | -0,2 | 0,3 | | |

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

| Table 8: Involvement in non-market activities and labour market status by province | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 2 269 | 2 456 | 2 007 | 2 014 | 2 364 | 350 | 95 | 17,4 | 4,2 |
| Fetching water or collecting wood/dung | 3 878 | 3 652 | 3 766 | 4 383 | 3 982 | -401 | 104 | -9,2 | 2,7 |
| Produce other goods for household use | 280 | 284 | 293 | 358 | 296 | -62 | 16 | -17,4 | 5,7 |
| Construction or major repairs to own or household' | 292 | 364 | 306 | 301 | 265 | -36 | -27 | -12,0 | -9,2 |
| Hunting or fishing for household use | 25 | 41 | 39 | 32 | 32 | 1 | 8 | 1,8 | 31,6 |
| Involvement in at least one activity | 5 623 | 5 507 | 5 300 | 5 934 | 5 688 | -246 | 65 | -4,1 | 1,2 |
| Employed | 1 619 | 1 467 | 1 448 | 1 524 | 1 492 | -32 | -128 | -2,1 | -7,9 |
| Unemployed | 1 351 | 1 357 | 1 263 | 1 506 | 1 323 | -183 | -28 | -12,1 | -2,1 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 2 652 | 2 683 | 2 590 | 2 904 | 2 873 | -31 | 221 | -1,1 | 8,3 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Western Cape | | | | | | | | | |
| Subsistence farming | 96 | 78 | 82 | 73 | 75 | 3 | -21 | 3,5 | -21,4 |
| Fetching water or collecting wood/dung | 140 | 150 | 117 | 99 | 119 | 19 | -21 | 19,3 | -15,3 |
| Produce other goods for household use | 1 | | | 11 | 4 | -6 | 3 | -61,0 | 337,4 |
| Construction or major repairs to own or household' | 3 | 3 | 10 | 3 | | | | | |
| Involvement in at least one activity | 237 | 224 | 208 | 180 | 185 | 5 | -52 | 2,7 | -21,9 |
| Employed | 136 | 117 | 95 | 95 | 92 | -3 | -45 | -3,6 | -32,8 |
| Unemployed | 54 | 45 | 49 | 43 | 36 | -8 | -18 | -18,0 | -34,0 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 47 | 62 | 64 | 42 | 58 | 16 | 11 | 39,0 | 24,0 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Eastern Cape | | | | | | | | | |
| Subsistence farming | 620 | 681 | 417 | 477 | 596 | 119 | -25 | 24,9 | -4,0 |
| Fetching water or collecting wood/dung | 869 | 700 | 771 | 913 | 813 | -100 | -56 | -10,9 | -6,4 |
| Produce other goods for household use | 107 | 105 | 48 | 50 | 8 | -42 | -98 | -83,4 | -92,2 |
| Construction or major repairs to own or household' | 109 | 132 | 92 | 99 | 67 | -31 | -42 | -31,9 | -38,4 |
| Hunting or fishing for household use | 3 | 7 | 9 | 9 | 12 | 3 | 9 | 39,0 | 336,2 |
| Involvement in at least one activity | 1 409 | 1 280 | 1 120 | 1 210 | 1 243 | 33 | -166 | 2,7 | -11,8 |
| Employed | 298 | 230 | 235 | 182 | 195 | 13 | -103 | 7,0 | -34,5 |
| Unemployed | 366 | 359 | 325 | 419 | 421 | 2 | 55 | 0,4 | 14,9 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 745 | 691 | 560 | 609 | 627 | 19 | -118 | 3,1 | -15,9 |

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.

Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Quarter 4: 2025

| Table 8: Involvement in non-market activities and labour market status by province (continued) | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 32 | 41 | 32 | 14 | 10 | -3 | -22 | -24,3 | -68,1 |
| Fetching water or collecting wood/dung | 138 | 125 | 128 | 123 | 135 | 11 | -3 | 9,2 | -2,2 |
| Produce other goods for household use | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | | | | | |
| Construction or major repairs to own or household' | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 3 | -1 | 1 | -34,6 | 48,7 |
| Hunting or fishing for household use | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 14,4 | 108,2 |
| Involvement in at least one activity | 163 | 154 | 153 | 136 | 143 | 8 | -20 | 5,6 | -12,2 |
| Employed | 52 | 49 | 36 | 33 | 34 | 1 | -18 | 3,1 | -33,8 |
| Unemployed | 34 | 33 | 33 | 31 | 27 | -4 | -6 | -13,0 | -19,3 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 77 | 72 | 84 | 71 | 82 | 11 | 4 | 14,8 | 5,4 |
| Free State | | | | | | | | | |
| Subsistence farming | 142 | 118 | 110 | 106 | 120 | 14 | -22 | 13,4 | -15,3 |
| Fetching water or collecting wood/dung | 60 | 61 | 64 | 105 | 49 | -56 | -12 | -53,6 | -19,3 |
| Produce other goods for household use | 8 | 8 | 5 | 5 | 1 | -4 | -7 | -77,4 | -86,0 |
| Construction or major repairs to own or household' | 30 | 28 | 35 | 30 | 14 | -15 | -16 | -51,4 | -52,7 |
| Hunting or fishing for household use | 6 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 8 | -1 | 3 | -6,1 | 44,8 |
| Involvement in at least one activity | 204 | 180 | 175 | 207 | 165 | -42 | -39 | -20,4 | -19,0 |
| Employed | 78 | 81 | 85 | 82 | 62 | -21 | -16 | -25,2 | -20,8 |
| Unemployed | 61 | 47 | 53 | 63 | 50 | -13 | -11 | -20,3 | -17,8 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 65 | 52 | 37 | 62 | 53 | -9 | -11 | -14,1 | -17,8 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | | | | | | | | | |
| Subsistence farming | 937 | 999 | 912 | 880 | 979 | 100 | 42 | 11,3 | 4,5 |
| Fetching water or collecting wood/dung | 1 425 | 1 410 | 1 437 | 1 474 | 1 490 | 16 | 65 | 1,1 | 4,6 |
| Produce other goods for household use | 139 | 157 | 188 | 254 | 251 | -2 | 113 | -0,8 | 81,5 |
| Construction or major repairs to own or household' | 111 | 133 | 116 | 102 | 132 | 30 | 21 | 29,2 | 18,6 |
| Hunting or fishing for household use | 9 | 13 | 10 | 10 | 9 | -1 | 0 | -8,2 | -1,5 |
| Involvement in at least one activity | 2 047 | 2 074 | 2 058 | 2 162 | 2 116 | -46 | 68 | -2,1 | 3,3 |
| Employed | 586 | 544 | 542 | 541 | 523 | -19 | -63 | -3,5 | -10,8 |
| Unemployed | 460 | 510 | 468 | 511 | 425 | -86 | -35 | -16,9 | -7,6 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 1 002 | 1 020 | 1 048 | 1 110 | 1 168 | 59 | 167 | 5,3 | 16,6 |

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 8: Involvement in non-market activities and labour market status by province (continued) | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 47 | 35 | 61 | 39 | 67 | 28 | 20 | 72,3 | 42,8 |
| Fetching water or collecting wood/dung | 363 | 394 | 381 | 460 | 403 | -57 | 40 | -12,5 | 10,9 |
| Produce other goods for household use | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 161,5 | 371,5 |
| Construction or major repairs to own or household' | 1 | 3 | | 2 | | | | | |
| Involvement in at least one activity | 402 | 422 | 414 | 487 | 445 | -42 | 43 | -8,7 | 10,6 |
| Employed | 97 | 77 | 78 | 122 | 135 | 13 | 38 | 10,9 | 39,8 |
| Unemployed | 74 | 46 | 58 | 55 | 42 | -12 | -32 | -22,4 | -42,8 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 232 | 298 | 278 | 311 | 267 | -43 | 36 | -13,9 | 15,5 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Gauteng | | | | | | | | | |
| Subsistence farming | 38 | 34 | 34 | 49 | 34 | -14 | -3 | -29,2 | -8,9 |
| Fetching water or collecting wood/dung | 92 | 86 | 68 | 239 | 140 | -98 | 48 | -41,2 | 52,7 |
| Produce other goods for household use | 5 | | 6 | 2 | 1 | -1 | -4 | -32,5 | -79,6 |
| Construction or major repairs to own or household' | 10 | 16 | 12 | 13 | 7 | -6 | -3 | -49,0 | -33,3 |
| Hunting or fishing for household use | 2 | 1 | 6 | | | | | | |
| Involvement in at least one activity | 135 | 126 | 116 | 291 | 175 | -116 | 39 | -39,9 | 29,2 |
| Employed | 53 | 65 | 59 | 113 | 80 | -33 | 27 | -29,1 | 50,6 |
| Unemployed | 44 | 45 | 39 | 99 | 48 | -52 | 4 | -52,2 | 8,8 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 38 | 16 | 19 | 78 | 47 | -31 | 9 | -40,0 | 22,4 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Mpumalanga | | | | | | | | | |
| Subsistence farming | 115 | 122 | 120 | 160 | 189 | 29 | 74 | 18,3 | 64,2 |
| Fetching water or collecting wood/dung | 355 | 396 | 408 | 452 | 420 | -33 | 65 | -7,3 | 18,2 |
| Produce other goods for household use | 15 | 4 | 28 | 24 | 20 | -4 | 5 | -16,9 | 34,6 |
| Construction or major repairs to own or household' | 11 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 4 | -2 | 75,6 | -18,8 |
| Hunting or fishing for household use | 2 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | -1 | 606,0 | -25,9 |
| Involvement in at least one activity | 457 | 481 | 505 | 580 | 585 | 4 | 128 | 0,8 | 27,9 |
| Employed | 130 | 123 | 122 | 151 | 156 | 5 | 26 | 3,4 | 20,3 |
| Unemployed | 125 | 140 | 131 | 172 | 139 | -33 | 13 | -19,2 | 10,8 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 202 | 218 | 252 | 258 | 290 | 32 | 88 | 12,5 | 43,5 |

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

| Table 8: Involvement in non-market activities and labour market status by province (concluded) | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Jan-Mar 2025 | Apr-Jun 2025 | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 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 | 242 | 347 | 239 | 218 | 293 | 75 | 51 | 34,6 | 21,0 |
| Fetching water or collecting wood/dung | 436 | 329 | 392 | 517 | 414 | -102 | -22 | -19,8 | -5,0 |
| Produce other goods for household use | 3 | 3 | 10 | 7 | 6 | -1 | 3 | -17,6 | 109,4 |
| Construction or major repairs to own or household' | 15 | 42 | 38 | 44 | 34 | -10 | 19 | -22,8 | 127,6 |
| Hunting or fishing for household use | 2 | 3 | 5 | 3 | | | | | |
| Involvement in at least one activity | 568 | 567 | 552 | 680 | 631 | -49 | 64 | -7,2 | 11,2 |
| Employed | 190 | 182 | 196 | 203 | 215 | 12 | 25 | 5,7 | 13,2 |
| Unemployed | 133 | 130 | 109 | 112 | 136 | 24 | 2 | 21,2 | 1,8 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 244 | 254 | 247 | 365 | 281 | -84 | 36 | -23,0 | 14,9 |

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.

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 |
| | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Both sexes | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 0,6 | 0,6 | -128 | -376 | 121 | 0,31 |
| Employed | 0,8 | 0,8 | 44 | -161 | 249 | 0,67 |
| Formal sector (non-agriculture)* | 1,0 | 1,0 | 320 | 113 | 526 | 0,00 |
| Informal sector (non-agriculture)* | 2,4 | 2,3 | -293 | -458 | -128 | 0,00 |
| Household sector | 3,9 | 3,7 | 18 | -54 | 89 | 0,63 |
| Unemployed | 1,7 | 1,7 | -172 | -398 | 55 | 0,14 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 0,9 | 0,9 | 248 | 0 | 496 | 0,05 |
| Potential Labour Force | 2,6 | 2,7 | 82 | -122 | 286 | 0,43 |
| Discouraged work-seekers | 3,2 | 3,2 | 233 | 48 | 419 | 0,01 |
| Other Potential Labour Force | 4,4 | 4,6 | -151 | -244 | -59 | 0,00 |
| Other (Outside the Labour Force) | 0,9 | 0,9 | 165 | -31 | 362 | 0,10 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 0,6 | 0,6 | -0,5 | -1,1 | 0,1 | 0,12 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 0,8 | 0,8 | 0,0 | -0,5 | 0,5 | 0,96 |
| Inactivity rate | 0,9 | 0,9 | 0,5 | -0,1 | 1,1 | 0,12 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 1,4 | 1,4 | -0,5 | -1,3 | 0,2 | 0,17 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 1,3 | 1,4 | -0,7 | -1,4 | 0,1 | 0,08 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 0,9 | 0,9 | -0,2 | -0,9 | 0,4 | 0,45 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 0,9 | 0,9 | -0,4 | -1,0 | 0,3 | 0,25 |

