stats sa

Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) Q2:2023

Risenga Maluleke
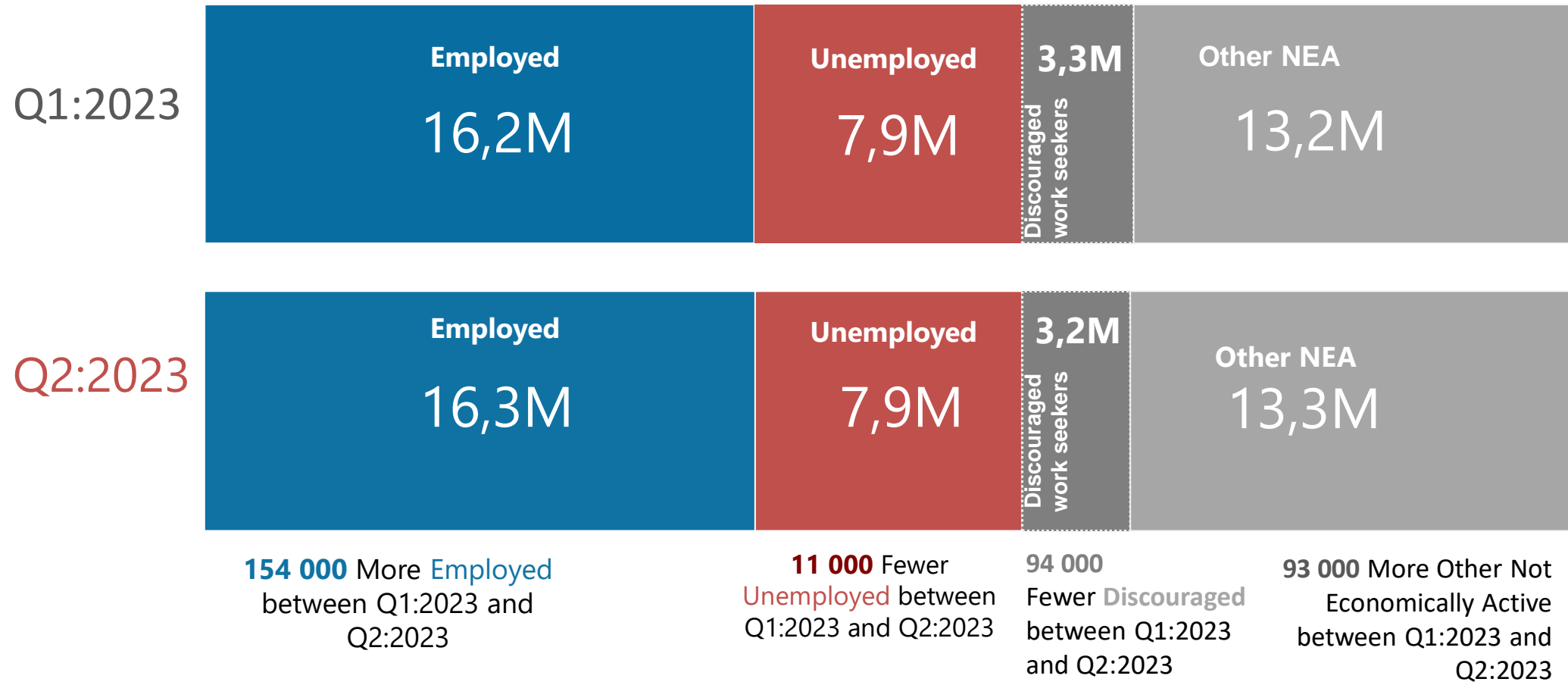Statistician-General

statssa.gov.za

twitter.com/StatsSA

facebook.com/StatsSA

There were **154 thousand** more people employed in Q2:2023 than in Q1:2023

Not Economically Active (NEA)

Q1:2023

| Employed 16,2M | Unemployed 7,9M | 3,3M Discouraged work seekers | Other NEA 13,2M |

Q2:2023

| Employed 16,3M | Unemployed 7,9M | 3,2M Discouraged work seekers | Other NEA 13,3M |

154 000 More Employed between Q1:2023 and Q2:2023

11 000 Fewer Unemployed between Q1:2023 and Q2:2023

94 000 Fewer Discouraged between Q1:2023 and Q2:2023

93 000 More Other Not Economically Active between Q1:2023 and Q2:2023

stats sa
Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NDP 2030

Since Q4:2021 employment has been increasing. It increased in the second quarter of 2023 by *154 000* to 16,3 million. Employment changes Q2:2019 - Q2:2023

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS   Quarterly Labour Force Survey Q2:2023

stats sa
Department:
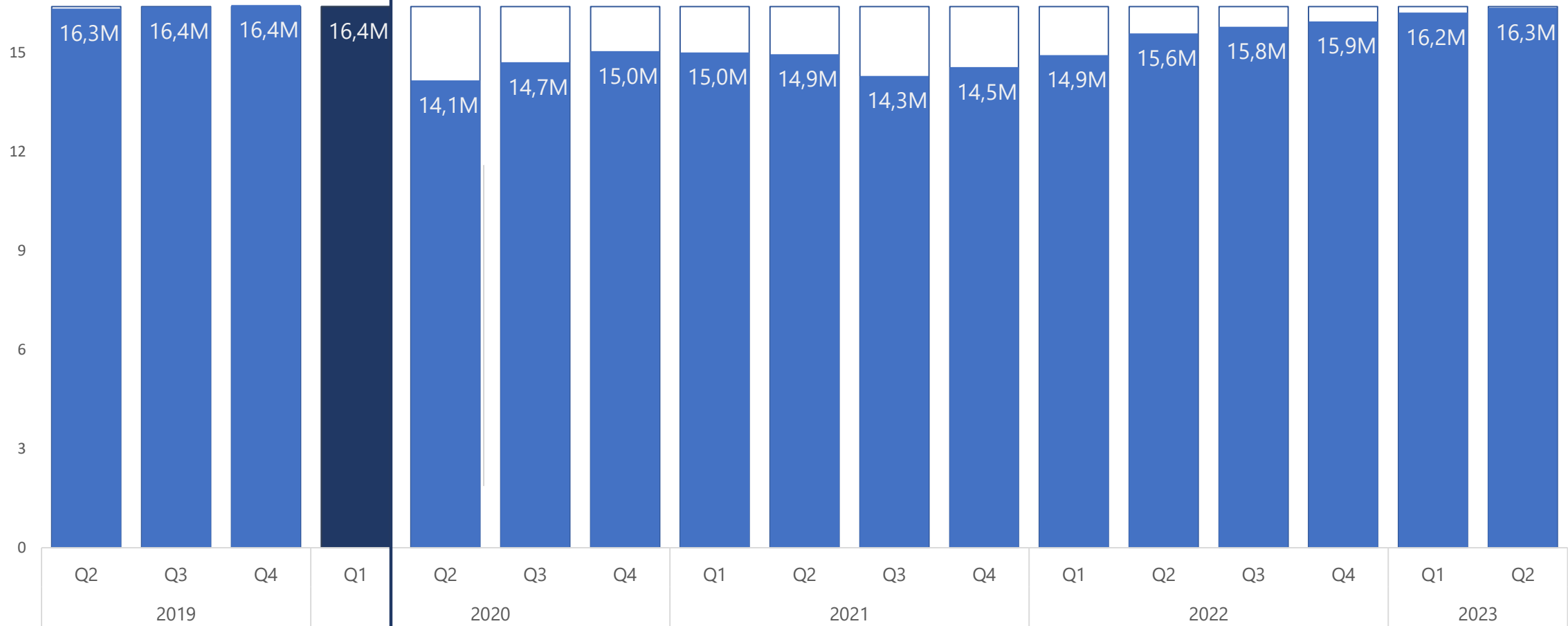Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

3

NDP
2030
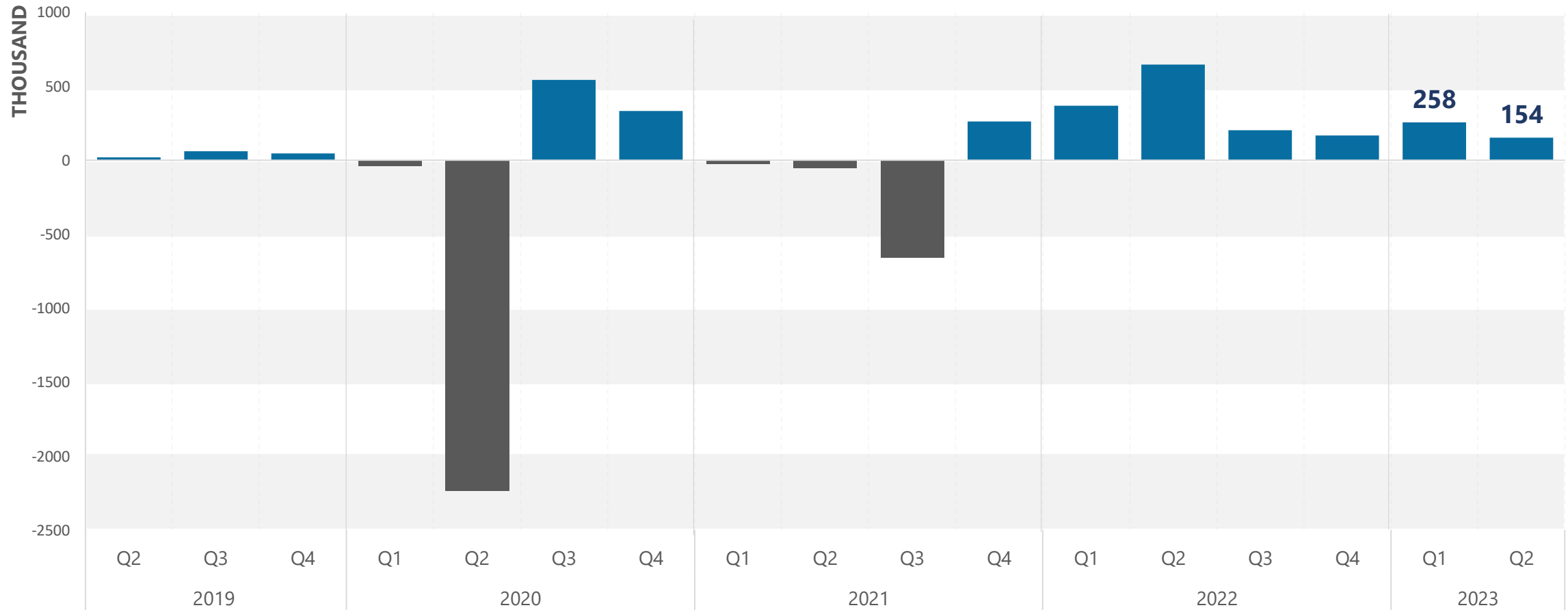
The number of **employed** increased to 16,3M and has **almost reached pre-COVID** levels of 16,4M. This is the 7th consecutive increase since Q4: 2021.

Employed Q2: 2019 – Q2: 2023

◄ Pre - COVID

EMPLOYED (M)

	2019			2020			2021				2022				2023	
Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
16,3M	16,4M	16,4M	16,4M	14,1M	14,7M	15,0M	15,0M	14,9M	14,3M	14,5M	14,9M	15,6M	15,8M	15,9M	16,2M	16,3M

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS   Quarterly Labour Force Survey Q2:2023

stats sa
Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

4

NDP

Official unemployment rate has decreased by 0,3 of a percentage point to 32,6% in Q2:2023.
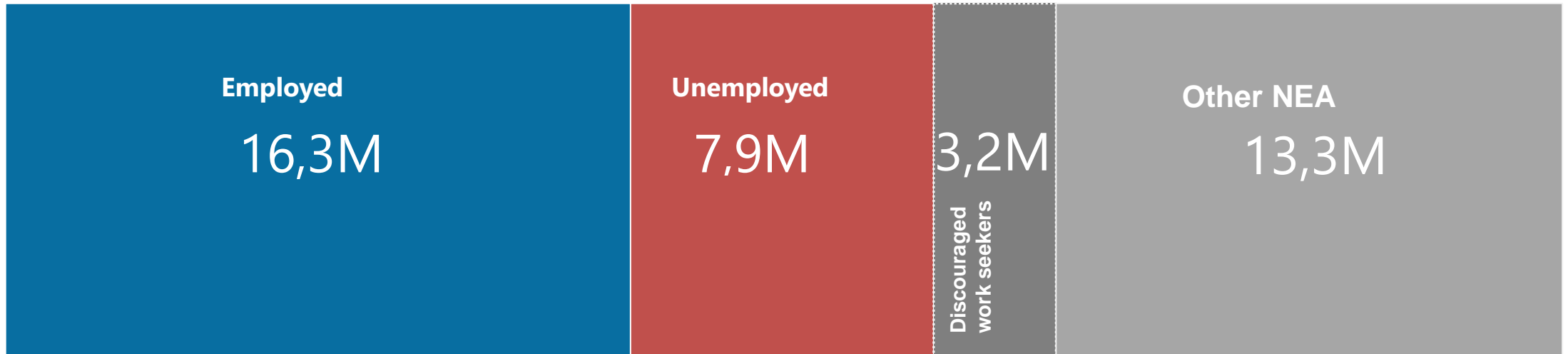
40,7 million