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

| Table 2A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by sex (continued) | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Coefficient of variation | | Qtr-to-qtr change | Lower 95% | Upper 95% | P-value |
| | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Women | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 0,9 | 0,8 | -31 | -196 | 135 | 0,72 |
| Employed | 1,1 | 1,1 | 41 | -94 | 175 | 0,55 |
| Formal sector (non-agriculture)* | 1,4 | 1,4 | 147 | 22 | 272 | 0,02 |
| Informal sector (non-agriculture)* | 3,6 | 3,4 | -131 | -220 | -41 | 0,00 |
| Household sector | 4,0 | 3,7 | 24 | -34 | 83 | 0,41 |
| Unemployed | 2,1 | 2,2 | -71 | -225 | 83 | 0,36 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 1,0 | 1,0 | 86 | -79 | 251 | 0,31 |
| Potential Labour Force | 3,2 | 3,0 | 15 | -120 | 149 | 0,83 |
| Discouraged work-seekers | 3,9 | 3,7 | 99 | -22 | 220 | 0,11 |
| Other Potential Labour Force | 5,3 | 5,0 | -84 | -156 | -12 | 0,02 |
| Other (Outside the Labour Force) | 1,1 | 1,1 | 71 | -67 | 210 | 0,31 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 0,9 | 0,8 | -0,3 | -1,1 | 0,5 | 0,47 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 1,1 | 1,1 | 0,1 | -0,5 | 0,7 | 0,76 |
| Inactivity rate | 1,0 | 1,0 | 0,3 | -0,5 | 1,1 | 0,47 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 1,7 | 1,8 | -0,5 | -1,6 | 0,6 | 0,34 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 1,6 | 1,7 | -0,7 | -1,8 | 0,4 | 0,23 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 1,1 | 1,1 | -0,4 | -1,3 | 0,6 | 0,45 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 1,1 | 1,1 | -0,5 | -1,4 | 0,4 | 0,30 |

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

| Table 2A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by sex (concluded) | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Coefficient of variation | | Qtr-to-qtr change | Lower 95% | Upper 95% | P-value |
| | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Men | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 0,6 | 0,7 | -97 | -243 | 49 | 0,19 |
| Employed | 1,0 | 0,9 | 3 | -150 | 157 | 0,97 |
| Formal sector (non-agriculture)* | 1,2 | 1,3 | 173 | 27 | 319 | 0,02 |
| Informal sector (non-agriculture)* | 2,6 | 2,5 | -163 | -282 | -43 | 0,01 |
| Household sector | 6,3 | 7,2 | -7 | -43 | 30 | 0,71 |
| Unemployed | 2,0 | 2,0 | -100 | -254 | 54 | 0,20 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 1,2 | 1,2 | 161 | 15 | 307 | 0,03 |
| Potential Labour Force | 3,1 | 3,1 | 67 | -54 | 188 | 0,27 |
| Discouraged work-seekers | 3,6 | 3,5 | 135 | 23 | 247 | 0,02 |
| Other Potential Labour Force | 5,7 | 7,3 | -67 | -119 | -16 | 0,01 |
| Other (Outside the Labour Force) | 1,2 | 1,2 | 94 | -21 | 209 | 0,11 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 0,6 | 0,7 | -0,7 | -1,4 | 0,0 | 0,06 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 1,0 | 0,9 | -0,1 | -0,9 | 0,6 | 0,73 |
| Inactivity rate | 1,2 | 1,2 | 0,7 | 0,0 | 1,4 | 0,06 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 1,9 | 1,8 | -0,5 | -1,6 | 0,5 | 0,31 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 1,7 | 1,7 | -0,7 | -1,7 | 0,4 | 0,20 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 1,4 | 1,3 | -0,1 | -1,0 | 0,8 | 0,76 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 1,3 | 1,3 | -0,3 | -1,2 | 0,7 | 0,55 |

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

| Table 2.1A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by population group | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Coefficient of variation | | Qtr-to-qtr change | Lower 95% | Upper 95% | P-value |
| | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| South Africa | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 0,6 | 0,6 | -128 | -376 | 121 | 0,31 |
| Employed | 0,8 | 0,8 | 44 | -161 | 249 | 0,67 |
| Unemployed | 1,7 | 1,7 | -172 | -398 | 55 | 0,14 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 0,9 | 0,9 | 248 | 0 | 496 | 0,05 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 0,6 | 0,6 | -0,5 | -1,1 | 0,1 | 0,12 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 0,8 | 0,8 | 0,0 | -0,5 | 0,5 | 0,96 |
| Inactivity rate | 0,9 | 0,9 | 0,5 | -0,1 | 1,1 | 0,12 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 1,4 | 1,4 | -0,5 | -1,3 | 0,2 | 0,17 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 1,3 | 1,4 | -0,7 | -1,4 | 0,1 | 0,08 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 0,9 | 0,9 | -0,2 | -0,9 | 0,4 | 0,45 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 0,9 | 0,9 | -0,4 | -1,0 | 0,3 | 0,25 |
| | | | | | | |
| Black/African | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 0,7 | 0,7 | -191 | -421 | 38 | 0,10 |
| Employed | 0,9 | 0,9 | -23 | -204 | 157 | 0,80 |
| Unemployed | 1,7 | 1,8 | -168 | -381 | 46 | 0,12 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 1,0 | 1,0 | 314 | 85 | 544 | 0,01 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 0,7 | 0,7 | -0,8 | -1,4 | -0,1 | 0,02 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 0,9 | 0,9 | -0,2 | -0,7 | 0,3 | 0,45 |
| Inactivity rate | 1,0 | 1,0 | 0,8 | 0,1 | 1,4 | 0,02 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 1,4 | 1,4 | -0,5 | -1,3 | 0,3 | 0,25 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 1,3 | 1,4 | -0,6 | -1,5 | 0,2 | 0,16 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 1,0 | 0,9 | -0,1 | -0,8 | 0,6 | 0,85 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 0,9 | 0,9 | -0,2 | -0,9 | 0,5 | 0,62 |

| 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 |
| | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Coloured | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 1,6 | 1,9 | 48 | -16 | 112 | 0,14 |
| Employed | 2,1 | 2,4 | 58 | 2 | 115 | 0,04 |
| Unemployed | 6,0 | 6,2 | -10 | -63 | 43 | 0,70 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 2,3 | 2,9 | -44 | -109 | 20 | 0,18 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 1,6 | 1,9 | 1,3 | -0,5 | 3,0 | 0,16 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 2,1 | 2,4 | 1,6 | 0,0 | 3,1 | 0,05 |
| Inactivity rate | 2,3 | 2,9 | -1,3 | -3,0 | 0,5 | 0,16 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 5,7 | 5,8 | -0,9 | -3,1 | 1,2 | 0,39 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 4,9 | 4,9 | -1,4 | -3,5 | 0,8 | 0,22 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 3,6 | 3,7 | -1,7 | -3,6 | 0,3 | 0,09 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 3,4 | 3,5 | -2,0 | -3,8 | -0,2 | 0,03 |
| | | | | | | |
| Indian/Asian | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 3,1 | 3,0 | 28 | -3 | 58 | 0,07 |
| Employed | 3,3 | 4,0 | 19 | -6 | 45 | 0,14 |
| Unemployed | 16,4 | 15,8 | 8 | -21 | 38 | 0,58 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 3,9 | 4,2 | -26 | -56 | 5 | 0,10 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 3,1 | 3,0 | 2,5 | -0,4 | 5,4 | 0,09 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 3,3 | 4,0 | 1,7 | -0,7 | 4,1 | 0,16 |
| Inactivity rate | 3,9 | 4,2 | -2,5 | -5,4 | 0,4 | 0,09 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 15,1 | 15,4 | 0,7 | -3,7 | 5,1 | 0,75 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 14,4 | 15,6 | -0,6 | -5,0 | 3,8 | 0,79 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 9,7 | 12,1 | -0,4 | -5,2 | 4,4 | 0,88 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 10,8 | 12,6 | -1,5 | -6,5 | 3,5 | 0,55 |

| 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 |
| | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| White | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 1,6 | 1,7 | -12 | -64 | 39 | 0,64 |
| Employed | 2,1 | 1,8 | -11 | -71 | 50 | 0,73 |
| Unemployed | 13,7 | 10,7 | -2 | -43 | 39 | 0,93 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 3,9 | 4,1 | 3 | -48 | 55 | 0,90 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 1,6 | 1,7 | -0,2 | -2,1 | 1,7 | 0,82 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 2,1 | 1,8 | -0,2 | -2,4 | 2,1 | 0,88 |
| Inactivity rate | 3,9 | 4,1 | 0,2 | -1,7 | 2,1 | 0,82 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 13,8 | 10,4 | 0,0 | -2,1 | 2,1 | 0,97 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 13,1 | 9,5 | 0,1 | -2,1 | 2,4 | 0,90 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 11,9 | 8,8 | -0,3 | -2,5 | 1,9 | 0,77 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 11,7 | 8,2 | -0,2 | -2,5 | 2,2 | 0,90 |

| Table 2.3A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Coefficient of variation | | Qtr-to-qtr change | Lower 95% | Upper 95% | P-value |
| | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| South Africa | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 0,6 | 0,6 | -128 | -376 | 121 | 0,31 |
| Employed | 0,8 | 0,8 | 44 | -161 | 249 | 0,67 |
| Unemployed | 1,7 | 1,7 | -172 | -398 | 55 | 0,14 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 0,9 | 0,9 | 248 | 0 | 496 | 0,05 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 0,6 | 0,6 | -0,5 | -1,1 | 0,1 | 0,12 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 0,8 | 0,8 | 0,0 | -0,5 | 0,5 | 0,96 |
| Inactivity rate | 0,9 | 0,9 | 0,5 | -0,1 | 1,1 | 0,12 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 1,4 | 1,4 | -0,5 | -1,3 | 0,2 | 0,17 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 1,3 | 1,4 | -0,7 | -1,4 | 0,1 | 0,08 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 0,9 | 0,9 | -0,2 | -0,9 | 0,4 | 0,45 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 0,9 | 0,9 | -0,4 | -1,0 | 0,3 | 0,25 |
| | | | | | | |
| Western Cape | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 1,2 | 1,4 | 43 | -42 | 128 | 0,32 |
| Employed | 1,6 | 1,5 | 93 | 2 | 185 | 0,05 |
| Unemployed | 5,0 | 6,3 | -50 | -128 | 27 | 0,20 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 2,6 | 3,1 | -26 | -111 | 58 | 0,54 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 1,2 | 1,4 | 0,6 | -1,0 | 2,3 | 0,46 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 1,6 | 1,5 | 1,6 | -0,1 | 3,4 | 0,07 |
| Inactivity rate | 2,6 | 3,1 | -0,6 | -2,3 | 1,0 | 0,46 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 4,7 | 5,7 | -1,7 | -3,7 | 0,4 | 0,12 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 3,9 | 4,7 | -1,6 | -3,9 | 0,7 | 0,17 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 4,1 | 4,0 | -2,1 | -4,2 | -0,1 | 0,04 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 3,6 | 3,3 | -2,1 | -4,2 | 0,1 | 0,06 |

| 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 |
| | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Western Cape - Non-Metro | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 2,7 | 3,1 | 10 | -43 | 64 | 0,71 |
| Employed | 2,6 | 2,0 | 25 | -8 | 57 | 0,14 |
| Unemployed | 13,2 | 12,5 | -14 | -70 | 42 | 0,61 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 4,6 | 5,4 | -4 | -58 | 49 | 0,88 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 2,7 | 3,1 | 0,3 | -2,5 | 3,2 | 0,81 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 2,6 | 2,0 | 1,1 | -0,6 | 2,9 | 0,20 |
| Inactivity rate | 4,6 | 5,4 | -0,3 | -3,2 | 2,5 | 0,81 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 11,7 | 9,9 | -1,3 | -5,6 | 2,9 | 0,53 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 10,5 | 8,2 | -1,2 | -6,0 | 3,7 | 0,64 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 7,8 | 4,4 | -1,0 | -4,2 | 2,2 | 0,54 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 7,2 | 3,8 | -0,8 | -4,2 | 2,6 | 0,64 |
| Western Cape - City of Cape Town | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 1,3 | 1,5 | 33 | -32 | 97 | 0,32 |
| Employed | 2,0 | 2,2 | 69 | -16 | 154 | 0,11 |
| Unemployed | 4,9 | 7,4 | -36 | -90 | 18 | 0,19 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 3,3 | 3,8 | -22 | -87 | 42 | 0,50 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 1,3 | 1,5 | 0,8 | -1,2 | 2,7 | 0,44 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 2,0 | 2,2 | 1,9 | -0,7 | 4,5 | 0,15 |
| Inactivity rate | 3,3 | 3,8 | -0,8 | -2,7 | 1,2 | 0,44 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 4,9 | 7,1 | -1,8 | -4,2 | 0,6 | 0,14 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 3,7 | 5,9 | -1,8 | -4,3 | 0,6 | 0,15 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 4,5 | 6,3 | -2,8 | -5,4 | -0,2 | 0,03 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 3,5 | 5,1 | -2,8 | -5,5 | -0,1 | 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 |
| | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Eastern Cape | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 2,1 | 1,7 | 0 | -76 | 76 | 1,00 |
| Employed | 3,0 | 3,5 | -32 | -103 | 40 | 0,38 |
| Unemployed | 4,1 | 4,5 | 31 | -39 | 101 | 0,38 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 2,2 | 1,9 | 12 | -64 | 88 | 0,76 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 2,1 | 1,7 | -0,1 | -1,8 | 1,5 | 0,88 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 3,0 | 3,5 | -0,8 | -2,3 | 0,8 | 0,33 |
| Inactivity rate | 2,2 | 1,9 | 0,1 | -1,5 | 1,8 | 0,88 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 3,4 | 4,1 | 1,3 | -1,2 | 3,8 | 0,30 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 3,3 | 4,1 | 0,6 | -2,1 | 3,4 | 0,66 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 2,5 | 2,8 | 1,2 | -1,0 | 3,3 | 0,28 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 2,5 | 2,8 | 0,6 | -1,7 | 2,9 | 0,62 |
| | | | | | | |
| Eastern Cape - Non-Metro | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 2,8 | 2,2 | -10 | -72 | 52 | 0,75 |
| Employed | 3,5 | 4,0 | -37 | -96 | 22 | 0,22 |
| Unemployed | 5,1 | 5,0 | 27 | -26 | 80 | 0,32 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 2,6 | 2,0 | 17 | -45 | 78 | 0,60 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 2,8 | 2,2 | -0,4 | -2,4 | 1,5 | 0,68 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 3,5 | 4,0 | -1,2 | -3,1 | 0,6 | 0,20 |
| Inactivity rate | 2,6 | 2,0 | 0,4 | -1,5 | 2,4 | 0,68 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 3,4 | 3,9 | 2,1 | -1,0 | 5,2 | 0,18 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 3,2 | 4,0 | 0,4 | -3,0 | 3,9 | 0,81 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 2,3 | 2,4 | 1,8 | -0,9 | 4,5 | 0,18 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 2,2 | 2,5 | 0,5 | -2,4 | 3,4 | 0,75 |

| 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 |
| | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Eastern Cape - Buffalo City | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 4,7 | 2,8 | 9 | -31 | 49 | 0,67 |
| Employed | 6,5 | 7,5 | 10 | -28 | 48 | 0,60 |
| Unemployed | 8,9 | 18,1 | -1 | -44 | 41 | 0,95 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 9,2 | 5,9 | -7 | -47 | 33 | 0,74 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 4,7 | 2,8 | 1,3 | -5,7 | 8,4 | 0,71 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 6,5 | 7,5 | 1,6 | -5,1 | 8,3 | 0,64 |
| Inactivity rate | 9,2 | 5,9 | -1,3 | -8,4 | 5,7 | 0,71 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 9,1 | 18,4 | -0,9 | -10,6 | 8,7 | 0,85 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 9,2 | 15,3 | 2,0 | -8,2 | 12,1 | 0,71 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 9,9 | 16,4 | -2,3 | -9,2 | 4,6 | 0,52 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 9,3 | 13,7 | 0,5 | -6,8 | 7,9 | 0,88 |
| Eastern Cape - Nelson Mandela Bay | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 4,1 | 4,5 | 1 | -20 | 22 | 0,92 |
| Employed | 7,8 | 8,8 | -5 | -19 | 10 | 0,53 |
| Unemployed | 7,0 | 11,9 | 6 | -12 | 24 | 0,53 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 5,1 | 5,5 | 2 | -19 | 23 | 0,84 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 4,1 | 4,5 | -0,1 | -2,3 | 2,2 | 0,95 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 7,8 | 8,8 | -0,7 | -2,3 | 1,0 | 0,42 |
| Inactivity rate | 5,1 | 5,5 | 0,1 | -2,2 | 2,3 | 0,95 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 10,7 | 14,0 | 1,1 | -1,8 | 4,0 | 0,46 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 10,4 | 13,1 | 0,7 | -2,3 | 3,6 | 0,65 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 9,9 | 11,0 | 1,9 | -1,0 | 4,7 | 0,21 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 9,6 | 10,7 | 1,4 | -1,9 | 4,8 | 0,40 |

| 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 |
| | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Northern cape | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 4,4 | 3,7 | -2 | -18 | 13 | 0,78 |
| Employed | 7,2 | 5,3 | 17 | -7 | 42 | 0,16 |
| Unemployed | 7,5 | 5,0 | -20 | -34 | -5 | 0,01 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 5,3 | 4,4 | 4 | -12 | 19 | 0,64 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 4,4 | 3,7 | -0,4 | -2,2 | 1,5 | 0,70 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 7,2 | 5,3 | 2,0 | -0,9 | 4,9 | 0,18 |
| Inactivity rate | 5,3 | 4,4 | 0,4 | -1,5 | 2,2 | 0,70 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 8,7 | 6,0 | -4,1 | -7,7 | -0,5 | 0,03 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 8,3 | 6,2 | -5,0 | -8,6 | -1,4 | 0,01 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 6,6 | 4,6 | -3,6 | -8,1 | 1,0 | 0,12 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 6,3 | 4,3 | -4,2 | -8,9 | 0,5 | 0,08 |
| | | | | | | |
| Free State | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 1,9 | 1,9 | 1 | -50 | 53 | 0,96 |
| Employed | 3,0 | 3,3 | -11 | -56 | 34 | 0,64 |
| Unemployed | 6,1 | 5,3 | 12 | -41 | 65 | 0,65 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 3,3 | 3,3 | -1 | -53 | 51 | 0,97 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 1,9 | 1,9 | 0,1 | -2,6 | 2,7 | 0,97 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 3,0 | 3,3 | -0,6 | -2,9 | 1,8 | 0,63 |
| Inactivity rate | 3,3 | 3,3 | -0,1 | -2,7 | 2,6 | 0,97 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 5,2 | 4,8 | 1,0 | -2,6 | 4,5 | 0,60 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 4,6 | 4,5 | 1,2 | -2,3 | 4,7 | 0,50 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 3,6 | 4,3 | 1,4 | -1,3 | 4,1 | 0,32 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 3,2 | 4,0 | 1,5 | -1,2 | 4,3 | 0,27 |

| 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 |
| | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Free State - Non-Metro | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 2,0 | 2,5 | 2 | -34 | 38 | 0,91 |
| Employed | 4,0 | 4,5 | 9 | -35 | 53 | 0,70 |
| Unemployed | 5,9 | 6,8 | -7 | -40 | 27 | 0,69 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 3,5 | 4,5 | -2 | -37 | 34 | 0,93 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 2,0 | 2,5 | 0,1 | -2,4 | 2,7 | 0,92 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 4,0 | 4,5 | 0,6 | -2,6 | 3,8 | 0,70 |
| Inactivity rate | 3,5 | 4,5 | -0,1 | -2,7 | 2,4 | 0,92 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 5,5 | 6,2 | -0,8 | -4,6 | 2,9 | 0,66 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 4,6 | 5,7 | -0,6 | -4,2 | 3,1 | 0,75 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 4,6 | 5,5 | 0,1 | -3,3 | 3,4 | 0,97 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 3,9 | 5,0 | 0,2 | -3,1 | 3,6 | 0,89 |
| Free State - Mangaung | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 4,8 | 2,3 | -1 | -39 | 38 | 0,97 |
| Employed | 3,8 | 3,0 | -19 | -32 | -7 | 0,00 |
| Unemployed | 18,6 | 4,9 | 19 | -23 | 61 | 0,38 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 7,2 | 3,4 | 1 | -38 | 39 | 0,97 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 4,8 | 2,3 | -0,1 | -7,0 | 6,8 | 0,97 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 3,8 | 3,0 | -3,5 | -5,7 | -1,3 | 0,00 |
| Inactivity rate | 7,2 | 3,4 | 0,1 | -6,8 | 7,0 | 0,97 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 14,8 | 4,1 | 5,7 | -3,7 | 15,0 | 0,23 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 12,9 | 5,1 | 5,9 | -3,4 | 15,1 | 0,21 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 4,2 | 5,8 | 4,6 | 0,3 | 9,0 | 0,04 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 5,0 | 6,6 | 4,8 | -0,1 | 9,7 | 0,05 |

| 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 |
| | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| KwaZulu-Natal | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 1,9 | 2,1 | -25 | -155 | 105 | 0,71 |
| Employed | 2,3 | 2,3 | -41 | -124 | 41 | 0,33 |
| Unemployed | 5,1 | 5,6 | 16 | -90 | 122 | 0,76 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 2,0 | 2,2 | 48 | -82 | 178 | 0,47 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 1,9 | 2,1 | -0,5 | -2,2 | 1,2 | 0,58 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 2,3 | 2,3 | -0,6 | -1,7 | 0,4 | 0,24 |
| Inactivity rate | 2,0 | 2,2 | 0,5 | -1,2 | 2,2 | 0,58 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 4,2 | 4,4 | 0,6 | -1,3 | 2,5 | 0,54 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 4,0 | 3,9 | -0,3 | -2,0 | 1,5 | 0,77 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 2,3 | 2,3 | 0,5 | -0,8 | 1,8 | 0,48 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 2,2 | 2,3 | -0,2 | -1,7 | 1,3 | 0,78 |
| | | | | | | |
| KwaZulu-Natal - Non-Metro | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 2,9 | 3,4 | -27 | -143 | 90 | 0,65 |
| Employed | 3,4 | 3,3 | -103 | -166 | -40 | 0,00 |
| Unemployed | 7,3 | 7,6 | 76 | -21 | 174 | 0,12 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 2,6 | 2,9 | 40 | -76 | 157 | 0,50 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 2,9 | 3,4 | -0,7 | -3,0 | 1,7 | 0,58 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 3,4 | 3,3 | -2,1 | -3,4 | -0,9 | 0,00 |
| Inactivity rate | 2,6 | 2,9 | 0,7 | -1,7 | 3,0 | 0,58 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 5,8 | 5,3 | 3,7 | 0,9 | 6,4 | 0,01 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 5,2 | 4,5 | 3,1 | 0,9 | 5,2 | 0,01 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 2,8 | 2,6 | 2,4 | 0,9 | 4,0 | 0,00 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 2,7 | 2,7 | 2,0 | 0,4 | 3,6 | 0,02 |

| 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 |
| | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| KwaZulu-Natal - eThekweni | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 1,8 | 1,8 | 2 | -59 | 63 | 0,96 |
| Employed | 2,8 | 3,0 | 62 | 9 | 115 | 0,02 |
| Unemployed | 5,9 | 6,7 | -60 | -103 | -17 | 0,01 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 2,9 | 2,9 | 8 | -53 | 69 | 0,80 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 1,8 | 1,8 | -0,2 | -2,4 | 2,1 | 0,89 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 2,8 | 3,0 | 2,1 | 0,2 | 4,0 | 0,03 |
| Inactivity rate | 2,9 | 2,9 | 0,2 | -2,1 | 2,4 | 0,89 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 5,6 | 6,7 | -3,6 | -5,8 | -1,5 | 0,00 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 5,6 | 6,4 | -4,9 | -7,4 | -2,3 | 0,00 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 4,1 | 4,5 | -2,2 | -4,4 | -0,1 | 0,04 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 3,8 | 4,3 | -3,3 | -5,7 | -0,8 | 0,01 |
| | | | | | | |
| North West | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 3,8 | 2,5 | -13 | -77 | 51 | 0,69 |
| Employed | 3,6 | 4,2 | 36 | -27 | 100 | 0,26 |
| Unemployed | 10,8 | 8,8 | -49 | -120 | 21 | 0,17 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 4,3 | 2,7 | 21 | -42 | 85 | 0,51 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 3,8 | 2,5 | -0,6 | -2,9 | 1,6 | 0,59 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 3,6 | 4,2 | 1,2 | -1,0 | 3,4 | 0,30 |
| Inactivity rate | 4,3 | 2,7 | 0,6 | -1,6 | 2,9 | 0,59 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 7,9 | 7,8 | -3,0 | -6,9 | 1,0 | 0,14 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 7,4 | 6,9 | -1,2 | -4,9 | 2,6 | 0,54 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 3,1 | 3,7 | -1,6 | -4,8 | 1,6 | 0,32 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 3,0 | 3,3 | -0,3 | -3,3 | 2,8 | 0,87 |

| 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 |
| | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Gauteng | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 1,0 | 1,1 | -84 | -215 | 48 | 0,21 |
| Employed | 1,3 | 1,4 | -54 | -158 | 51 | 0,31 |
| Unemployed | 2,7 | 3,0 | -30 | -146 | 86 | 0,61 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 2,2 | 2,3 | 122 | -9 | 254 | 0,07 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 1,0 | 1,1 | -1,0 | -2,1 | 0,2 | 0,10 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 1,3 | 1,4 | -0,6 | -1,5 | 0,3 | 0,18 |
| Inactivity rate | 2,2 | 2,3 | 1,0 | -0,2 | 2,1 | 0,10 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 2,2 | 2,5 | 0,0 | -1,2 | 1,2 | 0,96 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 2,1 | 2,6 | -0,1 | -1,4 | 1,2 | 0,89 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 1,7 | 2,0 | -0,2 | -1,2 | 0,9 | 0,77 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 1,7 | 2,1 | -0,2 | -1,3 | 0,9 | 0,72 |
| | | | | | | |
| Gauteng - Non-Metro | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 4,1 | 4,4 | -24 | -90 | 41 | 0,47 |
| Employed | 4,6 | 3,9 | 5 | -37 | 47 | 0,82 |
| Unemployed | 6,4 | 10,5 | -29 | -81 | 22 | 0,27 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 9,5 | 9,3 | 30 | -36 | 95 | 0,37 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 4,1 | 4,4 | -1,8 | -6,2 | 2,5 | 0,40 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 4,6 | 3,9 | 0,2 | -2,6 | 2,9 | 0,91 |
| Inactivity rate | 9,5 | 9,3 | 1,8 | -2,5 | 6,2 | 0,40 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 4,6 | 7,5 | -2,0 | -5,7 | 1,7 | 0,28 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 5,4 | 7,4 | -4,2 | -7,8 | -0,6 | 0,02 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 4,0 | 5,5 | -2,1 | -4,4 | 0,2 | 0,07 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 4,2 | 6,0 | -4,0 | -6,7 | -1,3 | 0,00 |