People of working age in South Africa (15 – 64-year-old)

Labour force

Not **Economically** Active

24,3 million

16,5 million

Employed	Unemployed	Discouraged work seekers	Other NEA
16,3M	**7,9M**	**3,2M**	**13,3M**

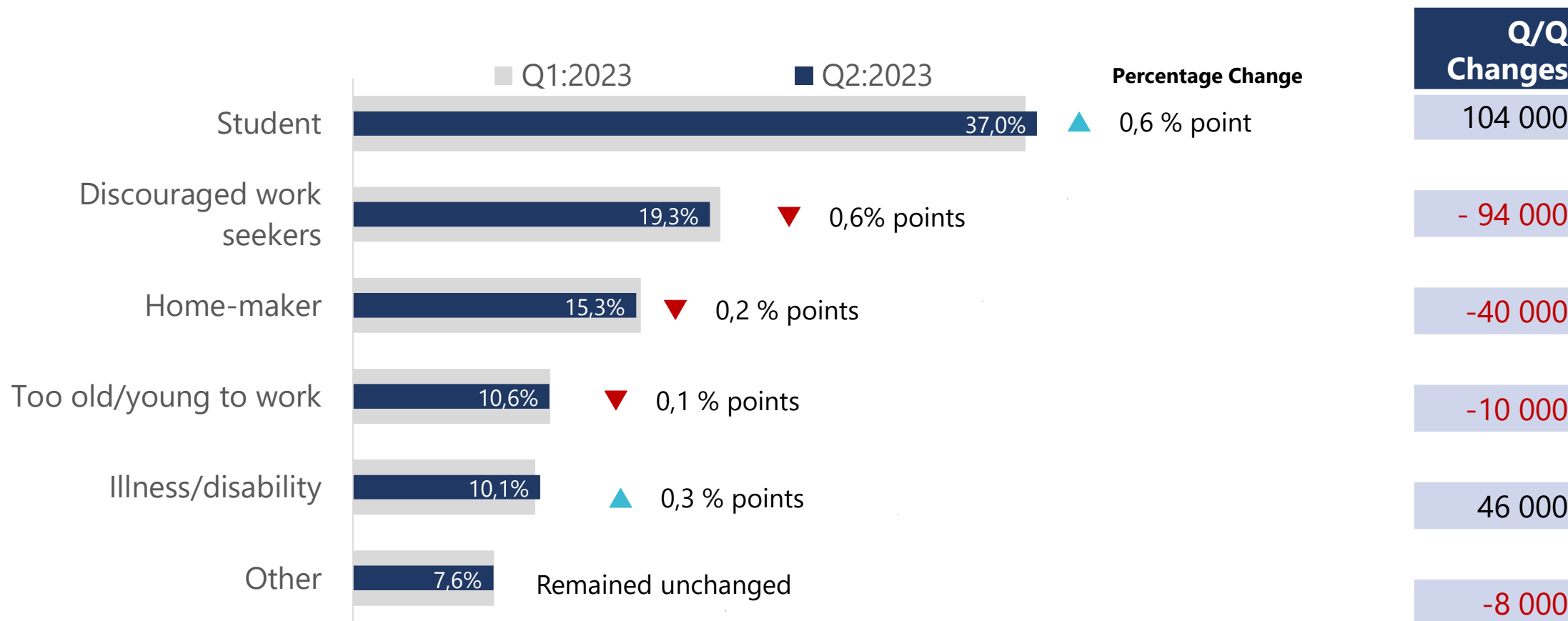SA's official unemployment rate stands at

32,6%

Decreased by 0,3 of a percentage point between Q1:2023 and Q2:2023

ILO hierarchy – Employed first then unemployed and the remainder is NEA (including discouraged job-seekers). 3 mutually exclusive groups. Cannot be in two groups at the same time.

Due to rounding numbers may not add up

stats sa
Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NDP 2030

The number of **Not Economically Active** persons **decreased by 1 000** in Q2:2023 compared to Q1:2023

Characteristics of the not economically active, Q1:2023 vs Q2:2023


Category	Percentage Change	Q/Q Changes
Student — 37,0%	▲ 0,6 % point	104 000
Discouraged work seekers — 19,3%	▼ 0,6% points	- 94 000
Home-maker — 15,3%	▼ 0,2 % points	-40 000
Too old/young to work — 10,6%	▼ 0,1 % points	-10 000
Illness/disability — 10,1%	▲ 0,3 % points	46 000
Other — 7,6%	Remained unchanged	-8 000

Due to rounding numbers may not add up

stats sa
Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The **Labour force participation rate** increased by 0,2 of a percentage point from 59,4% in Q1:2023 to 59,6% in Q2:2023

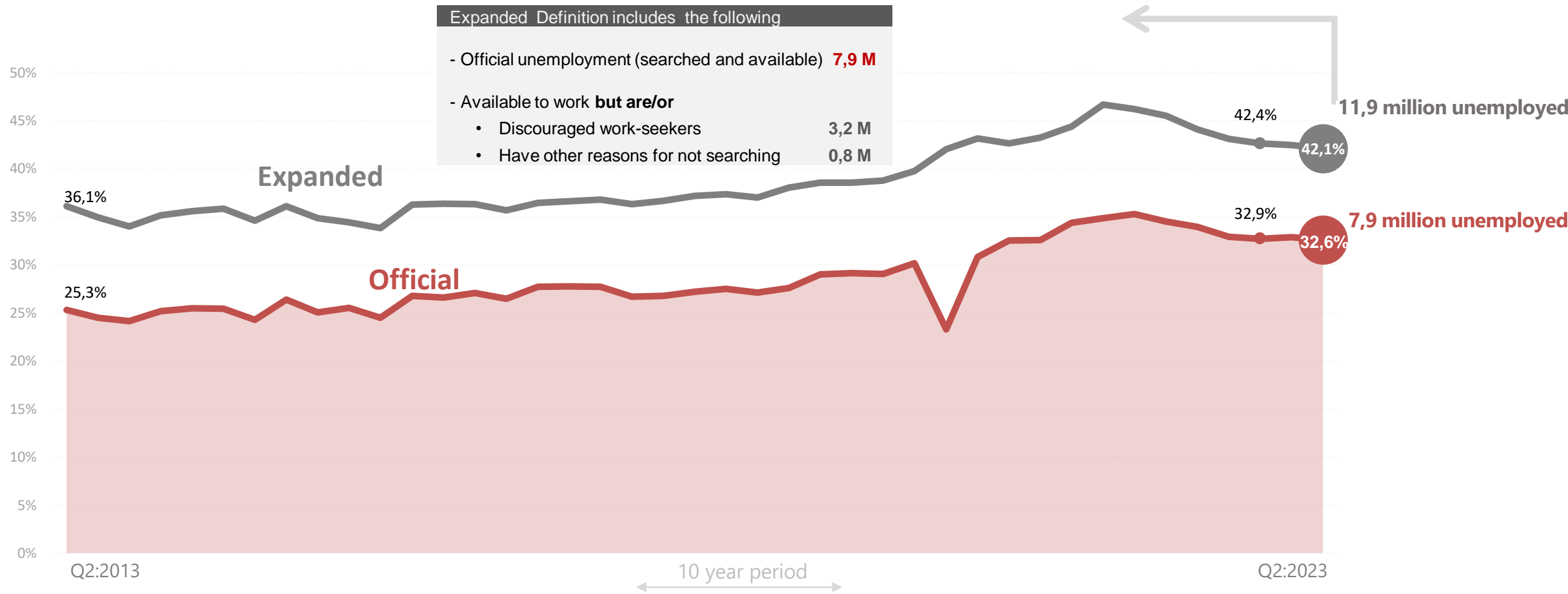Labour force participation and absorption rates Q2:2013-Q2:2023

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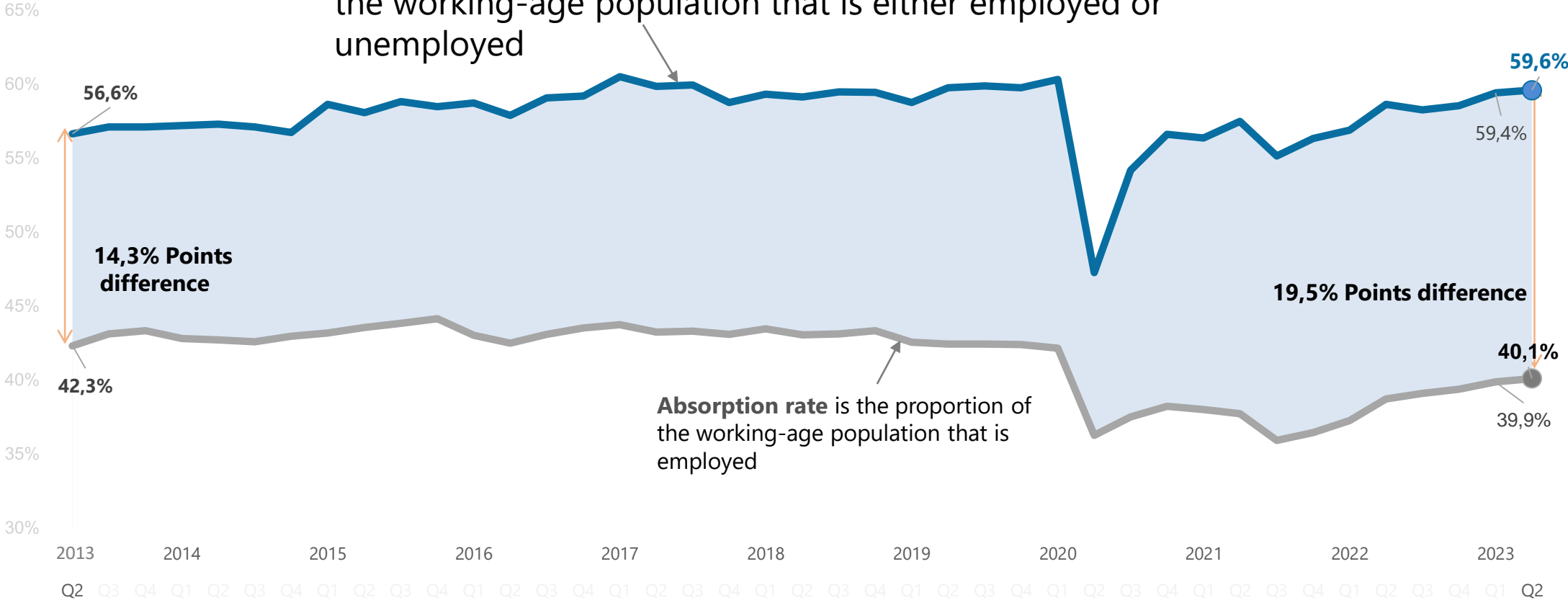
Absorption rate is the proportion of the working-age population that is employed

56,6%

14,3% Points difference

42,3%

19,5% Points difference

59,6%

59,4%

40,1%

39,9%

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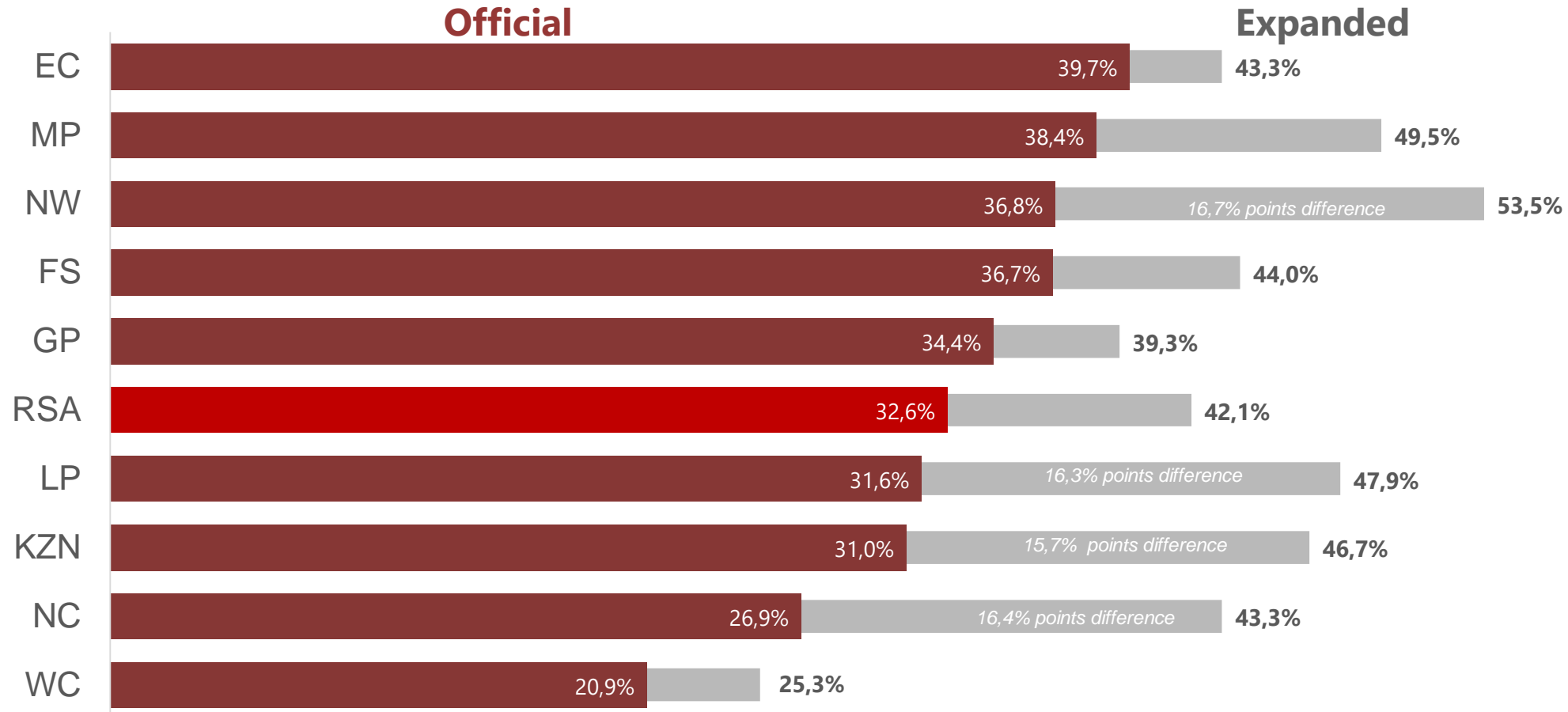**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Official and expanded unemployment rates **decreased by 0,3** of a percentage point each to **32,6%** and **42,1%** respectively when comparing Q2:2023 and Q1:2023.

Official vs Expanded unemployment: Q2:2013-Q2:2023

Expanded Definition includes the following	
- Official unemployment (searched and available)	**7,9 M**
- Available to work **but are/or**	
• Discouraged work-seekers	**3,2 M**
• Have other reasons for not searching	**0,8 M**

11,9 million unemployed

42,4%

42,1%

Expanded

32,9%

7,9 million unemployed

32,6%

Official

36,1%

25,3%

Q2:2013

10 year period

Q2:2023

stats sa
Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NDP

NW (53,5%) recorded the **highest expanded unemployment rate** in Q2:2023, followed by MP (49,5%).
NW, NC, LP, and KZN recorded more than 15 percentage points difference between expanded and official unemployment rates

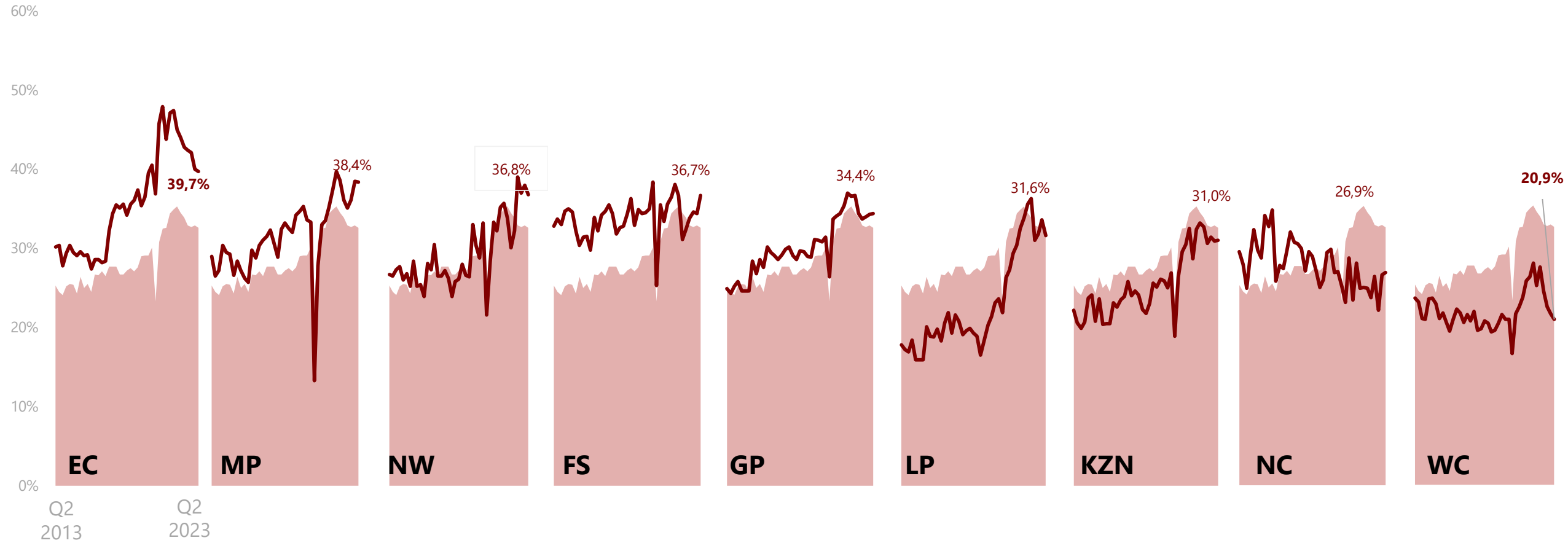Provincial unemployment rate: Official vs Expanded Q2:2023

Official   **Expanded**

	Official	Expanded	Difference
EC	39,7%	43,3%	
MP	38,4%	49,5%	
NW	36,8%	53,5%	16,7% points difference
FS	36,7%	44,0%	
GP	34,4%	39,3%	
RSA	32,6%	42,1%	
LP	31,6%	47,9%	16,3% points difference
KZN	31,0%	46,7%	15,7% points difference
NC	26,9%	43,3%	16,4% points difference
WC	20,9%	25,3%	

stats sa
Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Over the last ten years **EC** has consistently been **above the SA average official unemployment rate.**

Official Unemployment rates by province, **Q2:2013-Q2:2023**

SA Official Unemployment Rate

—— Provincial Unemployment Rate

EC 39,7%

MP 38,4%

NW 36,8%

FS 36,7%

GP 34,4%

LP 31,6%

KZN 31,0%

NC 26,9%

WC 20,9%

Q2 2013

Q2 2023

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS

Quarterly Labour Force Survey Q2:2023

stats sa
Department:
Statistics South Africa
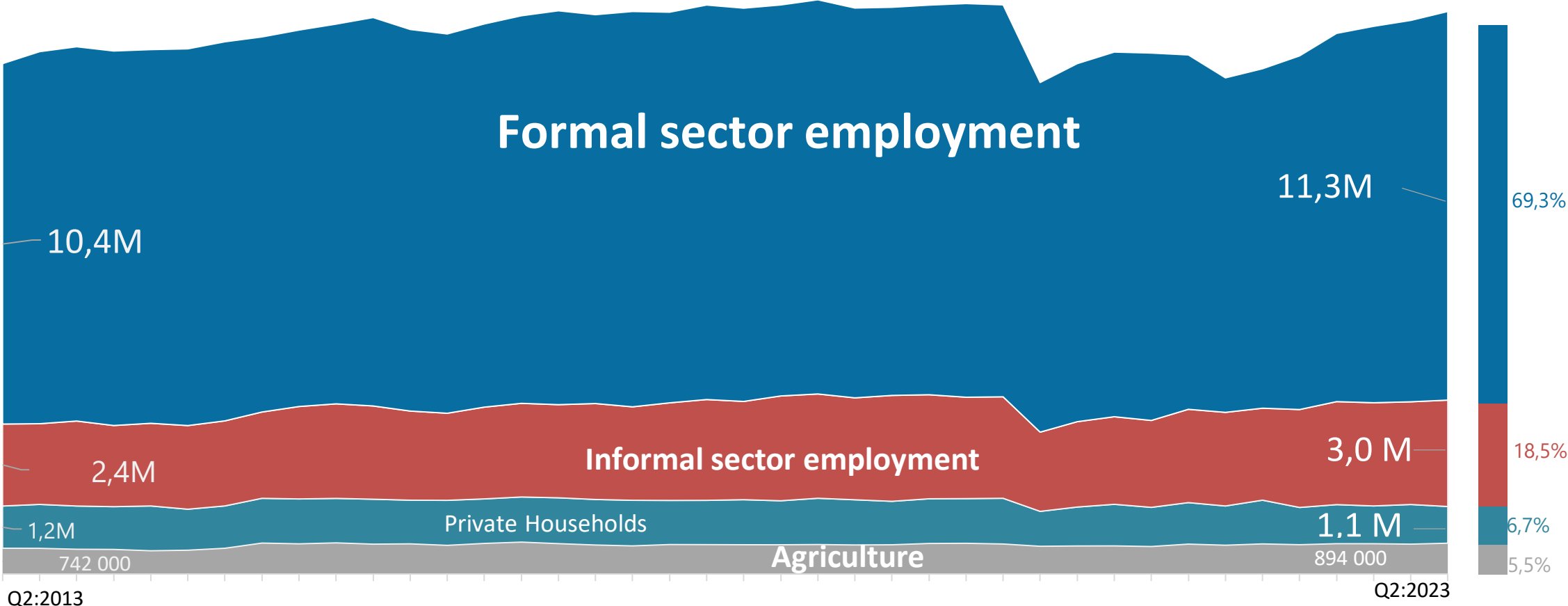REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

10

NDP
2030

The number of unemployed people in South Africa increased from 5,0 million in Q2:2013 to 7,9 million in Q2:2023. *The proportion of those in long-term unemployment increased from 66,7% in Q2:2013 to 77,3% in Q2:2023*

*Long term unemployment –unemployed for a year or longer
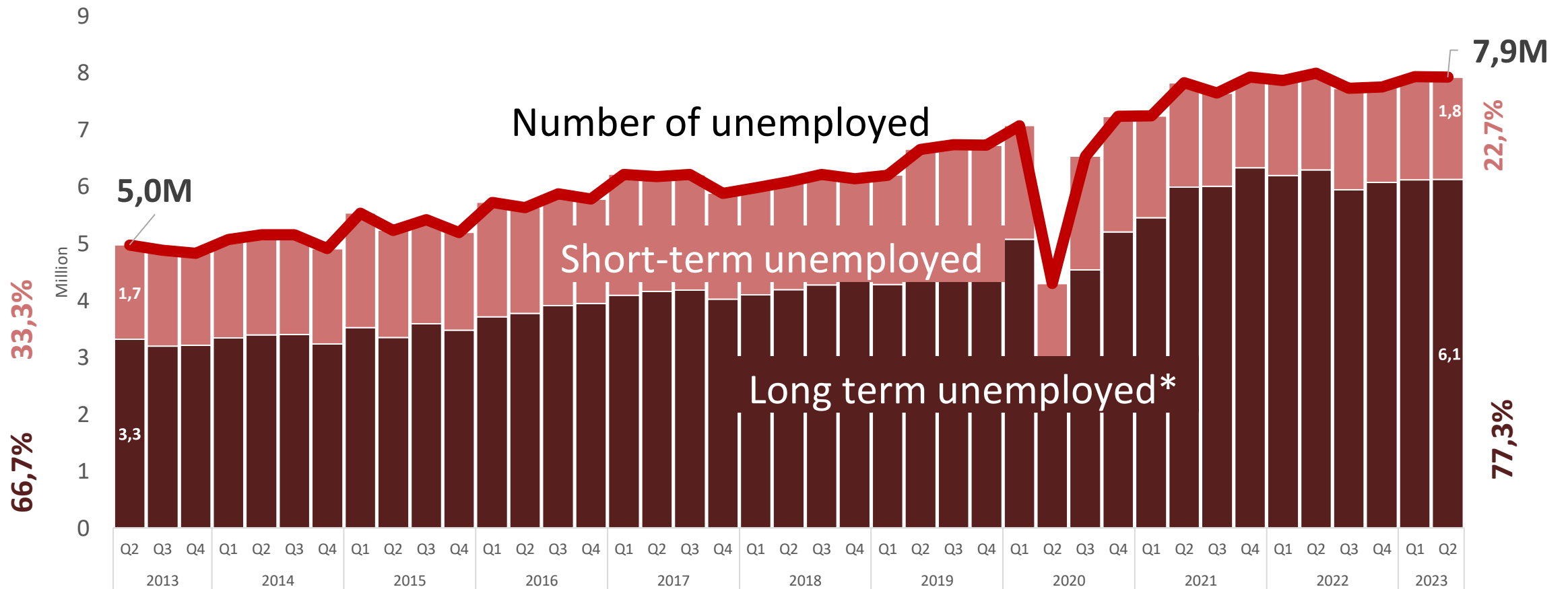
The **formal sector** in South Africa accounts for **69,3%** of total employment.