| Table 2.3A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued) | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Coefficient of variation | | Qtr-to-qtr change | Lower 95% | Upper 95% | P-value |
| | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Gauteng - Ekurhuleni | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 1,8 | 2,2 | 19 | -34 | 72 | 0,47 |
| Employed | 2,0 | 2,4 | 13 | -30 | 57 | 0,55 |
| Unemployed | 5,2 | 6,3 | 6 | -42 | 54 | 0,80 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 3,1 | 3,8 | -10 | -63 | 43 | 0,72 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 1,8 | 2,2 | 0,5 | -1,4 | 2,3 | 0,62 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 2,0 | 2,4 | 0,3 | -1,2 | 1,8 | 0,68 |
| Inactivity rate | 3,1 | 3,8 | -0,5 | -2,3 | 1,4 | 0,62 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 4,1 | 5,0 | 0,0 | -2,1 | 2,1 | 1,00 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 4,5 | 5,0 | -0,6 | -3,2 | 2,1 | 0,68 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 2,8 | 3,3 | -0,7 | -2,7 | 1,2 | 0,46 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 3,2 | 3,3 | -1,2 | -3,4 | 1,0 | 0,28 |
| | | | | | | |
| Gauteng - City of Johannesburg | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 1,7 | 1,8 | -109 | -202 | -17 | 0,02 |
| Employed | 2,7 | 3,0 | -49 | -125 | 28 | 0,21 |
| Unemployed | 4,4 | 4,7 | -61 | -141 | 20 | 0,14 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 4,1 | 3,9 | 123 | 31 | 216 | 0,01 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 1,7 | 1,8 | -2,8 | -5,0 | -0,6 | 0,01 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 2,7 | 3,0 | -1,3 | -3,1 | 0,5 | 0,16 |
| Inactivity rate | 4,1 | 3,9 | 2,8 | 0,6 | 5,0 | 0,01 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 4,0 | 4,4 | -0,8 | -3,1 | 1,5 | 0,49 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 3,6 | 4,7 | 0,4 | -2,1 | 2,8 | 0,77 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 3,5 | 4,2 | -0,3 | -2,5 | 1,9 | 0,80 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 3,2 | 4,3 | 0,8 | -1,5 | 3,0 | 0,50 |

| 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 |
| | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Gauteng - City of Tshwane | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 2,1 | 2,1 | 30 | -22 | 83 | 0,26 |
| Employed | 2,1 | 2,3 | -23 | -61 | 15 | 0,23 |
| Unemployed | 6,0 | 5,8 | 53 | 4 | 103 | 0,03 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 4,6 | 4,8 | -21 | -74 | 32 | 0,43 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 2,1 | 2,1 | 0,8 | -1,0 | 2,7 | 0,37 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 2,1 | 2,3 | -1,0 | -2,3 | 0,4 | 0,15 |
| Inactivity rate | 4,6 | 4,8 | -0,8 | -2,7 | 1,0 | 0,37 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 4,7 | 4,6 | 2,2 | 0,3 | 4,2 | 0,03 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 4,6 | 4,7 | 2,0 | -0,2 | 4,2 | 0,07 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 3,3 | 3,5 | 1,7 | 0,2 | 3,3 | 0,03 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 3,7 | 3,7 | 1,5 | -0,3 | 3,4 | 0,10 |
| | | | | | | |
| Mpumalanga | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 2,7 | 2,0 | 6 | -84 | 96 | 0,90 |
| Employed | 3,3 | 2,5 | 37 | -25 | 100 | 0,24 |
| Unemployed | 6,4 | 4,4 | -31 | -106 | 44 | 0,41 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 3,8 | 2,8 | 3 | -87 | 94 | 0,94 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 2,7 | 2,0 | 0,0 | -2,8 | 2,8 | 0,99 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 3,3 | 2,5 | 1,0 | -0,9 | 3,0 | 0,29 |
| Inactivity rate | 3,8 | 2,8 | 0,0 | -2,8 | 2,8 | 0,99 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 5,2 | 3,7 | -1,8 | -4,8 | 1,2 | 0,25 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 4,6 | 3,5 | -2,9 | -5,5 | -0,2 | 0,03 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 2,7 | 2,5 | -1,2 | -3,7 | 1,2 | 0,32 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 2,5 | 2,4 | -2,1 | -4,3 | 0,0 | 0,05 |

| 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 |
| | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Limpopo | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 2,3 | 2,3 | -54 | -129 | 22 | 0,17 |
| Employed | 2,9 | 2,7 | -3 | -57 | 50 | 0,90 |
| Unemployed | 5,2 | 5,2 | -50 | -114 | 14 | 0,12 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 2,7 | 2,6 | 65 | -11 | 141 | 0,09 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 2,3 | 2,3 | -1,5 | -3,3 | 0,4 | 0,12 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 2,9 | 2,7 | -0,2 | -1,5 | 1,1 | 0,78 |
| Inactivity rate | 2,7 | 2,6 | 1,5 | -0,4 | 3,3 | 0,12 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 4,5 | 4,4 | -1,6 | -3,9 | 0,7 | 0,18 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 3,6 | 4,8 | -1,0 | -3,7 | 1,6 | 0,44 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 3,3 | 2,8 | 1,0 | -0,6 | 2,7 | 0,23 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 2,9 | 3,0 | 1,3 | -0,3 | 2,9 | 0,12 |

| 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 |
| | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Both sexes | 0,8 | 0,8 | 44 | -161 | 249 | 0,67 |
| Agriculture | 4,4 | 4,5 | 30 | -48 | 108 | 0,45 |
| Mining | 9,7 | 9,1 | -5 | -37 | 27 | 0,75 |
| Manufacturing | 3,0 | 3,2 | -61 | -155 | 32 | 0,20 |
| Utilities | 13,4 | 13,5 | 24 | 0 | 49 | 0,05 |
| Construction | 3,8 | 3,2 | 35 | -56 | 126 | 0,45 |
| Trade | 2,2 | 2,2 | -98 | -236 | 40 | 0,16 |
| Transport | 3,9 | 3,6 | 28 | -41 | 96 | 0,43 |
| Finance | 2,5 | 2,4 | 32 | -86 | 150 | 0,59 |
| Community and social services | 2,0 | 2,0 | 46 | -94 | 186 | 0,52 |
| Private households | 3,9 | 3,7 | 18 | -54 | 89 | 0,63 |
| Women | 1,1 | 1,1 | 41 | -94 | 175 | 0,55 |
| Agriculture | 7,4 | 6,9 | 9 | -41 | 59 | 0,72 |
| Mining | 16,2 | 19,6 | 9 | -12 | 30 | 0,38 |
| Manufacturing | 4,5 | 4,7 | -1 | -50 | 49 | 0,98 |
| Utilities | 20,9 | 23,8 | 4 | -9 | 18 | 0,52 |
| Construction | 9,0 | 9,7 | 7 | -25 | 39 | 0,68 |
| Trade | 3,0 | 2,7 | -46 | -134 | 41 | 0,30 |
| Transport | 9,1 | 8,5 | -6 | -40 | 27 | 0,71 |
| Finance | 3,7 | 3,3 | -4 | -81 | 74 | 0,92 |
| Community and social services | 2,3 | 2,2 | 44 | -52 | 139 | 0,37 |
| Private households | 4,0 | 3,7 | 24 | -34 | 83 | 0,41 |
| Men | 1,0 | 0,9 | 3 | -150 | 157 | 0,97 |
| Agriculture | 5,1 | 5,3 | 21 | -40 | 82 | 0,50 |
| Mining | 10,6 | 9,9 | -15 | -44 | 15 | 0,32 |
| Manufacturing | 3,9 | 4,1 | -61 | -139 | 18 | 0,13 |
| Utilities | 14,8 | 14,2 | 20 | -1 | 41 | 0,06 |
| Construction | 3,9 | 3,3 | 28 | -56 | 113 | 0,51 |
| Trade | 2,9 | 2,9 | -52 | -156 | 52 | 0,33 |
| Transport | 4,0 | 3,7 | 34 | -27 | 95 | 0,27 |
| Finance | 3,2 | 2,9 | 36 | -61 | 132 | 0,46 |
| Community and social services | 3,1 | 3,2 | 2 | -85 | 90 | 0,96 |
| Private households | 6,3 | 7,2 | -7 | -43 | 30 | 0,71 |

| 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 |
| | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| South Africa | 0,8 | 0,8 | 44 | -161 | 249 | 0,67 |
| Formal sector* | 1,0 | 1,0 | 320 | 113 | 526 | 0,00 |
| Informal sector* | 2,4 | 2,3 | -293 | -458 | -128 | 0,00 |
| Households | 3,9 | 3,7 | 18 | -54 | 89 | 0,63 |
| Western Cape | 1,6 | 1,5 | 93 | 2 | 185 | 0,05 |
| Formal sector* | 2,0 | 2,3 | 109 | 13 | 204 | 0,03 |
| Informal sector* | 7,2 | 7,2 | -5 | -65 | 56 | 0,88 |
| Households | 11,6 | 11,6 | -11 | -45 | 24 | 0,54 |
| Western Cape – Non-metro | 2,6 | 2,0 | 25 | -8 | 57 | 0,14 |
| Formal sector* | 2,8 | 1,9 | 42 | 8 | 76 | 0,02 |
| Informal sector* | 10,6 | 8,5 | -18 | -59 | 22 | 0,37 |
| Households | 13,5 | 17,8 | 1 | -21 | 23 | 0,94 |
| Western Cape – City of Cape Town | 2,0 | 2,2 | 69 | -16 | 154 | 0,11 |
| Formal sector* | 2,6 | 3,3 | 67 | -21 | 154 | 0,13 |
| Informal sector* | 9,6 | 10,2 | 14 | -31 | 58 | 0,55 |
| Households | 16,4 | 14,8 | -11 | -38 | 15 | 0,39 |
| Eastern Cape | 3,0 | 3,5 | -32 | -103 | 40 | 0,38 |
| Formal sector* | 3,7 | 4,1 | 12 | -44 | 68 | 0,67 |
| Informal sector* | 7,6 | 7,7 | -45 | -97 | 8 | 0,10 |
| Households | 12,5 | 11,2 | 1 | -18 | 20 | 0,90 |
| Eastern Cape – Non-metro | 3,5 | 4,0 | -37 | -96 | 22 | 0,22 |
| Formal sector* | 4,7 | 5,2 | -30 | -73 | 13 | 0,17 |
| Informal sector* | 8,6 | 8,9 | -9 | -48 | 30 | 0,67 |
| Households | 18,1 | 13,3 | 2 | -14 | 18 | 0,82 |
| Eastern Cape – Buffalo City | 6,5 | 7,5 | 10 | -28 | 48 | 0,60 |
| Formal sector* | 8,5 | 9,4 | 33 | 3 | 63 | 0,03 |
| Informal sector* | 11,7 | 17,2 | -26 | -58 | 6 | 0,11 |
| Households | 18,9 | 30,0 | 3 | -5 | 12 | 0,48 |

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

| Table 3.4A: Sampling variability for the employed by province and sector (continued) | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Coefficient of variation | | Qtr-to-qtr change | Lower 95% | Upper 95% | P-value |
| | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Eastern Cape – Nelson Mandela Bay | 7,8 | 8,8 | -5 | -19 | 10 | 0,53 |
| Formal sector* | 7,6 | 8,0 | 9 | -13 | 30 | 0,42 |
| Informal sector* | 29,8 | 25,9 | -10 | -23 | 3 | 0,15 |
| Households | 14,2 | 25,7 | -4 | -10 | 3 | 0,25 |
| Northern Cape | 7,2 | 5,3 | 17 | -7 | 42 | 0,16 |
| Formal sector* | 8,1 | 6,3 | 32 | 12 | 53 | 0,00 |
| Informal sector* | 14,8 | 18,4 | -13 | -30 | 5 | 0,16 |
| Households | 14,6 | 17,5 | -2 | -8 | 3 | 0,42 |
| Free State | 3,0 | 3,3 | -11 | -56 | 34 | 0,64 |
| Formal sector* | 4,0 | 5,3 | -12 | -54 | 30 | 0,57 |
| Informal sector* | 9,6 | 9,5 | -6 | -24 | 13 | 0,55 |
| Households | 8,9 | 12,1 | 7 | -14 | 28 | 0,50 |
| Free State – Non-metro | 4,0 | 4,5 | 9 | -35 | 53 | 0,70 |
| Formal sector* | 5,2 | 7,1 | 7 | -34 | 48 | 0,74 |
| Informal sector* | 12,2 | 12,2 | -3 | -16 | 9 | 0,61 |
| Households | 11,9 | 14,3 | 5 | -14 | 24 | 0,61 |
| Free State – Mangaung | 3,8 | 3,0 | -19 | -32 | -7 | 0,00 |
| Formal sector* | 5,5 | 5,9 | -19 | -29 | -9 | 0,00 |
| Informal sector* | 14,1 | 11,5 | -2 | -16 | 11 | 0,73 |
| Households | 8,6 | 22,6 | 2 | -6 | 10 | 0,61 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 2,3 | 2,3 | -41 | -124 | 41 | 0,33 |
| Formal sector* | 2,6 | 2,9 | 51 | -47 | 149 | 0,31 |
| Informal sector* | 6,4 | 6,5 | -81 | -165 | 3 | 0,06 |
| Households | 8,7 | 8,6 | -11 | -44 | 22 | 0,51 |
| KwaZulu-Natal – Non-metro | 3,4 | 3,3 | -103 | -166 | -40 | 0,00 |
| Formal sector* | 4,3 | 3,7 | -25 | -90 | 40 | 0,45 |
| Informal sector* | 9,1 | 8,7 | -64 | -137 | 9 | 0,09 |
| Households | 14,3 | 14,4 | -14 | -46 | 17 | 0,37 |