Employment share by sector, Q2:2013 to Q2:2023

Formal sector employment

11,3M

10,4M

69,3%

Informal sector employment

3,0 M

18,5%

2,4M

Private Households

1,2M

1.1 M

6,7%

Agriculture
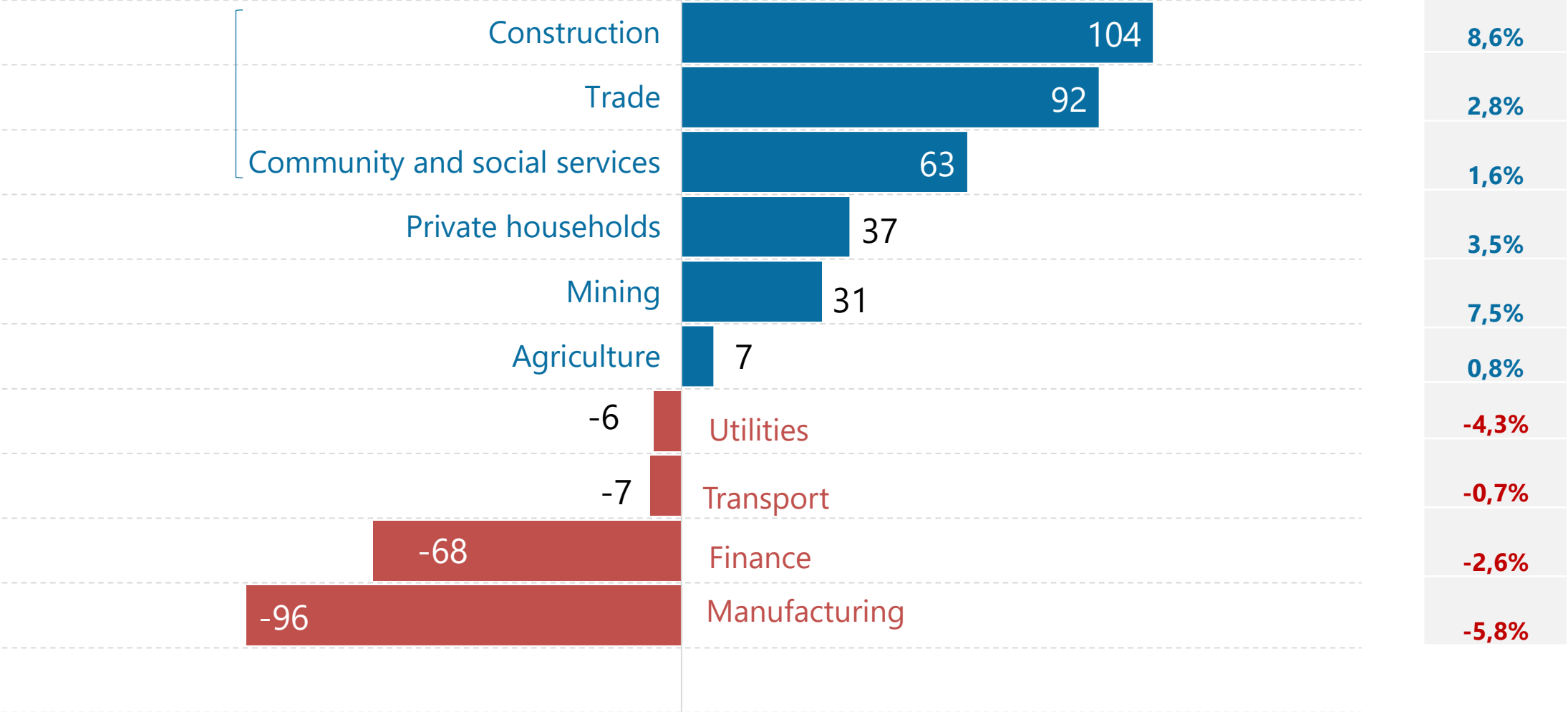
742 000

894 000

5,5%

Q2:2013

Q2:2023

Formal sector employment increased by **143 thousand jobs** between Q1:2023 and Q2:2023.

Employment changes by sector, (Quarter-on-quarter)
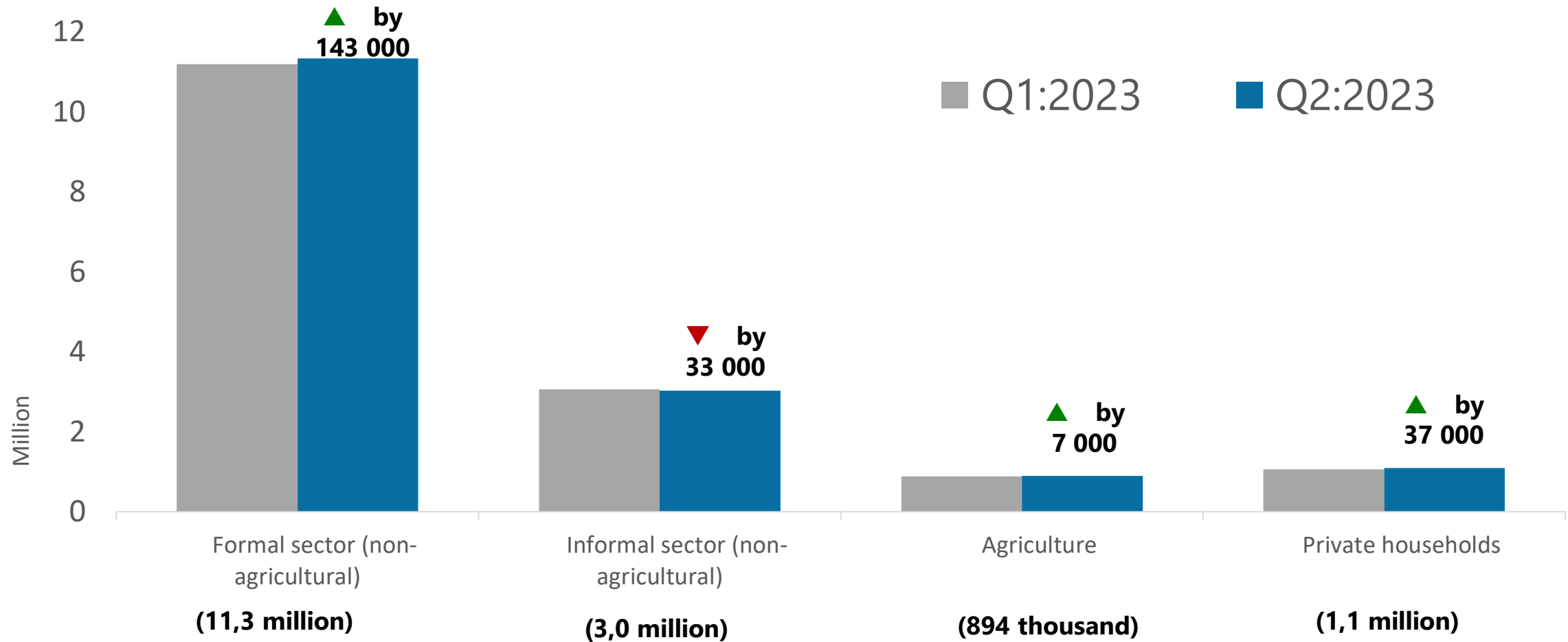
Employment increases were mainly in Construction, Trade, and Community and Social Services industries.

Employment changes by industry, **Quarter-on-quarter change ('000)**

Industry	Change ('000)	Percentage change
Construction	104	8,6%
Trade	92	2,8%
Community and social services	63	1,6%
Private households	37	3,5%
Mining	31	7,5%
Agriculture	7	0,8%
Utilities	-6	-4,3%
Transport	-7	-0,7%
Finance	-68	-2,6%
Manufacturing	-96	-5,8%

stats sa
Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NDP
2030

LP,WC and KZN recorded the largest employment increases in Q2:2023

Quarter-on-quarter change in employment by province ('000) (Q2:2023 and Q1:2023)
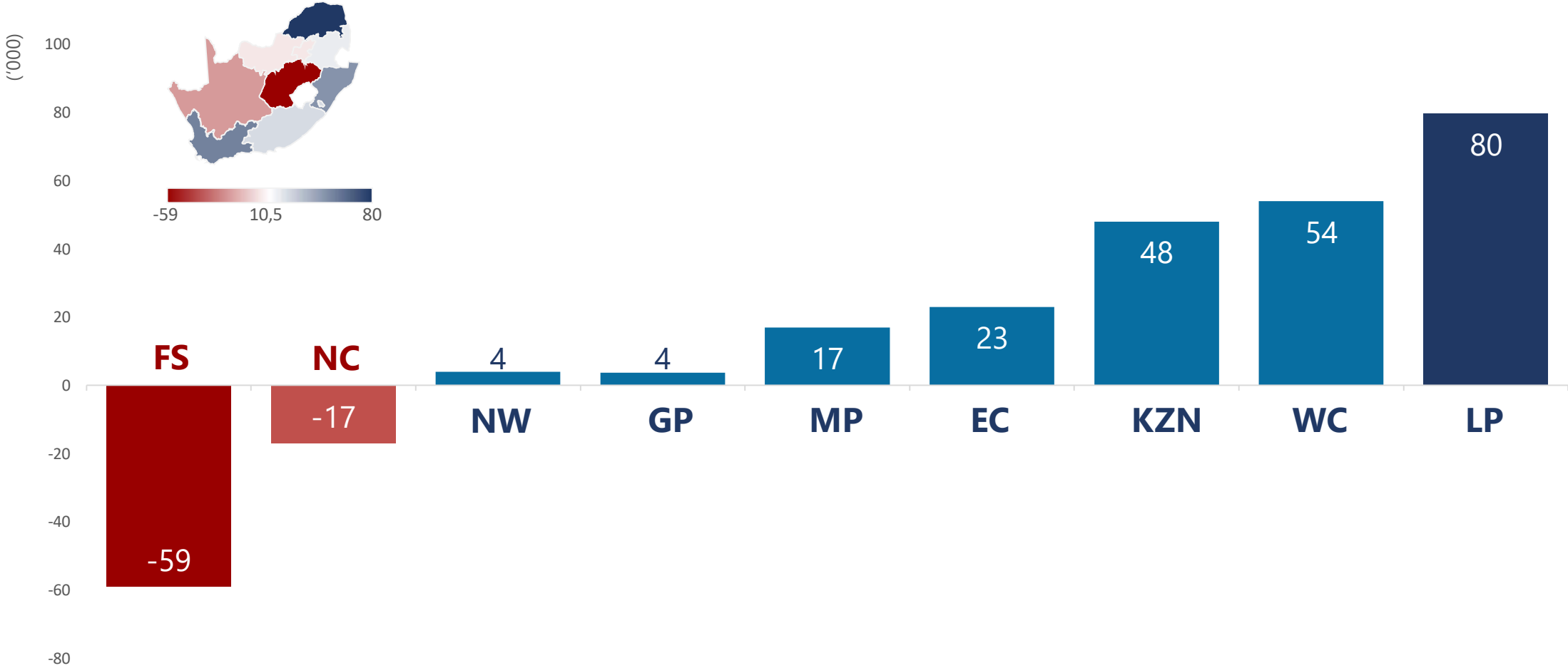
Graduate unemployment rate decreased by 1,0 percentage point to 9,6% in Q2:2023 compared to 10,6% in Q1:2023