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

| Table 3.4A: Sampling variability for the employed by province and sector (continued) | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Coefficient of variation | | Qtr-to-qtr change | Lower 95% | Upper 95% | P-value |
| | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| KwaZulu-Natal – eThekweni | 2,8 | 3,0 | 62 | 9 | 115 | 0,02 |
| Formal sector* | 2,5 | 4,5 | 76 | 3 | 148 | 0,04 |
| Informal sector* | 8,4 | 9,7 | -17 | -59 | 24 | 0,42 |
| Households | 9,1 | 10,0 | 3 | -7 | 14 | 0,53 |
| North West | 3,6 | 4,2 | 36 | -27 | 100 | 0,26 |
| Formal sector* | 4,5 | 5,2 | 8 | -46 | 62 | 0,77 |
| Informal sector* | 10,5 | 7,5 | 17 | -28 | 63 | 0,45 |
| Households | 13,5 | 9,4 | 11 | -6 | 28 | 0,20 |
| Gauteng | 1,3 | 1,4 | -54 | -158 | 51 | 0,31 |
| Formal sector* | 2,0 | 2,1 | 71 | -48 | 191 | 0,24 |
| Informal sector* | 4,6 | 4,5 | -112 | -190 | -34 | 0,00 |
| Households | 8,2 | 7,5 | -13 | -41 | 16 | 0,38 |
| Gauteng – Non-metro | 4,6 | 3,9 | 5 | -37 | 47 | 0,82 |
| Formal sector* | 4,7 | 4,0 | 17 | -20 | 54 | 0,37 |
| Informal sector* | 12,3 | 10,8 | -9 | -35 | 16 | 0,48 |
| Households | 17,0 | 20,1 | -3 | -13 | 7 | 0,55 |
| Gauteng – Ekurhuleni | 2,0 | 2,4 | 13 | -30 | 57 | 0,55 |
| Formal sector* | 3,6 | 3,4 | 21 | -27 | 69 | 0,39 |
| Informal sector* | 12,0 | 10,0 | -4 | -33 | 25 | 0,78 |
| Households | 14,9 | 15,5 | -4 | -14 | 7 | 0,48 |
| Gauteng – City of Johannesburg | 2,7 | 3,0 | -49 | -125 | 28 | 0,21 |
| Formal sector* | 4,5 | 5,5 | -13 | -103 | 77 | 0,78 |
| Informal sector* | 6,2 | 6,7 | -34 | -96 | 28 | 0,28 |
| Households | 10,1 | 10,4 | -2 | -16 | 13 | 0,81 |
| Gauteng – City of Tshwane | 2,1 | 2,3 | -23 | -61 | 15 | 0,23 |
| Formal sector* | 3,2 | 2,6 | 46 | -2 | 95 | 0,06 |
| Informal sector* | 10,4 | 10,3 | -65 | -92 | -38 | 0,00 |
| Households | 21,7 | 17,4 | -4 | -23 | 15 | 0,68 |

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

| Table 3.4A: Sampling variability for the employed by province and sector (concluded) | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Coefficient of variation | | Qtr-to-qtr change | Lower 95% | Upper 95% | P-value |
| | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Mpumalanga | 3,3 | 2,5 | 37 | -25 | 100 | 0,24 |
| Formal sector* | 3,4 | 4,1 | 1 | -46 | 48 | 0,96 |
| Informal sector* | 8,9 | 6,4 | 27 | -6 | 60 | 0,11 |
| Households | 11,5 | 13,1 | 9 | -14 | 33 | 0,42 |
| Limpopo | 2,9 | 2,7 | -3 | -57 | 50 | 0,90 |
| Formal sector* | 4,8 | 3,5 | 47 | -2 | 97 | 0,06 |
| Informal sector* | 6,8 | 5,4 | -76 | -144 | -9 | 0,03 |
| Households | 11,5 | 11,9 | 26 | 4 | 47 | 0,02 |

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

| Table 3.5A: Sampling variability for the employed by sex and occupation | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Coefficient of variation | | Qtr-to-qtr change | Lower 95% | Upper 95% | P-value |
| | Jul-Sep 2025 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Both sexes | 0,8 | 0,8 | 44 | -161 | 249 | 0,67 |
| Manager | 3,7 | 3,8 | -20 | -101 | 62 | 0,64 |
| Professional | 4,4 | 4,4 | 43 | -41 | 127 | 0,32 |
| Technician | 3,2 | 2,7 | 87 | -9 | 183 | 0,07 |
| Clerk | 2,9 | 2,8 | -36 | -131 | 60 | 0,46 |
| Sales and services | 2,2 | 2,3 | 7 | -120 | 134 | 0,92 |
| Skilled agriculture | 10,7 | 14,7 | -37 | -61 | -14 | 0,00 |
| Craft and related trade | 2,8 | 2,8 | -48 | -155 | 59 | 0,38 |
| Plant and machine operator | 3,6 | 3,5 | 14 | -64 | 92 | 0,72 |
| Elementary | 2,0 | 1,8 | 14 | -138 | 165 | 0,86 |
| Domestic worker | 3,9 | 3,5 | 7 | -51 | 65 | 0,81 |
| Women | 1,1 | 1,1 | 41 | -94 | 175 | 0,55 |
| Manager | 6,2 | 6,1 | -12 | -62 | 39 | 0,65 |
| Professional | 5,2 | 5,7 | 55 | -3 | 112 | 0,06 |
| Technician | 4,2 | 3,5 | 81 | 17 | 145 | 0,01 |
| Clerk | 3,5 | 3,4 | -29 | -111 | 53 | 0,49 |
| Sales and services | 2,9 | 3,1 | -4 | -99 | 91 | 0,94 |
| Skilled agriculture | 25,9 | 21,3 | -1 | -16 | 14 | 0,90 |
| Craft and related trade | 7,2 | 7,4 | -23 | -58 | 13 | 0,21 |
| Plant and machine operator | 7,8 | 10,4 | -15 | -48 | 18 | 0,36 |
| Elementary | 2,9 | 2,9 | -30 | -127 | 66 | 0,54 |
| Domestic worker | 4,1 | 3,7 | 15 | -44 | 73 | 0,62 |
| Men | 1,0 | 0,9 | 3 | -150 | 157 | 0,97 |
| Manager | 3,9 | 4,1 | -8 | -69 | 54 | 0,80 |
| Professional | 6,0 | 5,7 | -12 | -62 | 38 | 0,64 |
| Technician | 4,2 | 3,9 | 6 | -68 | 80 | 0,87 |
| Clerk | 4,7 | 5,1 | -7 | -61 | 48 | 0,81 |
| Sales and services | 3,0 | 3,1 | 11 | -75 | 96 | 0,81 |
| Skilled agriculture | 12,1 | 19,7 | -36 | -55 | -18 | 0,00 |
| Craft and related trade | 3,0 | 3,0 | -25 | -122 | 71 | 0,61 |
| Plant and machine operator | 3,9 | 3,7 | 29 | -42 | 100 | 0,42 |
| Elementary | 2,4 | 2,3 | 44 | -67 | 155 | 0,44 |
| Domestic worker | 14,8 | 17,8 | -8 | -25 | 9 | 0,37 |

| Table 2B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by sex | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Coefficient of variation | | Year-on-year change | Lower 95% | Upper 95% | P-value |
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Both sexes | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 0,6 | 0,6 | -134 | -470 | 202 | 0,43 |
| Employed | 0,8 | 0,8 | 21 | -296 | 338 | 0,90 |
| Formal sector (non-agriculture)* | - | 1,0 | - | - | - | - |
| Informal sector (non-agriculture)* | - | 2,3 | - | - | - | - |
| Household sector | - | 3,7 | - | - | - | - |
| Unemployed | 1,9 | 1,7 | -155 | -450 | 140 | 0,30 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 0,9 | 0,9 | 642 | 306 | 978 | 0,00 |
| Potential Labour Force | 3,4 | 2,7 | 287 | 37 | 537 | 0,02 |
| Discouraged work-seekers | 3,8 | 3,2 | 249 | 22 | 475 | 0,03 |
| Other Potential Labour Force | 5,5 | 4,6 | 39 | -68 | 146 | 0,47 |
| Other (Outside the Labour Force) | 1,0 | 0,9 | 355 | 66 | 644 | 0,02 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 0,6 | 0,6 | -1,0 | -1,9 | -0,2 | 0,01 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 0,8 | 0,8 | -0,4 | -1,2 | 0,3 | 0,25 |
| Inactivity rate | 0,9 | 0,9 | 1,0 | 0,2 | 1,9 | 0,01 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 1,6 | 1,4 | -0,5 | -1,5 | 0,6 | 0,39 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 1,5 | 1,4 | -0,8 | -1,8 | 0,3 | 0,16 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 1,1 | 0,9 | 0,2 | -0,7 | 1,2 | 0,64 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 1,0 | 0,9 | -0,1 | -1,1 | 0,9 | 0,90 |

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

| Table 2B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by sex (continued) | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Coefficient of variation | | Year-on-year change | Lower 95% | Upper 95% | P-value |
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Women | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 0,8 | 0,8 | -138 | -352 | 76 | 0,21 |
| Employed | 1,0 | 1,1 | -165 | -360 | 30 | 0,10 |
| Formal sector (non-agriculture)* | - | 1,4 | - | - | - | - |
| Informal sector (non-agriculture)* | - | 3,4 | - | - | - | - |
| Household sector | - | 3,7 | - | - | - | - |
| Unemployed | 2,1 | 2,2 | 27 | -151 | 205 | 0,76 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 1,0 | 1,0 | 376 | 162 | 590 | 0,00 |
| Potential Labour Force | 3,7 | 3,0 | 173 | 15 | 331 | 0,03 |
| Discouraged work-seekers | 4,3 | 3,7 | 113 | -32 | 259 | 0,13 |
| Other Potential Labour Force | 5,8 | 5,0 | 60 | -16 | 135 | 0,12 |
| Other (Outside the Labour Force) | 1,1 | 1,1 | 203 | 3 | 403 | 0,05 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 0,8 | 0,8 | -1,3 | -2,3 | -0,3 | 0,01 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 1,0 | 1,1 | -1,2 | -2,1 | -0,3 | 0,01 |
| Inactivity rate | 1,0 | 1,0 | 1,3 | 0,3 | 2,3 | 0,01 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 1,7 | 1,8 | 0,6 | -0,7 | 2,0 | 0,34 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 1,6 | 1,7 | 0,4 | -1,0 | 1,8 | 0,55 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 1,1 | 1,1 | 1,3 | 0,1 | 2,5 | 0,03 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 1,1 | 1,1 | 1,1 | -0,2 | 2,3 | 0,09 |

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

| Table 2B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by sex (concluded) | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Coefficient of variation | | Year-on-year change | Lower 95% | Upper 95% | P-value |
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Men | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 0,6 | 0,7 | 4 | -219 | 227 | 0,97 |
| Employed | 1,0 | 0,9 | 186 | -53 | 425 | 0,13 |
| Formal sector (non-agriculture)* | - | 1,3 | - | - | - | - |
| Informal sector (non-agriculture)* | - | 2,5 | - | - | - | - |
| Household sector | - | 7,2 | - | - | - | - |
| Unemployed | 2,2 | 2,0 | -182 | -374 | 9 | 0,06 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 1,2 | 1,2 | 266 | 43 | 489 | 0,02 |
| Potential Labour Force | 3,8 | 3,1 | 115 | -40 | 270 | 0,15 |
| Discouraged work-seekers | 4,1 | 3,5 | 135 | -4 | 275 | 0,06 |
| Other Potential Labour Force | 7,7 | 7,3 | -21 | -80 | 39 | 0,49 |
| Other (Outside the Labour Force) | 1,3 | 1,2 | 151 | -7 | 310 | 0,06 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 0,6 | 0,7 | -0,8 | -1,9 | 0,2 | 0,13 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 1,0 | 0,9 | 0,3 | -0,8 | 1,5 | 0,61 |
| Inactivity rate | 1,2 | 1,2 | 0,8 | -0,2 | 1,9 | 0,13 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 2,0 | 1,8 | -1,4 | -2,7 | 0,0 | 0,05 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 1,9 | 1,7 | -1,7 | -3,1 | -0,4 | 0,01 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 1,4 | 1,3 | -0,7 | -2,1 | 0,6 | 0,29 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 1,3 | 1,3 | -1,1 | -2,4 | 0,3 | 0,12 |