Official Unemployment rate Q2:2023

Less than matric 38,3%

Matric 35,2%

Other tertiary 20,2%

SA Official Unemployment Rate **32,6%**

Graduates 9,6%

0%　5%　10%　15%　20%　25%　30%　35%　40%　45%

stats sa
Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NDP 2030
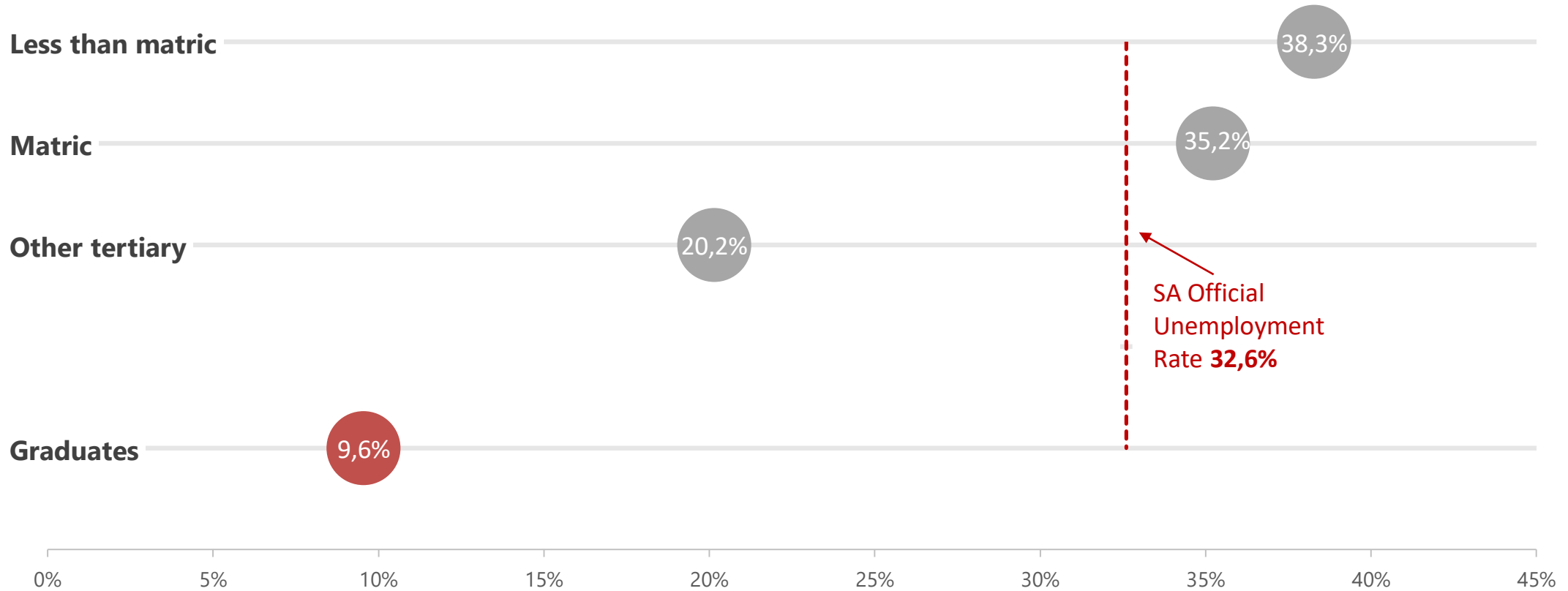
Youth aged 15-24 years and 25-34 years recorded the highest unemployment rates of 60,7% and 39,8% respectively.
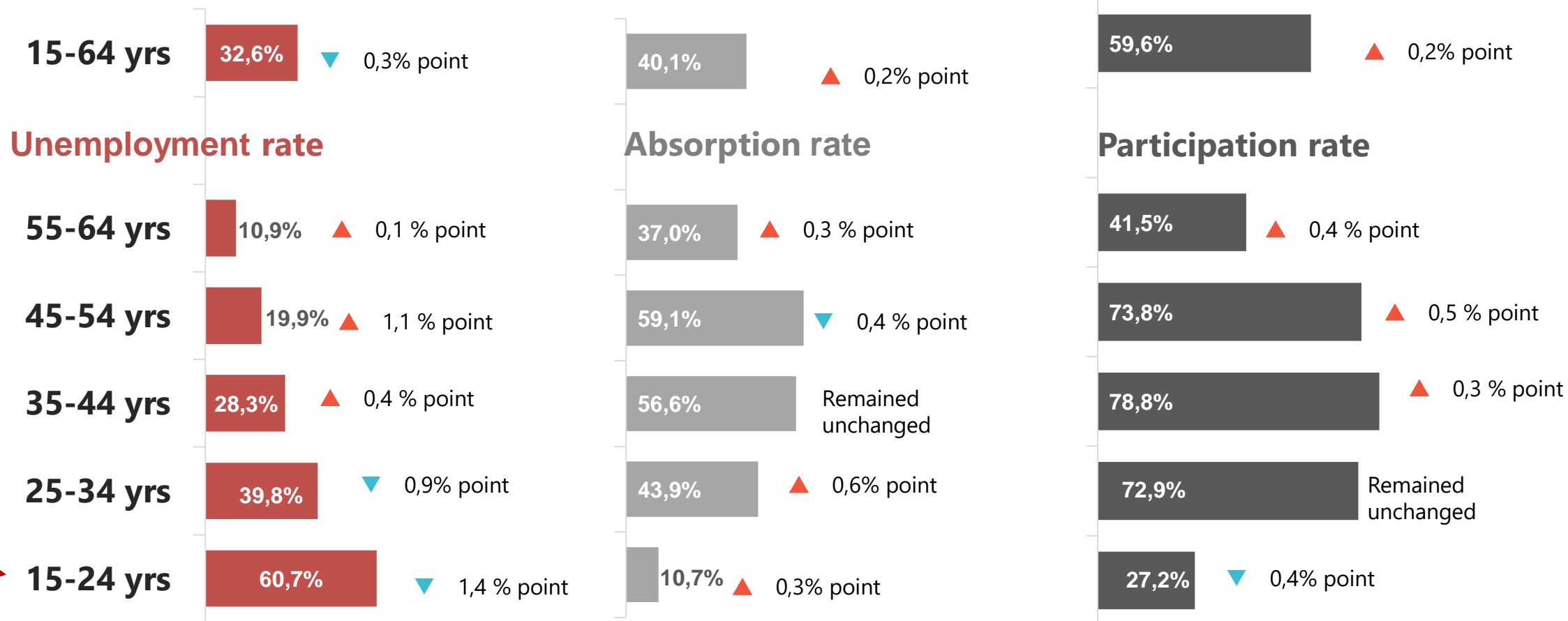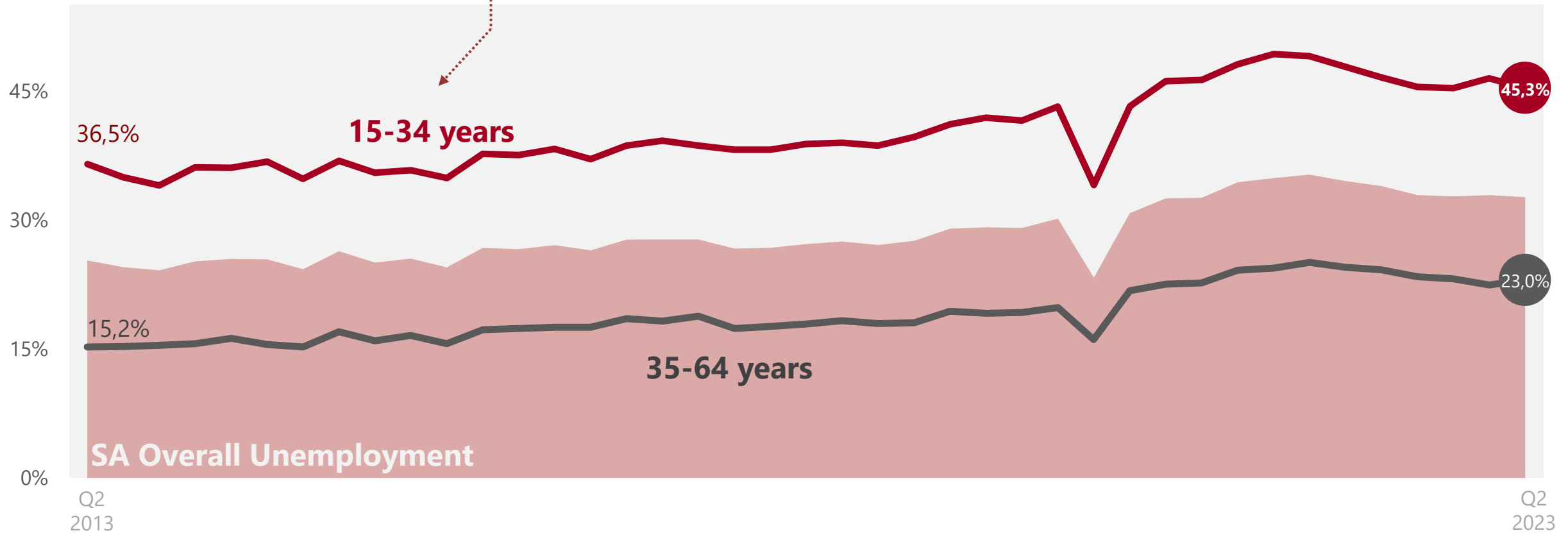
Labour market rates by age group, Q2:2023

Change: Percentage points
Q1:2023 to Q2:2023

Unemployment rate

Age group	Rate	Change
15-64 yrs	32,6%	▼ 0,3% point
55-64 yrs	10,9%	▲ 0,1 % point
45-54 yrs	19,9%	▲ 1,1 % point
35-44 yrs	28,3%	▲ 0,4 % point
25-34 yrs	39,8%	▼ 0,9% point
15-24 yrs	60,7%	▼ 1,4 % point

Absorption rate

Age group	Rate	Change
15-64 yrs	40,1%	▲ 0,2% point
55-64 yrs	37,0%	▲ 0,3 % point
45-54 yrs	59,1%	▼ 0,4 % point
35-44 yrs	56,6%	Remained unchanged
25-34 yrs	43,9%	▲ 0,6% point
15-24 yrs	10,7%	▲ 0,3% point

Participation rate

Age group	Rate	Change
15-64 yrs	59,6%	▲ 0,2% point
55-64 yrs	41,5%	▲ 0,4 % point
45-54 yrs	73,8%	▲ 0,5 % point
35-44 yrs	78,8%	▲ 0,3 % point
25-34 yrs	72,9%	Remained unchanged
15-24 yrs	27,2%	▼ 0,4% point

stats sa
Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Youth aged **15-34 years** are more vulnerable to unemployment when compared to older age groups

Official Unemployment rates by age group,
Q2:2013-Q2:2023

45%

36,5%

15-34 years

45,3%

30%

23,0%

15,2%

15%

35-64 years

SA Overall Unemployment

0%

Q2
2013

Q2
2023

stats sa
Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NDP

Approximately **3,5 million (34,2%)** **out of 10,2 million** young people aged 15-24 years were not in employment, education or training (NEET).
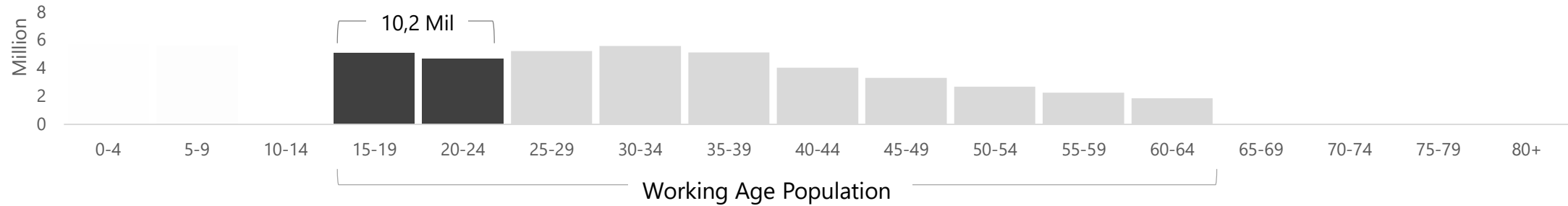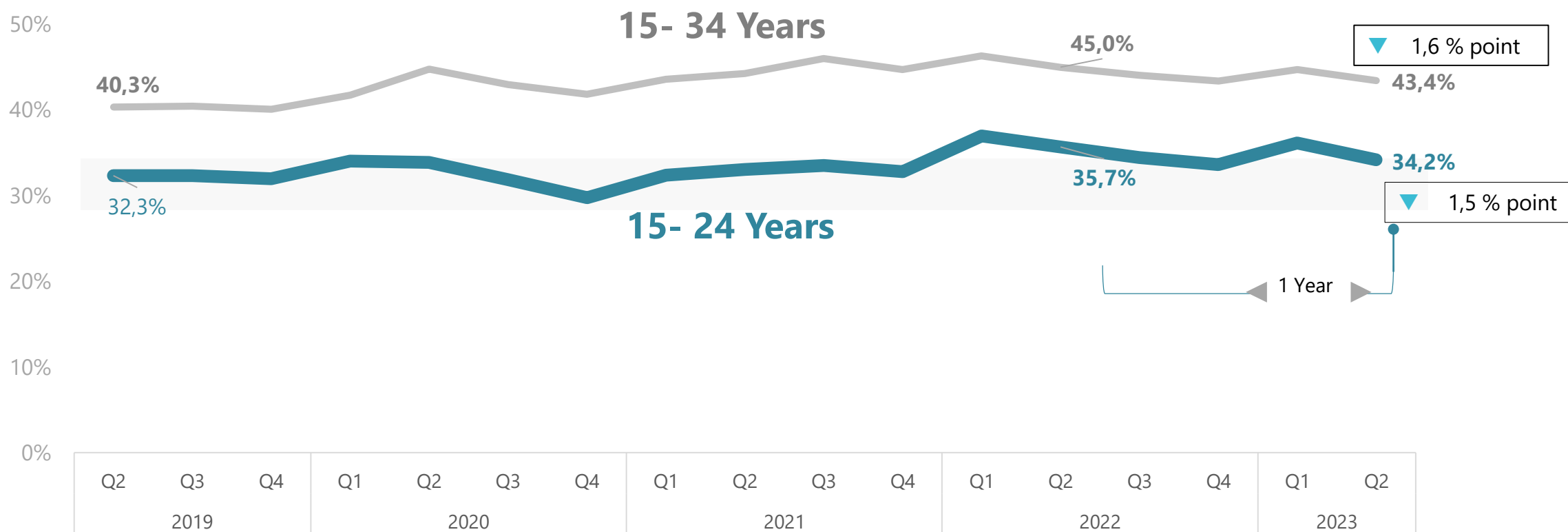

Number of NEET for ages 15-24 Q2:2023

3,5 Mil NEET

6,7 Mil Employed or in Education or Training

stats sa
Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The overall NEET rate (15 – 24yrs) decreased by 1,5 percentage points in Q2:2023 compared to Q2:2022.

2019-2023 NEET rate for ages 15-24 & 15-34 year old

15- 34 Years

40,3%

▼ 1,6 % point

45,0%

43,4%

15- 24 Years

32,3%

35,7%

34,2%

▼ 1,5 % point

1 Year

Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
2019			2020				2021				2022				2023	

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS
Quarterly Labour Force Survey Q2:2023

stats sa
Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

20

NDP
2030

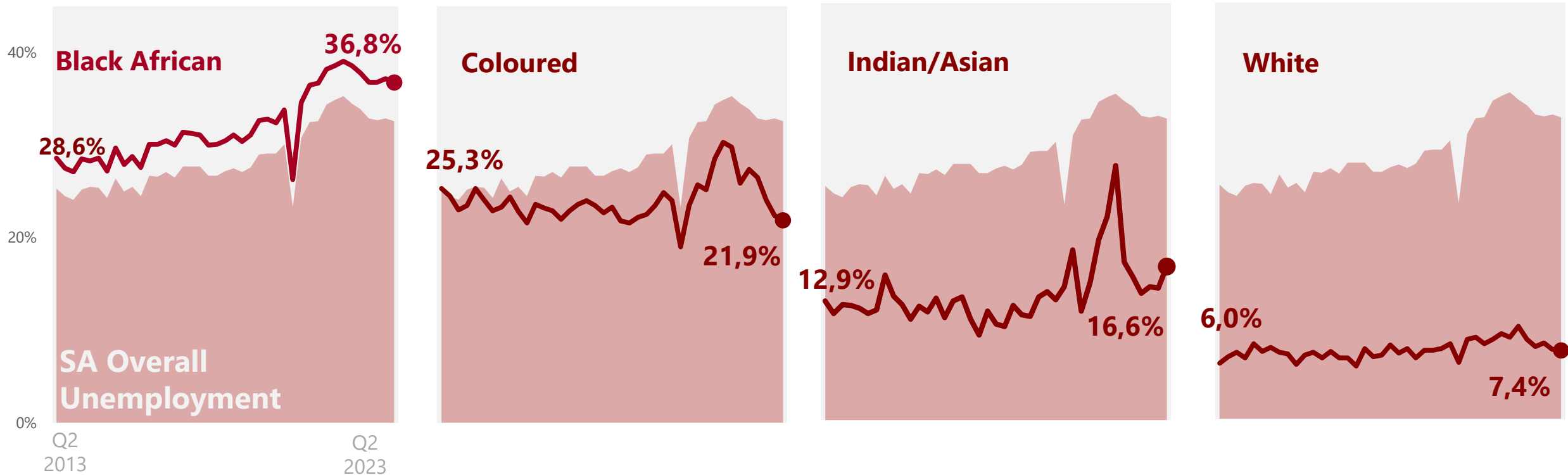# The unemployment rate among the **Black African (36,8%)** population group remains higher than the national average and other population groups.

OFFICIAL unemployment rate by population group, Q2:2023
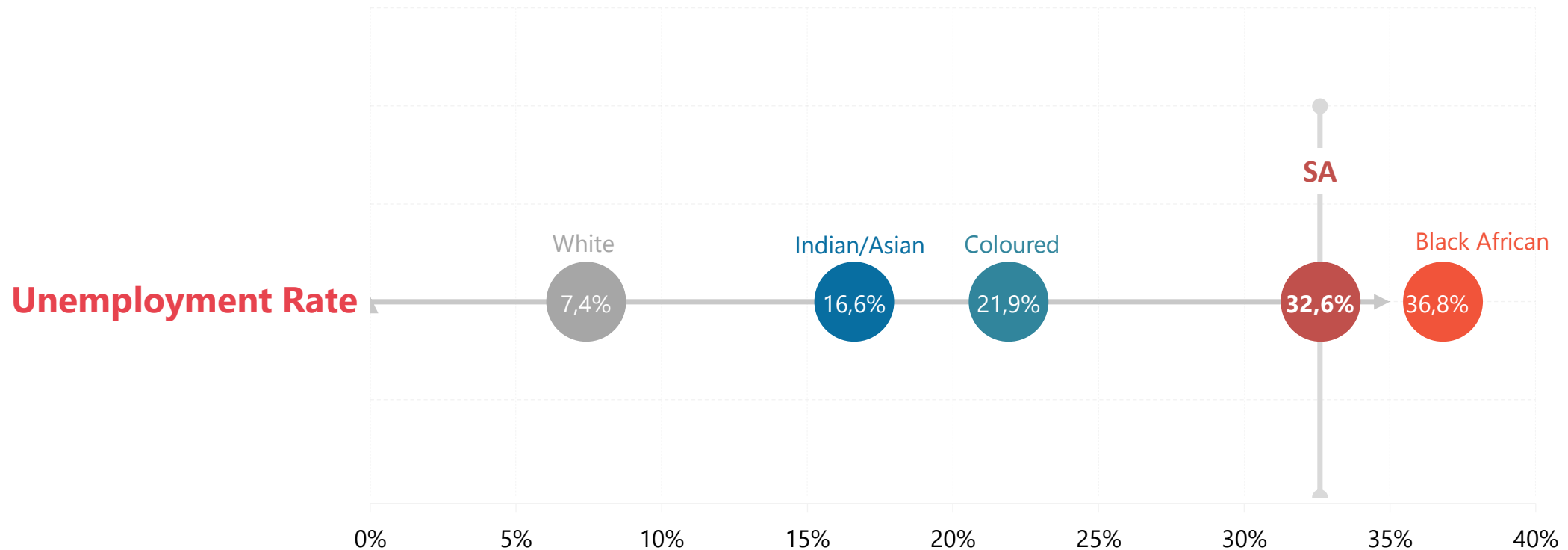
Black African unemployment rates have been consistently higher than other population groups over the past 10-year period.

Official Unemployment rates by population group,
Q2:2013-Q2:2023

Black African — 28,6% ... 36,8%

SA Overall Unemployment

Coloured — 25,3% ... 21,9%

Indian/Asian — 12,9% ... 16,6%

White — 6,0% ... 7,4%

40%

20%

0%

Q2 2013

Q2 2023

Women in South Africa

stats sa

Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NDP
2030

There were **2 million less women** employed in Q2:2023 than men

Not Economically Active (NEA)

Women

| Employed **7,2M** | Unemployed **4,0M** | **1,7M** Discouraged work seekers | Other NEA **7,7M** |

Men

| Employed **9,2M** | Unemployed **3,9M** | **1,5M** Discouraged work seekers | Other NEA **5,6M** |

Less Women Employed than Men

More Women Unemployed than Men

More Discouraged Women than Men

More Women not economically active

NDP
2030
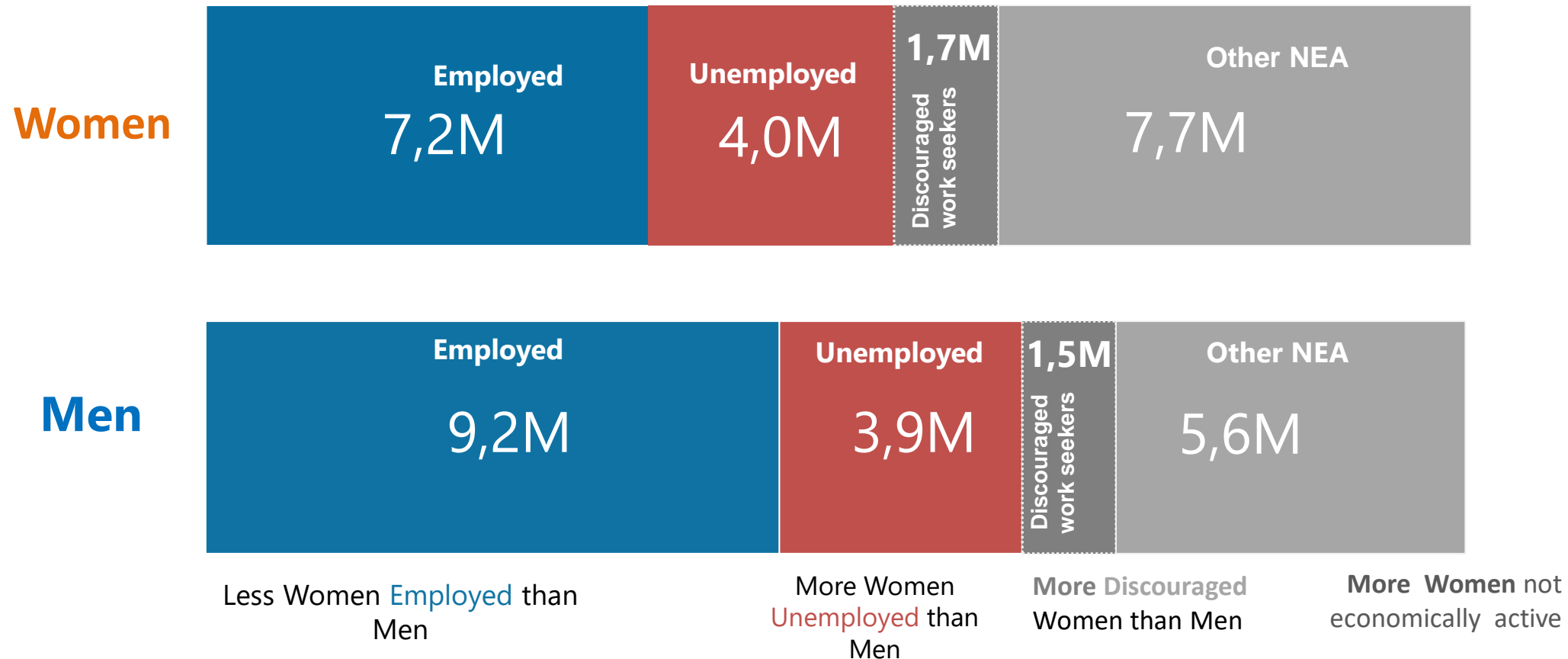
Only 54,3% of women of working age in South Africa participate in the labour force either as employed or looking for work

Labour force participation by Gender Q2:2013 - Q2:2023

Female ● Male ●

63,3%

50,3%

64,9%

54,3%

85%

70%

55%

40%

25%

Q2 Q3 Q4 | Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4 | Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4 | Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4 | Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4 | Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4 | Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4 | Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4 | Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4 | Q1 Q2