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

| Table 2.1A: Table 2.1B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by population group | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Coefficient of variation | | Year-on-year change | Lower 95% | Upper 95% | P-value |
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| South Africa | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 0,6 | 0,6 | -134 | -470 | 202 | 0,43 |
| Employed | 0,8 | 0,8 | 21 | -296 | 338 | 0,90 |
| Unemployed | 1,9 | 1,7 | -155 | -450 | 140 | 0,30 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 0,9 | 0,9 | 642 | 306 | 978 | 0,00 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 0,6 | 0,6 | -1,0 | -1,9 | -0,2 | 0,01 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 0,8 | 0,8 | -0,4 | -1,2 | 0,3 | 0,25 |
| Inactivity rate | 0,9 | 0,9 | 1,0 | 0,2 | 1,9 | 0,01 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 1,6 | 1,4 | -0,5 | -1,5 | 0,6 | 0,39 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 1,5 | 1,4 | -0,8 | -1,8 | 0,3 | 0,16 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 1,1 | 0,9 | 0,2 | -0,7 | 1,2 | 0,64 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 1,0 | 0,9 | -0,1 | -1,1 | 0,9 | 0,90 |
| | | | | | | |
| Black/African | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 0,7 | 0,7 | -144 | -451 | 164 | 0,36 |
| Employed | 0,9 | 0,9 | 10 | -270 | 291 | 0,94 |
| Unemployed | 2,0 | 1,8 | -154 | -429 | 121 | 0,27 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 1,1 | 1,0 | 662 | 355 | 969 | 0,00 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 0,7 | 0,7 | -1,3 | -2,2 | -0,4 | 0,00 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 0,9 | 0,9 | -0,5 | -1,4 | 0,3 | 0,19 |
| Inactivity rate | 1,1 | 1,0 | 1,3 | 0,4 | 2,2 | 0,00 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 1,6 | 1,4 | -0,5 | -1,7 | 0,7 | 0,39 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 1,5 | 1,4 | -0,8 | -2,0 | 0,4 | 0,20 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 1,1 | 0,9 | 0,2 | -0,9 | 1,3 | 0,77 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 1,0 | 0,9 | -0,1 | -1,2 | 1,0 | 0,88 |

| 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 |
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Coloured | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 1,4 | 1,9 | -22 | -130 | 86 | 0,69 |
| Employed | 1,8 | 2,4 | 9 | -84 | 101 | 0,85 |
| Unemployed | 7,1 | 6,2 | -31 | -118 | 57 | 0,49 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 2,2 | 2,9 | 39 | -69 | 147 | 0,48 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 1,4 | 1,9 | -0,9 | -3,9 | 2,1 | 0,56 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 1,8 | 2,4 | 0,0 | -2,5 | 2,6 | 0,99 |
| Inactivity rate | 2,2 | 2,9 | 0,9 | -2,1 | 3,9 | 0,56 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 6,4 | 5,8 | -1,2 | -4,6 | 2,3 | 0,50 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 6,4 | 4,9 | -1,2 | -4,8 | 2,3 | 0,49 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 3,4 | 3,7 | 0,7 | -2,0 | 3,4 | 0,61 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 3,5 | 3,5 | 0,6 | -2,2 | 3,4 | 0,68 |
| | | | | | | |
| Indian/Asian | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 1,8 | 3,0 | -41 | -86 | 4 | 0,07 |
| Employed | 3,3 | 4,0 | -39 | -85 | 6 | 0,09 |
| Unemployed | 18,4 | 15,8 | -1 | -46 | 43 | 0,95 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 3,0 | 4,2 | 49 | 4 | 94 | 0,03 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 1,8 | 3,0 | -4,3 | -8,5 | -0,1 | 0,05 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 3,3 | 4,0 | -4,1 | -8,4 | 0,2 | 0,06 |
| Inactivity rate | 3,0 | 4,2 | 4,3 | 0,1 | 8,5 | 0,05 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 18,1 | 15,4 | 0,7 | -5,8 | 7,2 | 0,83 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 17,0 | 15,6 | 0,0 | -6,7 | 6,7 | 0,99 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 10,5 | 12,1 | 1,1 | -6,4 | 8,6 | 0,77 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 10,5 | 12,6 | 0,5 | -7,4 | 8,5 | 0,90 |

| 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 |
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| White | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 1,2 | 1,7 | 72 | -12 | 156 | 0,09 |
| Employed | 1,4 | 1,8 | 41 | -45 | 128 | 0,35 |
| Unemployed | 11,9 | 10,7 | 31 | -5 | 66 | 0,09 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 2,5 | 4,1 | -108 | -192 | -23 | 0,01 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 1,2 | 1,7 | 3,5 | 0,4 | 6,6 | 0,03 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 1,4 | 1,8 | 2,3 | -0,8 | 5,5 | 0,15 |
| Inactivity rate | 2,5 | 4,1 | -3,5 | -6,6 | -0,4 | 0,03 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 11,7 | 10,4 | 1,4 | -0,5 | 3,2 | 0,15 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 10,4 | 9,5 | 0,3 | -1,9 | 2,5 | 0,78 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 8,6 | 8,8 | 0,8 | -1,0 | 2,7 | 0,38 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 8,1 | 8,2 | -0,2 | -2,3 | 2,0 | 0,86 |

| Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Coefficient of variation | | Year-on-year change | Lower 95% | Upper 95% | P-value |
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| South Africa | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 0,6 | 0,6 | -134 | -470 | 202 | 0,43 |
| Employed | 0,8 | 0,8 | 21 | -296 | 338 | 0,90 |
| Unemployed | 1,9 | 1,7 | -155 | -450 | 140 | 0,30 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 0,9 | 0,9 | 642 | 306 | 978 | 0,00 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 0,6 | 0,6 | -1,0 | -1,9 | -0,2 | 0,01 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 0,8 | 0,8 | -0,4 | -1,2 | 0,3 | 0,25 |
| Inactivity rate | 0,9 | 0,9 | 1,0 | 0,2 | 1,9 | 0,01 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 1,6 | 1,4 | -0,5 | -1,5 | 0,6 | 0,39 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 1,5 | 1,4 | -0,8 | -1,8 | 0,3 | 0,16 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 1,1 | 0,9 | 0,2 | -0,7 | 1,2 | 0,64 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 1,0 | 0,9 | -0,1 | -1,1 | 0,9 | 0,90 |
| | | | | | | |
| Western Cape | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 1,4 | 1,4 | 50 | -89 | 190 | 0,48 |
| Employed | 1,5 | 1,5 | 95 | -24 | 214 | 0,12 |
| Unemployed | 6,9 | 6,3 | -45 | -142 | 53 | 0,37 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 3,0 | 3,1 | 19 | -121 | 159 | 0,79 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 1,4 | 1,4 | 0,1 | -2,7 | 2,8 | 0,97 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 1,5 | 1,5 | 1,1 | -1,2 | 3,4 | 0,35 |
| Inactivity rate | 3,0 | 3,1 | -0,1 | -2,8 | 2,7 | 0,97 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 6,2 | 5,7 | -1,5 | -4,0 | 0,9 | 0,21 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 5,5 | 4,7 | -1,9 | -4,5 | 0,7 | 0,15 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 3,9 | 4,0 | -1,2 | -3,6 | 1,2 | 0,32 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 3,7 | 3,3 | -1,6 | -4,0 | 0,9 | 0,21 |

| 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 |
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Western Cape - Non-Metro | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 2,7 | 3,1 | -17 | -131 | 96 | 0,76 |
| Employed | 2,4 | 2,0 | -18 | -84 | 48 | 0,59 |
| Unemployed | 15,0 | 12,5 | 1 | -75 | 76 | 0,99 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 5,1 | 5,4 | 42 | -71 | 156 | 0,47 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 2,7 | 3,1 | -1,8 | -7,9 | 4,3 | 0,56 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 2,4 | 2,0 | -1,7 | -5,2 | 1,8 | 0,35 |
| Inactivity rate | 5,1 | 5,4 | 1,8 | -4,3 | 7,9 | 0,56 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 13,3 | 9,9 | 0,3 | -5,0 | 5,5 | 0,92 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 12,7 | 8,2 | 0,2 | -5,3 | 5,6 | 0,96 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 4,3 | 4,4 | 3,6 | 0,6 | 6,6 | 0,02 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 4,6 | 3,8 | 3,4 | 0,5 | 6,3 | 0,02 |
| Western Cape - City of Cape Town | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 1,6 | 1,5 | 68 | -19 | 155 | 0,13 |
| Employed | 2,0 | 2,2 | 113 | 12 | 214 | 0,03 |
| Unemployed | 7,6 | 7,4 | -45 | -102 | 12 | 0,12 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 3,8 | 3,8 | -23 | -110 | 64 | 0,60 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 1,6 | 1,5 | 1,1 | -1,6 | 3,8 | 0,42 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 2,0 | 2,2 | 2,7 | -0,4 | 5,8 | 0,09 |
| Inactivity rate | 3,8 | 3,8 | -1,1 | -3,8 | 1,6 | 0,42 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 6,9 | 7,1 | -2,6 | -5,1 | 0,0 | 0,05 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 5,8 | 5,9 | -3,1 | -5,8 | -0,4 | 0,03 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 5,3 | 6,3 | -3,9 | -7,0 | -0,8 | 0,01 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 5,0 | 5,1 | -4,4 | -7,7 | -1,1 | 0,01 |

| Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued) | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Coefficient of variation | | Year-on-year change | Lower 95% | Upper 95% | P-value |
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Eastern Cape | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 2,0 | 1,7 | 97 | 8 | 185 | 0,03 |
| Employed | 2,9 | 3,5 | -79 | -189 | 32 | 0,16 |
| Unemployed | 4,7 | 4,5 | 175 | 75 | 276 | 0,00 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 2,1 | 1,9 | -47 | -135 | 42 | 0,30 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 2,0 | 1,7 | 1,5 | -0,4 | 3,5 | 0,11 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 2,9 | 3,5 | -2,0 | -4,4 | 0,3 | 0,09 |
| Inactivity rate | 2,1 | 1,9 | -1,5 | -3,5 | 0,4 | 0,11 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 4,0 | 4,1 | 5,8 | 1,8 | 9,9 | 0,00 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 3,5 | 4,1 | 4,2 | 0,3 | 8,1 | 0,04 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 2,6 | 2,8 | 3,7 | 0,1 | 7,3 | 0,04 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 2,4 | 2,8 | 2,4 | -1,2 | 6,0 | 0,19 |
| | | | | | | |
| Eastern Cape - Non-Metro | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 3,1 | 2,2 | 135 | 55 | 216 | 0,00 |
| Employed | 4,7 | 4,0 | -43 | -120 | 34 | 0,27 |
| Unemployed | 6,3 | 5,0 | 178 | 95 | 261 | 0,00 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 2,5 | 2,0 | -106 | -187 | -26 | 0,01 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 3,1 | 2,2 | 3,9 | 1,3 | 6,5 | 0,00 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 4,7 | 4,0 | -1,6 | -4,0 | 0,9 | 0,20 |
| Inactivity rate | 2,5 | 2,0 | -3,9 | -6,5 | -1,3 | 0,00 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 5,1 | 3,9 | 7,9 | 3,2 | 12,6 | 0,00 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 4,7 | 4,0 | 6,9 | 2,2 | 11,6 | 0,00 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 3,1 | 2,4 | 4,0 | -0,2 | 8,2 | 0,06 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 3,0 | 2,5 | 3,3 | -1,0 | 7,6 | 0,13 |

| 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 |
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Eastern Cape - Buffalo City | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 1,4 | 2,8 | -27 | -47 | -7 | 0,01 |
| Employed | 3,6 | 7,5 | 5 | -42 | 53 | 0,83 |
| Unemployed | 5,6 | 18,1 | -32 | -70 | 5 | 0,09 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 3,7 | 5,9 | 35 | 15 | 55 | 0,00 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 1,4 | 2,8 | -5,7 | -9,2 | -2,3 | 0,00 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 3,6 | 7,5 | 0,2 | -8,1 | 8,6 | 0,95 |
| Inactivity rate | 3,7 | 5,9 | 5,7 | 2,3 | 9,2 | 0,00 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 6,0 | 18,4 | -6,2 | -16,3 | 4,0 | 0,23 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 4,2 | 15,3 | -12,3 | -21,4 | -3,1 | 0,01 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 6,2 | 16,4 | -6,1 | -15,7 | 3,4 | 0,21 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 3,4 | 13,7 | -12,0 | -20,6 | -3,5 | 0,01 |
| Eastern Cape - Nelson Mandela Bay | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 3,6 | 4,5 | -12 | -38 | 15 | 0,39 |
| Employed | 4,9 | 8,8 | -41 | -103 | 21 | 0,20 |
| Unemployed | 8,2 | 11,9 | 29 | -13 | 72 | 0,18 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 4,8 | 5,5 | 25 | -2 | 52 | 0,07 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 3,6 | 4,5 | -2,1 | -5,0 | 0,8 | 0,16 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 4,9 | 8,8 | -5,2 | -12,0 | 1,7 | 0,14 |
| Inactivity rate | 4,8 | 5,5 | 2,1 | -0,8 | 5,0 | 0,16 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 8,4 | 14,0 | 6,4 | -3,2 | 16,0 | 0,19 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 6,9 | 13,1 | 6,8 | -2,8 | 16,4 | 0,16 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 5,7 | 11,0 | 8,0 | -0,1 | 16,2 | 0,05 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 5,0 | 10,7 | 8,4 | 0,1 | 16,6 | 0,05 |

| 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 |
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Northern cape | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 3,1 | 3,7 | -26 | -62 | 9 | 0,14 |
| Employed | 5,0 | 5,3 | -18 | -50 | 15 | 0,28 |
| Unemployed | 7,3 | 5,0 | -9 | -24 | 7 | 0,28 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 4,3 | 4,4 | 32 | -3 | 68 | 0,07 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 3,1 | 3,7 | -3,5 | -7,7 | 0,6 | 0,10 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 5,0 | 5,3 | -2,4 | -6,2 | 1,4 | 0,22 |
| Inactivity rate | 4,3 | 4,4 | 3,5 | -0,6 | 7,7 | 0,10 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 7,9 | 6,0 | -0,3 | -3,4 | 2,8 | 0,85 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 7,2 | 6,2 | -0,9 | -4,9 | 3,0 | 0,64 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 5,3 | 4,6 | 3,1 | -2,3 | 8,5 | 0,26 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 5,6 | 4,3 | 2,4 | -3,8 | 8,6 | 0,44 |
| | | | | | | |
| Free State | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 1,3 | 1,9 | 21 | -24 | 66 | 0,36 |
| Employed | 2,2 | 3,3 | 21 | -25 | 68 | 0,37 |
| Unemployed | 4,8 | 5,3 | 0 | -47 | 46 | 0,98 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 2,2 | 3,3 | -18 | -63 | 27 | 0,43 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 1,3 | 1,9 | 1,0 | -1,3 | 3,3 | 0,40 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 2,2 | 3,3 | 1,0 | -1,3 | 3,4 | 0,39 |
| Inactivity rate | 2,2 | 3,3 | -1,0 | -3,3 | 1,3 | 0,40 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 4,1 | 4,8 | -0,7 | -4,0 | 2,7 | 0,69 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 3,6 | 4,5 | -0,9 | -4,4 | 2,7 | 0,62 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 2,9 | 4,3 | -0,2 | -3,9 | 3,4 | 0,90 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 2,8 | 4,0 | -0,5 | -4,3 | 3,4 | 0,82 |

| 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 |
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Free State - Non-Metro | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 1,5 | 2,5 | 27 | -6 | 61 | 0,11 |
| Employed | 3,0 | 4,5 | 44 | 2 | 85 | 0,04 |
| Unemployed | 5,4 | 6,8 | -16 | -55 | 23 | 0,41 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 2,5 | 4,5 | -25 | -59 | 8 | 0,13 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 1,5 | 2,5 | 1,9 | -0,5 | 4,3 | 0,12 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 3,0 | 4,5 | 3,1 | 0,1 | 6,1 | 0,04 |
| Inactivity rate | 2,5 | 4,5 | -1,9 | -4,3 | 0,5 | 0,12 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 4,6 | 6,2 | -3,1 | -7,2 | 1,0 | 0,14 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 4,3 | 5,7 | -3,4 | -7,9 | 1,1 | 0,14 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 3,5 | 5,5 | -3,1 | -7,7 | 1,6 | 0,20 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 3,2 | 5,0 | -3,3 | -8,3 | 1,7 | 0,20 |
| Free State - Mangaung | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 2,6 | 2,3 | -7 | -36 | 23 | 0,66 |
| Employed | 2,6 | 3,0 | -23 | -43 | -3 | 0,03 |
| Unemployed | 10,7 | 4,9 | 16 | -9 | 41 | 0,22 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 4,1 | 3,4 | 7 | -22 | 37 | 0,62 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 2,6 | 2,3 | -1,3 | -6,6 | 4,1 | 0,64 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 2,6 | 3,0 | -4,1 | -7,7 | -0,5 | 0,03 |
| Inactivity rate | 4,1 | 3,4 | 1,3 | -4,1 | 6,6 | 0,64 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 8,8 | 4,1 | 5,3 | -0,4 | 11,0 | 0,07 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 6,1 | 5,1 | 5,2 | 0,2 | 10,3 | 0,04 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 2,7 | 5,8 | 7,0 | 2,6 | 11,4 | 0,00 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 5,4 | 6,6 | 6,8 | 2,2 | 11,5 | 0,00 |

| Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued) | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Coefficient of variation | | Year-on-year change | Lower 95% | Upper 95% | P-value |
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| KwaZulu-Natal | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 2,1 | 2,1 | -41 | -237 | 155 | 0,68 |
| Employed | 1,9 | 2,3 | -176 | -321 | -32 | 0,02 |
| Unemployed | 5,7 | 5,6 | 135 | 2 | 268 | 0,05 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 2,4 | 2,2 | 138 | -58 | 333 | 0,17 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 2,1 | 2,1 | -1,2 | -3,7 | 1,4 | 0,36 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 1,9 | 2,3 | -2,7 | -4,6 | -0,9 | 0,00 |
| Inactivity rate | 2,4 | 2,2 | 1,2 | -1,4 | 3,7 | 0,36 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 4,2 | 4,4 | 3,7 | 1,1 | 6,2 | 0,01 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 4,3 | 3,9 | 2,6 | 0,0 | 5,2 | 0,05 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 2,5 | 2,3 | 2,4 | 0,2 | 4,5 | 0,03 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 2,6 | 2,3 | 1,6 | -0,5 | 3,7 | 0,14 |
| | | | | | | |
| KwaZulu-Natal - Non-Metro | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 3,2 | 3,4 | -105 | -274 | 64 | 0,22 |
| Employed | 2,9 | 3,3 | -111 | -246 | 23 | 0,10 |
| Unemployed | 7,1 | 7,6 | 6 | -105 | 117 | 0,92 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 3,1 | 2,9 | 163 | -6 | 332 | 0,06 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 3,2 | 3,4 | -2,6 | -6,0 | 0,7 | 0,12 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 2,9 | 3,3 | -2,6 | -5,2 | 0,1 | 0,06 |
| Inactivity rate | 3,1 | 2,9 | 2,6 | -0,7 | 6,0 | 0,12 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 4,9 | 5,3 | 1,9 | -1,8 | 5,6 | 0,32 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 5,1 | 4,5 | 1,3 | -2,4 | 4,9 | 0,50 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 3,1 | 2,6 | 1,8 | -1,5 | 5,1 | 0,28 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 3,3 | 2,7 | 1,3 | -1,9 | 4,5 | 0,42 |

| 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 |
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| KwaZulu-Natal - eThekweni | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 2,3 | 1,8 | 64 | -33 | 161 | 0,19 |
| Employed | 2,3 | 3,0 | -65 | -119 | -11 | 0,02 |
| Unemployed | 6,9 | 6,7 | 129 | 57 | 201 | 0,00 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 3,4 | 2,9 | -25 | -122 | 72 | 0,61 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 2,3 | 1,8 | 1,5 | -2,1 | 5,1 | 0,41 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 2,3 | 3,0 | -3,1 | -5,1 | -1,1 | 0,00 |
| Inactivity rate | 3,4 | 2,9 | -1,5 | -5,1 | 2,1 | 0,41 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 5,8 | 6,7 | 7,1 | 3,6 | 10,6 | 0,00 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 5,7 | 6,4 | 5,5 | 1,7 | 9,4 | 0,00 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 3,9 | 4,5 | 3,6 | 1,2 | 5,9 | 0,00 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 3,7 | 4,3 | 2,4 | -0,2 | 5,0 | 0,07 |
| | | | | | | |
| North West | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 3,5 | 2,5 | -93 | -196 | 10 | 0,08 |
| Employed | 4,5 | 4,2 | 38 | -50 | 126 | 0,39 |
| Unemployed | 8,9 | 8,8 | -131 | -232 | -30 | 0,01 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 4,5 | 2,7 | 128 | 25 | 231 | 0,02 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 3,5 | 2,5 | -4,0 | -7,6 | -0,3 | 0,03 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 4,5 | 4,2 | 0,9 | -2,2 | 4,0 | 0,56 |
| Inactivity rate | 4,5 | 2,7 | 4,0 | 0,3 | 7,6 | 0,03 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 6,8 | 7,8 | -6,2 | -11,4 | -0,9 | 0,02 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 6,4 | 6,9 | -4,4 | -9,3 | 0,4 | 0,07 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 4,0 | 3,7 | -1,9 | -5,9 | 2,1 | 0,36 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 3,9 | 3,3 | -0,6 | -4,7 | 3,4 | 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 |
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Gauteng | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 1,1 | 1,1 | -9 | -174 | 155 | 0,91 |
| Employed | 1,6 | 1,4 | 102 | -80 | 283 | 0,27 |
| Unemployed | 3,5 | 3,0 | -111 | -280 | 58 | 0,20 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 2,4 | 2,3 | 170 | 5 | 334 | 0,04 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 1,1 | 1,1 | -1,0 | -2,5 | 0,4 | 0,16 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 1,6 | 1,4 | 0,3 | -1,3 | 1,8 | 0,75 |
| Inactivity rate | 2,4 | 2,3 | 1,0 | -0,4 | 2,5 | 0,16 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 2,9 | 2,5 | -1,4 | -3,4 | 0,6 | 0,17 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 2,7 | 2,6 | -1,5 | -3,7 | 0,7 | 0,17 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 2,3 | 2,0 | -0,5 | -2,6 | 1,6 | 0,63 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 2,2 | 2,1 | -0,6 | -2,9 | 1,6 | 0,57 |
| | | | | | | |
| Gauteng - Non Metro | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 5,2 | 4,4 | -12 | -69 | 45 | 0,67 |
| Employed | 4,1 | 3,9 | 100 | 58 | 142 | 0,00 |
| Unemployed | 11,7 | 10,5 | -112 | -161 | -64 | 0,00 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 12,0 | 9,3 | 35 | -22 | 92 | 0,23 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 5,2 | 4,4 | -1,8 | -5,6 | 2,0 | 0,34 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 4,1 | 3,9 | 6,0 | 3,2 | 8,8 | 0,00 |
| Inactivity rate | 12,0 | 9,3 | 1,8 | -2,0 | 5,6 | 0,34 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 7,5 | 7,5 | -10,3 | -13,4 | -7,2 | 0,00 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 7,5 | 7,4 | -9,9 | -13,1 | -6,7 | 0,00 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 4,1 | 5,5 | -9,0 | -13,1 | -4,9 | 0,00 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 4,4 | 6,0 | -8,6 | -13,2 | -4,0 | 0,00 |

| Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued) | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Coefficient of variation | | Year-on-year change | Lower 95% | Upper 95% | P-value |
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Gauteng - Ekurhuleni | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 2,2 | 2,2 | 18 | -92 | 129 | 0,74 |
| Employed | 2,6 | 2,4 | -6 | -93 | 80 | 0,88 |
| Unemployed | 8,5 | 6,3 | 25 | -76 | 126 | 0,63 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 3,9 | 3,8 | 23 | -88 | 133 | 0,69 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 2,2 | 2,2 | -0,3 | -4,1 | 3,6 | 0,89 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 2,6 | 2,4 | -0,8 | -3,9 | 2,2 | 0,58 |
| Inactivity rate | 3,9 | 3,8 | 0,3 | -3,6 | 4,1 | 0,89 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 7,0 | 5,0 | 1,0 | -3,5 | 5,5 | 0,65 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 6,7 | 5,0 | 0,7 | -4,2 | 5,5 | 0,79 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 4,5 | 3,3 | 2,3 | -1,7 | 6,2 | 0,27 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 4,3 | 3,3 | 1,9 | -2,2 | 6,1 | 0,37 |
| Gauteng - City of Johannesburg | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 1,2 | 1,8 | -74 | -174 | 26 | 0,15 |
| Employed | 2,3 | 3,0 | -20 | -140 | 99 | 0,74 |
| Unemployed | 3,8 | 4,7 | -53 | -146 | 39 | 0,26 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 2,9 | 3,9 | 132 | 32 | 232 | 0,01 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 1,2 | 1,8 | -2,7 | -5,0 | -0,3 | 0,03 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 2,3 | 3,0 | -1,1 | -3,9 | 1,7 | 0,44 |
| Inactivity rate | 2,9 | 3,9 | 2,7 | 0,3 | 5,0 | 0,03 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 3,6 | 4,4 | -1,0 | -4,1 | 2,1 | 0,54 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 3,2 | 4,7 | -0,7 | -4,3 | 2,9 | 0,70 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 3,7 | 4,2 | 0,3 | -3,5 | 4,2 | 0,86 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 3,5 | 4,3 | 0,5 | -3,7 | 4,7 | 0,81 |

| 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 |
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Gauteng - City of Tshwane | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 2,4 | 2,1 | 59 | -4 | 121 | 0,07 |
| Employed | 4,2 | 2,3 | 28 | -70 | 127 | 0,57 |
| Unemployed | 7,3 | 5,8 | 30 | -63 | 123 | 0,52 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 5,3 | 4,8 | -19 | -82 | 43 | 0,54 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 2,4 | 2,1 | 1,1 | -1,1 | 3,4 | 0,32 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 4,2 | 2,3 | 0,4 | -3,1 | 3,9 | 0,84 |
| Inactivity rate | 5,3 | 4,8 | -1,1 | -3,4 | 1,1 | 0,32 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 6,9 | 4,6 | 0,6 | -4,1 | 5,2 | 0,81 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 6,0 | 4,7 | -0,1 | -4,8 | 4,7 | 0,97 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 5,6 | 3,5 | 0,2 | -4,3 | 4,8 | 0,92 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 5,1 | 3,7 | -0,3 | -5,0 | 4,3 | 0,88 |
| | | | | | | |
| Mpumalanga | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 2,5 | 2,0 | -26 | -150 | 99 | 0,69 |
| Employed | 3,7 | 2,5 | 29 | -71 | 128 | 0,57 |
| Unemployed | 6,0 | 4,4 | -54 | -143 | 35 | 0,23 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 3,8 | 2,8 | 65 | -59 | 189 | 0,30 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 2,5 | 2,0 | -1,5 | -5,4 | 2,3 | 0,44 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 3,7 | 2,5 | 0,4 | -2,7 | 3,5 | 0,80 |
| Inactivity rate | 3,8 | 2,8 | 1,5 | -2,3 | 5,4 | 0,44 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 5,3 | 3,7 | -2,4 | -6,1 | 1,3 | 0,21 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 4,8 | 3,5 | -2,4 | -5,7 | 0,9 | 0,15 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 3,3 | 2,5 | -0,9 | -4,3 | 2,4 | 0,58 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 3,2 | 2,4 | -1,0 | -4,2 | 2,2 | 0,53 |

| 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 |
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Limpopo | | | | | | |
| Population 15–64 yrs | | | | | | |
| Labour force | 2,1 | 2,3 | -107 | -168 | -46 | 0,00 |
| Employed | 2,7 | 2,7 | 9 | -65 | 82 | 0,81 |
| Unemployed | 4,5 | 5,2 | -116 | -181 | -50 | 0,00 |
| Outside the Labour Force | 2,7 | 2,6 | 155 | 94 | 216 | 0,00 |
| Key rates in relation to the working-age population | | | | | | |
| Labour force participation rate | 2,1 | 2,3 | -3,3 | -4,7 | -1,8 | 0,00 |
| Employed / population ratio (Absorption) | 2,7 | 2,7 | -0,2 | -2,0 | 1,6 | 0,80 |
| Inactivity rate | 2,7 | 2,6 | 3,3 | 1,8 | 4,7 | 0,00 |
| Labour underutilisation indicators (%) | | | | | | |
| LU1 - Unemployment rate | 3,8 | 4,4 | -3,8 | -6,6 | -1,0 | 0,01 |
| LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment | 3,7 | 4,8 | -3,7 | -7,2 | -0,1 | 0,04 |
| LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force | 2,5 | 2,8 | -0,4 | -2,5 | 1,7 | 0,70 |
| LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation | 2,2 | 3,0 | -0,5 | -3,2 | 2,2 | 0,72 |