2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS   Quarterly Labour Force Survey Q2:2023

stats sa
Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

25

NDP
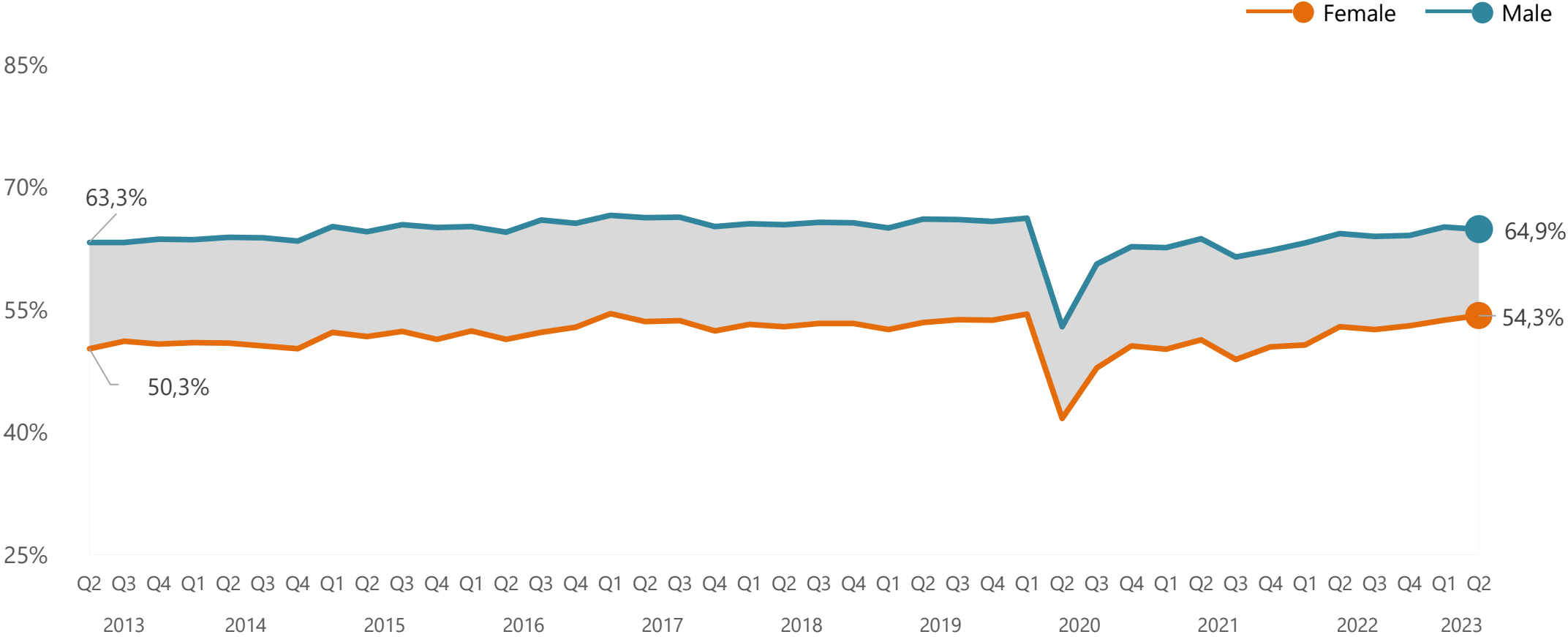
Over the past ten years, the unemployment rate for women has been higher than for men. The female unemployment rate increased from 27,5% in Q2:2013 to **35,7% in Q2:2023**.
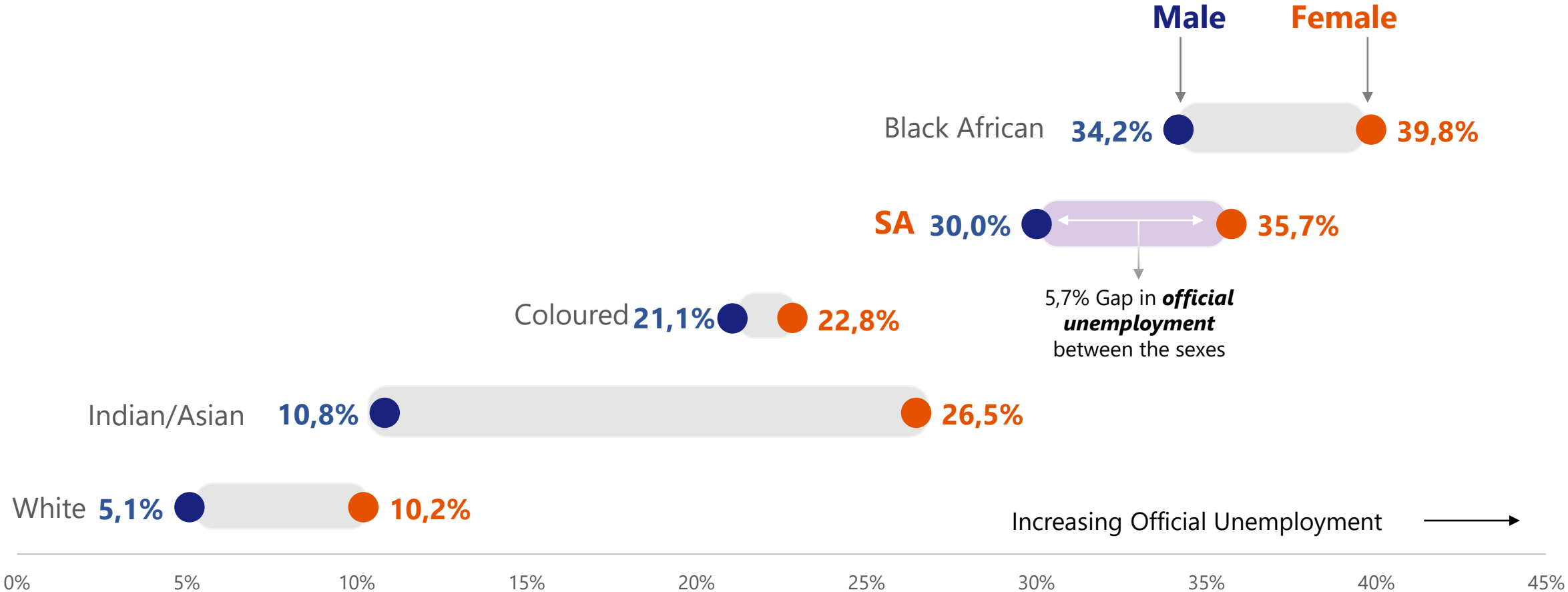
Official unemployment rate by sex Q2:2013-Q2 2023

stats sa
Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
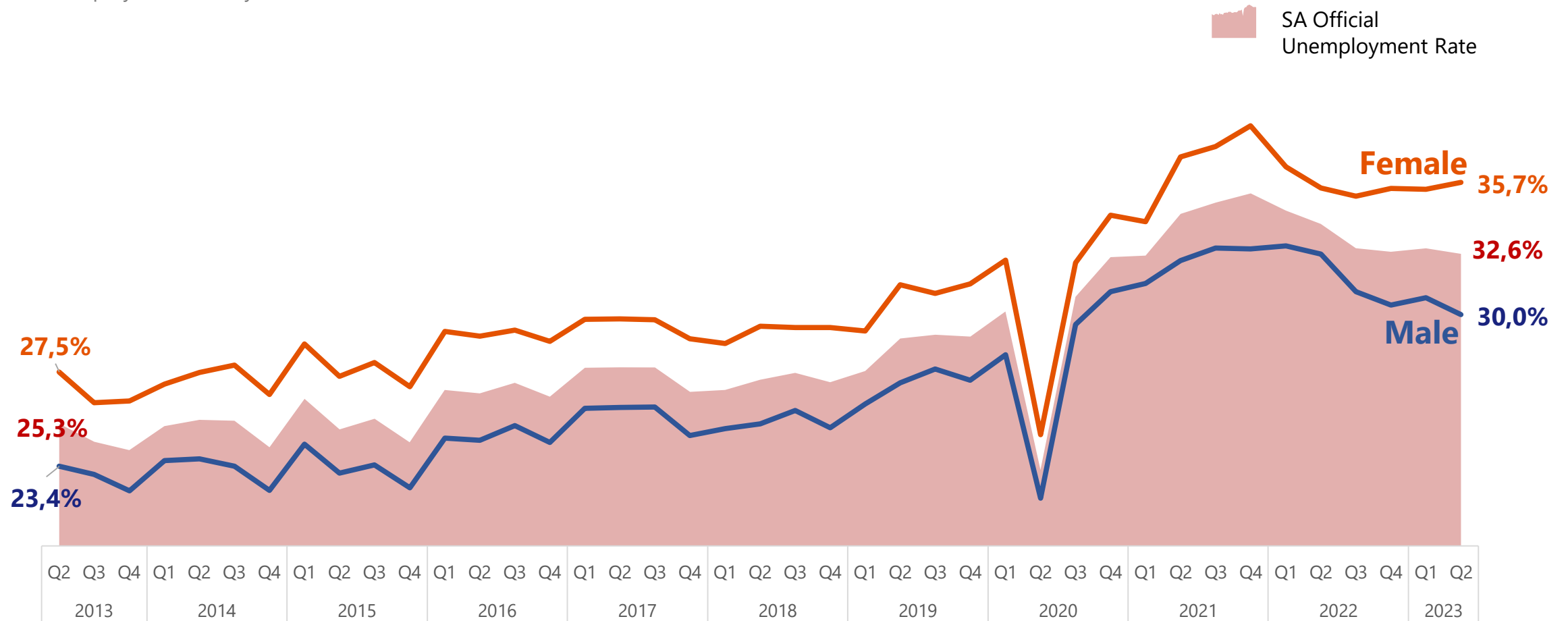
Black African women continue to be the most vulnerable with an unemployment rate of **39,8%** in Q2:2023. *This is 4,1 percentage points higher than the national average for women at 35,7%.*

Official unemployment rate by population group and sex, Q2:2023

Male   **Female**

Black African **34,2%** **39,8%**

SA **30,0%** **35,7%**

5,7% Gap in *official unemployment* between the sexes

Coloured **21,1%** **22,8%**

Indian/Asian **10,8%** **26,5%**

White **5,1%** **10,2%**

Increasing Official Unemployment →

0%   5%   10%   15%   20%   25%   30%   35%   40%   45%

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS   Quarterly Labour Force Survey Q2:2023

stats sa
Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

27

2030 NDP

Using the expanded unemployment definition, **Gender disparity** persists throughout all population groups.

EXPANDED unemployment rate by population group and sex, Q2:2023

Male   Female

Black African **43,1%** **50,6%**

SA **38,5%** **46,1%**

7,6% Gap in *expanded unemployment* between the sexes

Coloured **28,1%** **31,8%**

Indian/Asian **15,4%** **36,4%**

White **6,8%** **12,2%**

Increasing Expanded Unemployment →

0%   10%   20%   30%   40%   50%   60%

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS   Quarterly Labour Force Survey Q2:2023

stats sa
Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

28

NDP 2030
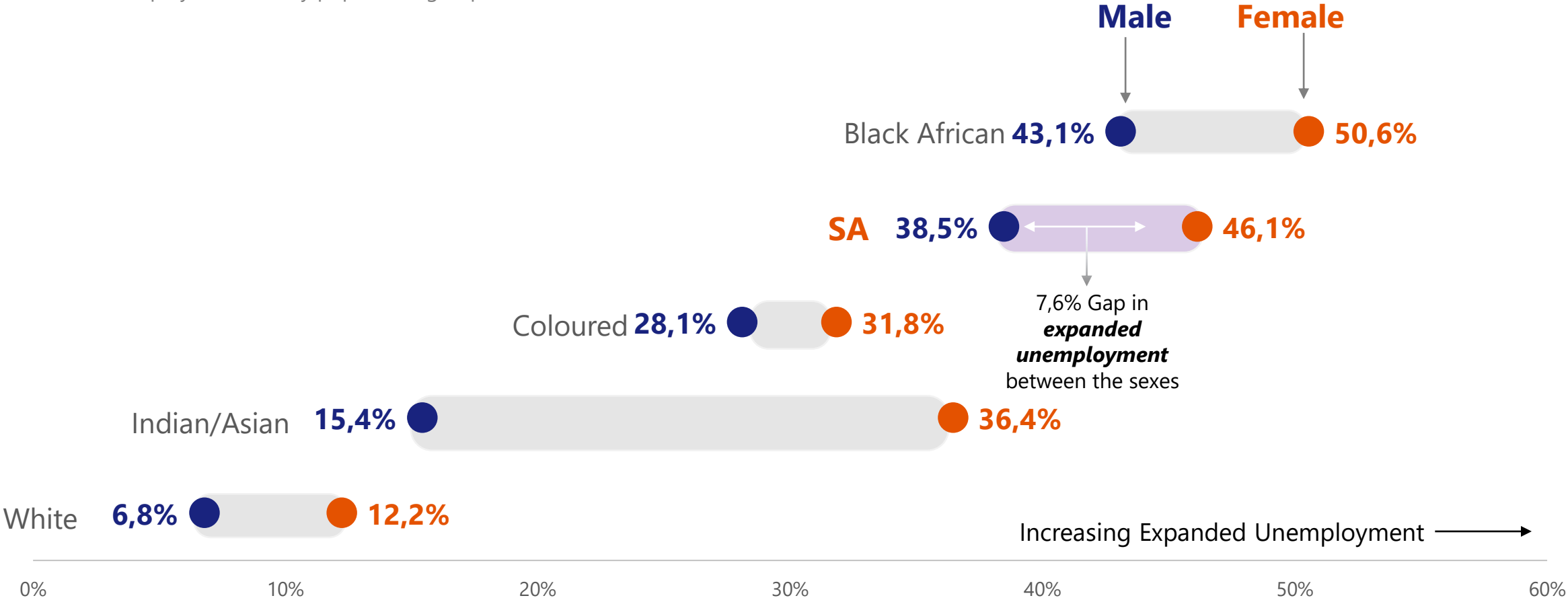
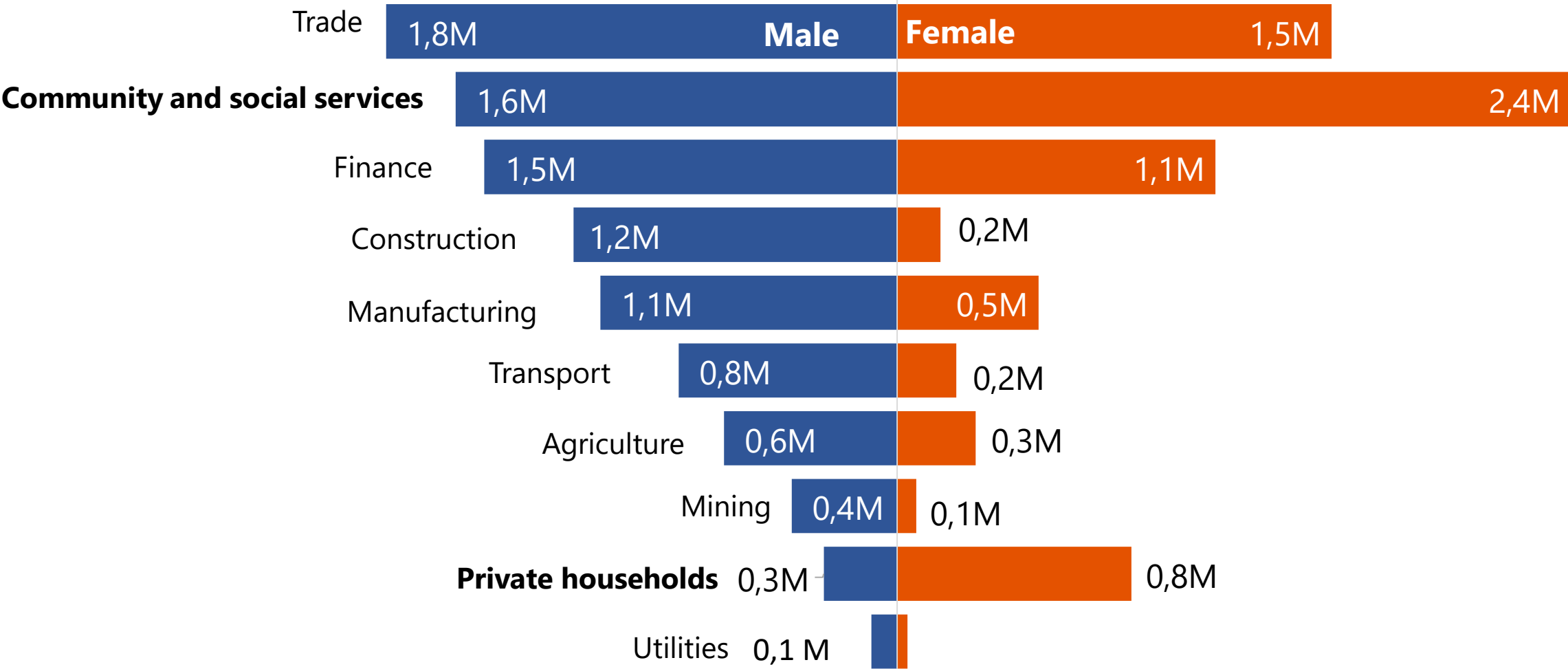# **36,0% of young females** aged 15-24 years were not in employment, education or training (NEET) in Q2: 2023. This is a 1,2 percentage points decrease compared to Q2: 2022