| 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 |
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Both sexes | 0,8 | 0,8 | 21 | -296 | 338 | 0,90 |
| Agriculture | 5,1 | 4,5 | 26 | -61 | 114 | 0,56 |
| Mining | 8,1 | 9,1 | -22 | -77 | 33 | 0,43 |
| Manufacturing | 3,1 | 3,2 | -127 | -259 | 5 | 0,06 |
| Utilities | 12,1 | 13,5 | 23 | -13 | 59 | 0,21 |
| Construction | 3,6 | 3,2 | 65 | -60 | 191 | 0,31 |
| Trade | 2,2 | 2,2 | -95 | -293 | 103 | 0,34 |
| Transport | 4,0 | 3,6 | 76 | -35 | 188 | 0,18 |
| Finance | 2,6 | 2,4 | 14 | -151 | 179 | 0,87 |
| Community and social services | 2,0 | 2,0 | 75 | -110 | 261 | 0,42 |
| Private households | 3,7 | 3,7 | -17 | -129 | 94 | 0,76 |
| Women | 1,0 | 1,1 | -165 | -360 | 30 | 0,10 |
| Agriculture | 7,9 | 6,9 | -15 | -71 | 41 | 0,60 |
| Mining | 14,7 | 19,6 | -7 | -40 | 26 | 0,69 |
| Manufacturing | 4,2 | 4,7 | -100 | -172 | -27 | 0,01 |
| Utilities | 19,9 | 23,8 | 1 | -21 | 23 | 0,91 |
| Construction | 9,4 | 9,7 | -4 | -43 | 36 | 0,85 |
| Trade | 3,0 | 2,7 | -75 | -194 | 44 | 0,22 |
| Transport | 8,6 | 8,5 | -5 | -52 | 42 | 0,83 |
| Finance | 3,2 | 3,3 | 3 | -92 | 98 | 0,95 |
| Community and social services | 2,3 | 2,2 | 44 | -100 | 188 | 0,55 |
| Private households | 4,0 | 3,7 | -12 | -97 | 73 | 0,78 |
| Men | 1,0 | 0,9 | 186 | -53 | 425 | 0,13 |
| Agriculture | 6,0 | 5,3 | 41 | -34 | 117 | 0,28 |
| Mining | 8,7 | 9,9 | -15 | -60 | 29 | 0,50 |
| Manufacturing | 4,0 | 4,1 | -27 | -133 | 79 | 0,62 |
| Utilities | 14,8 | 14,2 | 22 | -5 | 49 | 0,11 |
| Construction | 3,8 | 3,3 | 69 | -51 | 189 | 0,26 |
| Trade | 2,8 | 2,9 | -21 | -167 | 126 | 0,78 |
| Transport | 4,1 | 3,7 | 82 | -16 | 179 | 0,10 |
| Finance | 3,3 | 2,9 | 11 | -120 | 142 | 0,87 |
| Community and social services | 3,0 | 3,2 | 31 | -84 | 147 | 0,59 |
| Private households | 7,1 | 7,2 | -6 | -65 | 54 | 0,85 |

| 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 |
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| South Africa | 0,8 | 0,8 | 21 | -296 | 338 | 0,90 |
| Formal sector* | - | 1,0 | - | - | - | - |
| Informal sector* | - | 2,3 | - | - | - | - |
| Households | - | 3,7 | - | - | - | - |
| Western Cape | 1,5 | 1,5 | 95 | -24 | 214 | 0,12 |
| Formal sector* | - | 2,3 | - | - | - | - |
| Informal sector* | - | 7,2 | - | - | - | - |
| Households | - | 11,6 | - | - | - | - |
| Western Cape – Non-Metro | 2,4 | 2,0 | -18 | -84 | 48 | 0,59 |
| Formal sector* | - | 1,9 | - | - | - | - |
| Informal sector* | - | 8,5 | - | - | - | - |
| Households | - | 17,8 | - | - | - | - |
| Western Cape – City of Cape Town | 2,0 | 2,2 | 113 | 12 | 214 | 0,03 |
| Formal sector* | - | 3,3 | - | - | - | - |
| Informal sector* | - | 10,2 | - | - | - | - |
| Households | - | 14,8 | - | - | - | - |
| Eastern Cape | 2,9 | 3,5 | -79 | -189 | 32 | 0,16 |
| Formal sector* | - | 4,1 | - | - | - | - |
| Informal sector* | - | 7,7 | - | - | - | - |
| Households | - | 11,2 | - | - | - | - |
| Eastern Cape – Non-Metro | 4,7 | 4,0 | -43 | -120 | 34 | 0,27 |
| Formal sector* | - | 5,2 | - | - | - | - |
| Informal sector* | - | 8,9 | - | - | - | - |
| Households | - | 13,3 | - | - | - | - |
| Eastern Cape – Buffalo City | 3,6 | 7,5 | 5 | -42 | 53 | 0,83 |
| Formal sector* | - | 9,4 | - | - | - | - |
| Informal sector* | - | 17,2 | - | - | - | - |
| Households | - | 30,0 | - | - | - | - |

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

| Table 3.4B: Sampling variability for the employed by province and sector (continued) | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Coefficient of variation | | Year-on-year change | Lower 95% | Upper 95% | P-value |
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Eastern Cape - Nelson Mandela bay | 4,9 | 8,8 | -41 | -103 | 21 | 0,20 |
| Formal sector* | - | 8,0 | - | - | - | - |
| Informal sector* | - | 25,9 | - | - | - | - |
| Households | - | 25,7 | - | - | - | - |
| Northern Cape | 5,0 | 5,3 | -18 | -50 | 15 | 0,28 |
| Formal sector* | - | 6,3 | - | - | - | - |
| Informal sector* | - | 18,4 | - | - | - | - |
| Households | - | 17,5 | - | - | - | - |
| Free State | 2,2 | 3,3 | 21 | -25 | 68 | 0,37 |
| Formal sector* | - | 5,3 | - | - | - | - |
| Informal sector* | - | 9,5 | - | - | - | - |
| Households | - | 12,1 | - | - | - | - |
| Free State - Non-Metro | 3,0 | 4,5 | 44 | 2 | 85 | 0,04 |
| Formal sector* | - | 7,1 | - | - | - | - |
| Informal sector* | - | 12,2 | - | - | - | - |
| Households | - | 14,3 | - | - | - | - |
| Free State - Mangaung | 2,6 | 3,0 | -23 | -43 | -3 | 0,03 |
| Formal sector* | - | 5,9 | - | - | - | - |
| Informal sector* | - | 11,5 | - | - | - | - |
| Households | - | 22,6 | - | - | - | - |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 1,9 | 2,3 | -176 | -321 | -32 | 0,02 |
| Formal sector* | - | 2,9 | - | - | - | - |
| Informal sector* | - | 6,5 | - | - | - | - |
| Households | - | 8,6 | - | - | - | - |
| KwaZulu-Natal - Non-Metro | 2,9 | 3,3 | -111 | -246 | 23 | 0,10 |
| Formal sector* | - | 3,7 | - | - | - | - |
| Informal sector* | - | 8,7 | - | - | - | - |
| Households | - | 14,4 | - | - | - | - |

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

| Table 3.4B: Sampling variability for the employed by province and sector (continued) | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Coefficient of variation | | Year-on-year change | Lower 95% | Upper 95% | P-value |
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| KwaZulu-Natal - eThekweni | 2,3 | 3,0 | -65 | -119 | -11 | 0,02 |
| Formal sector* | - | 4,5 | - | - | - | - |
| Informal sector* | - | 9,7 | - | - | - | - |
| Households | - | 10,0 | - | - | - | - |
| North West | 4,5 | 4,2 | 38 | -50 | 126 | 0,39 |
| Formal sector* | - | 5,2 | - | - | - | - |
| Informal sector* | - | 7,5 | - | - | - | - |
| Households | - | 9,4 | - | - | - | - |
| Gauteng | 1,6 | 1,4 | 102 | -80 | 283 | 0,27 |
| Formal sector* | - | 2,1 | - | - | - | - |
| Informal sector* | - | 4,5 | - | - | - | - |
| Households | - | 7,5 | - | - | - | - |
| Gauteng - Non-Metro | 4,1 | 3,9 | 100 | 58 | 142 | 0,00 |
| Formal sector* | - | 4,0 | - | - | - | - |
| Informal sector* | - | 10,8 | - | - | - | - |
| Households | - | 20,1 | - | - | - | - |
| Gauteng - Ekurhuleni | 2,6 | 2,4 | -6 | -93 | 80 | 0,88 |
| Formal sector* | - | 3,4 | - | - | - | - |
| Informal sector* | - | 10,0 | - | - | - | - |
| Households | - | 15,5 | - | - | - | - |
| Gauteng - City of Johannesburg | 2,3 | 3,0 | -20 | -140 | 99 | 0,74 |
| Formal sector* | - | 5,5 | - | - | - | - |
| Informal sector* | - | 6,7 | - | - | - | - |
| Households | - | 10,4 | - | - | - | - |
| Gauteng - City of Tshwane | 4,2 | 2,3 | 28 | -70 | 127 | 0,57 |
| Formal sector* | - | 2,6 | - | - | - | - |
| Informal sector* | - | 10,3 | - | - | - | - |
| Households | - | 17,4 | - | - | - | - |

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

| Table 3.4B: Sampling variability for the employed by province and sector (concluded) | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Coefficient of variation | | Year-on-year change | Lower 95% | Upper 95% | P-value |
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Mpumalanga | 3,7 | 2,5 | 29 | -71 | 128 | 0,57 |
| Formal sector* | - | 4,1 | - | - | - | - |
| Informal sector* | - | 6,4 | - | - | - | - |
| Households | - | 13,1 | - | - | - | - |
| Limpopo | 2,7 | 2,7 | 9 | -65 | 82 | 0,81 |
| Formal sector* | - | 3,5 | - | - | - | - |
| Informal sector* | - | 5,4 | - | - | - | - |
| Households | - | 11,9 | - | - | - | - |

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

| Table 3.5B: Sampling variability for the employed by sex and occupation | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Coefficient of variation | | Year-on-year change | Lower 95% | Upper 95% | P-value |
| | Oct-Dec 2024 | Oct-Dec 2025 | | | | |
| Both sexes | 0,8 | 0,8 | 21 | -296 | 338 | 0,90 |
| Manager | 3,4 | 3,8 | -62 | -180 | 55 | 0,30 |
| Professional | 4,5 | 4,4 | 83 | -30 | 196 | 0,15 |
| Technician | 3,4 | 2,7 | 177 | 46 | 308 | 0,01 |
| Clerk | 2,8 | 2,8 | -77 | -210 | 57 | 0,26 |
| Sales and services | 2,1 | 2,3 | 130 | -57 | 317 | 0,17 |
| Skilled agriculture | 12,4 | 14,7 | -12 | -37 | 13 | 0,36 |
| Craft and related trade | 2,8 | 2,8 | 11 | -132 | 155 | 0,88 |
| Plant and machine operator | 3,3 | 3,5 | 38 | -86 | 162 | 0,54 |
| Elementary | 2,0 | 1,8 | -299 | -499 | -99 | 0,00 |
| Domestic worker | 4,2 | 3,5 | -7 | -95 | 82 | 0,88 |
| Women | 1,0 | 1,1 | -165 | -360 | 30 | 0,10 |
| Manager | 5,0 | 6,1 | -36 | -116 | 45 | 0,38 |
| Professional | 5,7 | 5,7 | 71 | -15 | 156 | 0,10 |
| Technician | 4,0 | 3,5 | 84 | -2 | 170 | 0,06 |
| Clerk | 3,0 | 3,4 | -68 | -179 | 43 | 0,23 |
| Sales and services | 2,9 | 3,1 | 89 | -45 | 223 | 0,19 |
| Skilled agriculture | 20,2 | 21,3 | 0 | -14 | 14 | 0,97 |
| Craft and related trade | 6,2 | 7,4 | -41 | -88 | 6 | 0,09 |
| Plant and machine operator | 7,9 | 10,4 | -27 | -71 | 16 | 0,21 |
| Elementary | 2,7 | 2,9 | -250 | -374 | -126 | 0,00 |
| Domestic worker | 4,2 | 3,7 | 0 | -84 | 84 | 1,00 |
| Men | 1,0 | 0,9 | 186 | -53 | 425 | 0,13 |
| Manager | 3,8 | 4,1 | -27 | -118 | 64 | 0,57 |
| Professional | 6,7 | 5,7 | 12 | -54 | 78 | 0,71 |
| Technician | 4,4 | 3,9 | 93 | 5 | 182 | 0,04 |
| Clerk | 5,2 | 5,1 | -9 | -81 | 63 | 0,81 |
| Sales and services | 2,9 | 3,1 | 41 | -85 | 168 | 0,52 |
| Skilled agriculture | 14,9 | 19,7 | -11 | -31 | 8 | 0,26 |
| Craft and related trade | 3,1 | 3,0 | 52 | -87 | 191 | 0,46 |
| Plant and machine operator | 3,6 | 3,7 | 66 | -49 | 181 | 0,26 |
| Elementary | 2,6 | 2,3 | -49 | -203 | 106 | 0,54 |
| Domestic worker | 18,3 | 17,8 | -6 | -29 | 16 | 0,58 |