NEET (15-24 years) by gender, Q2:2019-Q2:2023

Female NEET
Down by 1,2 percentage points (year-on-year)

FEMALE NEET 15-24 Years

37,1%

34,1%

36,0%

32,3%

34,2%

34,3%

32,4%

30,5%

MALE NEET

Male NEET
Down by 1,9 percentage points (year-on-year)

Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
2019			2020				2021				2022				2023	

Source: QLFS Q2:2023

stats sa
Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NDP
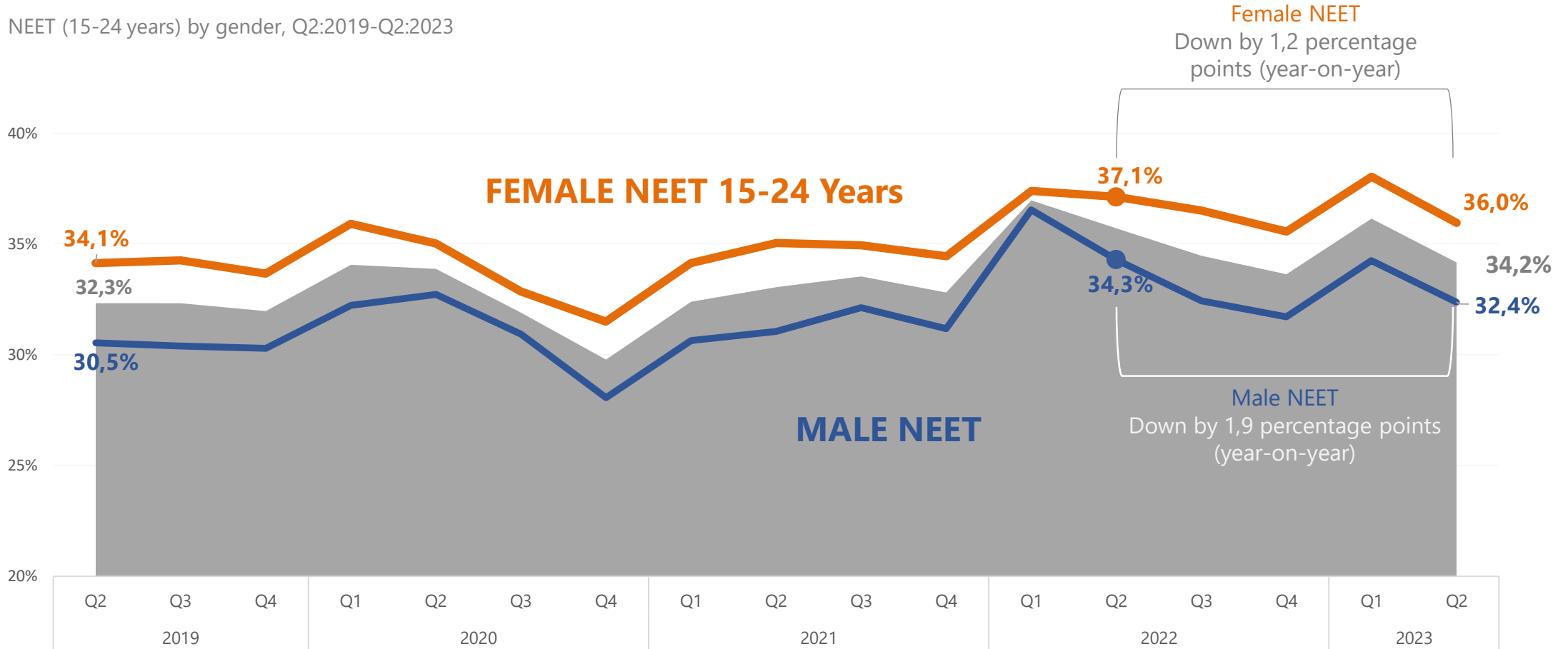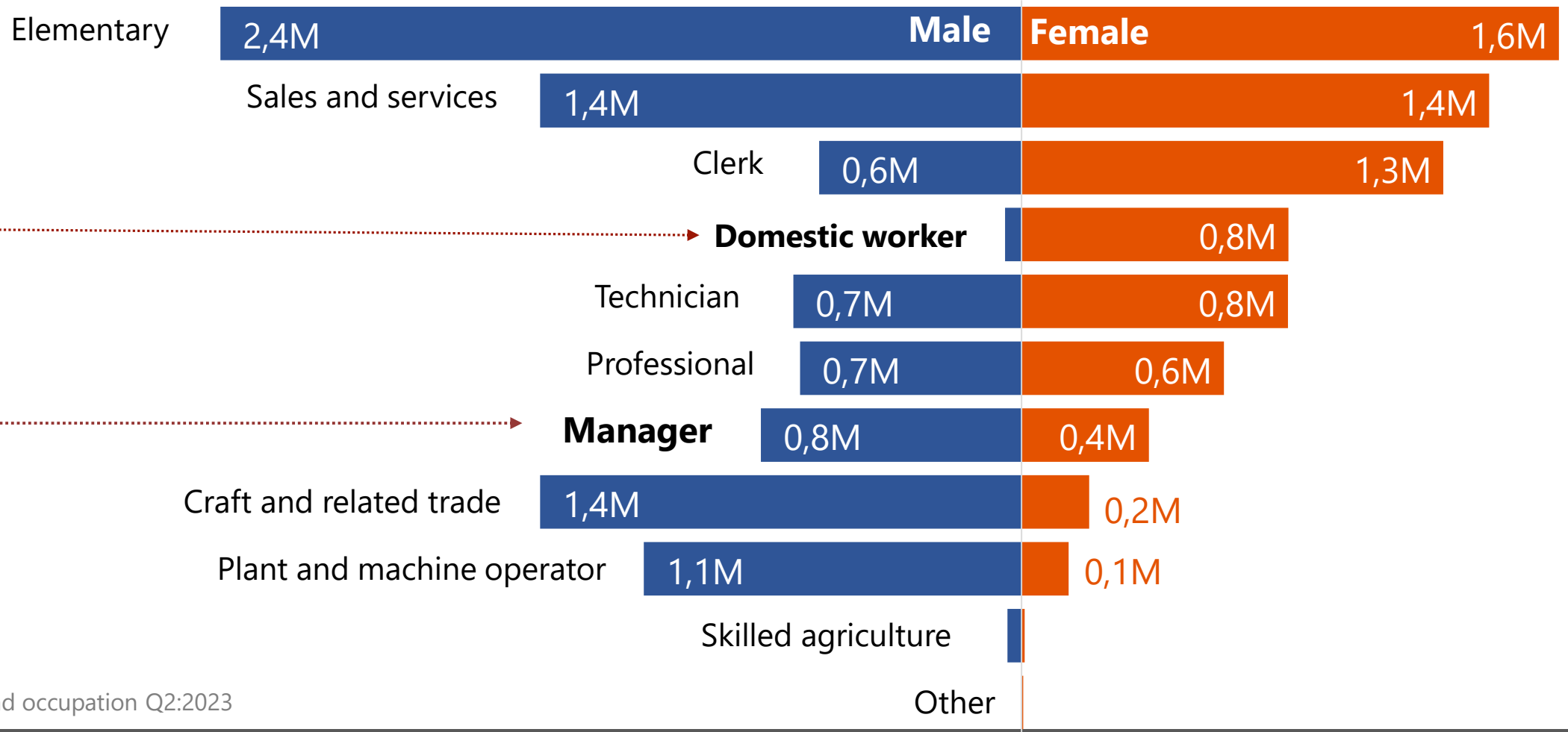
Women were more likely to be employed in Private households and Community & Social services than men

Employed by sex and industry Q2:2023

Industry	Male	Female
Trade	1,8M	1,5M
Community and social services	1,6M	2,4M
Finance	1,5M	1,1M
Construction	1,2M	0,2M
Manufacturing	1,1M	0,5M
Transport	0,8M	0,2M
Agriculture	0,6M	0,3M
Mining	0,4M	0,1M
Private households	0,3M	0,8M
Utilities	0,1 M	

stats sa
Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NDP 2030

Women are more likely to be employed in **domestic work occupations** than men. There are twice as many **men (0,8 million)** in **managerial occupations** than **women (0,4 million)**

Occupation	Male	Female
Elementary	2,4M	1,6M
Sales and services	1,4M	1,4M
Clerk	0,6M	1,3M
Domestic worker		0,8M
Technician	0,7M	0,8M
Professional	0,7M	0,6M
Manager	0,8M	0,4M
Craft and related trade	1,4M	0,2M
Plant and machine operator	1,1M	0,1M
Skilled agriculture		
Other		

Employed by sex and occupation Q2:2023

stats sa
Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

RECAP (QLFS, Q2:2023)

❖ Unemployment rate **decreased** by 0,3 of a percentage point to 32,6% in Q2:2023. Both Absorption and labour force participation rates increased by 0,2 of a percentage point to 40,1% and 59,6% respectively.

❖ The number of those who were employed **increased** by 154 000 in Q2:2023 compared to Q1:2023. The number of those unemployed **decreased** by 11 000 in the same quarter.

❖ The largest **industry employment gains** were recorded in Construction (104 000), Trade (92 000), and Community and social services(63 000).

❖ Women are more likely to be employed in **Private households and community and social services** industries and in domestic work occupations compared to men.

stats sa
Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NDP 2030

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN

CENSUS 2022

NOW IN THE FIELD

Geospatial Information Frame
Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (April 2023-March 2024)
Quarterly Labour Force Survey(Collected quarterly)
General Household Survey (January-December)
Domestic Tourism Survey (January-December)
Consumer Price Index (Collected monthly)
Income and Expenditure Survey 2022/23 (Nov 2022-Nov 2023)

stats sa
Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ndzi hela kwala!

statssa.gov.za   twitter.com/StatsSA   facebook.com/StatsSA

stats sa
Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA