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Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS)
Q3:2022

Risenga Maluleke
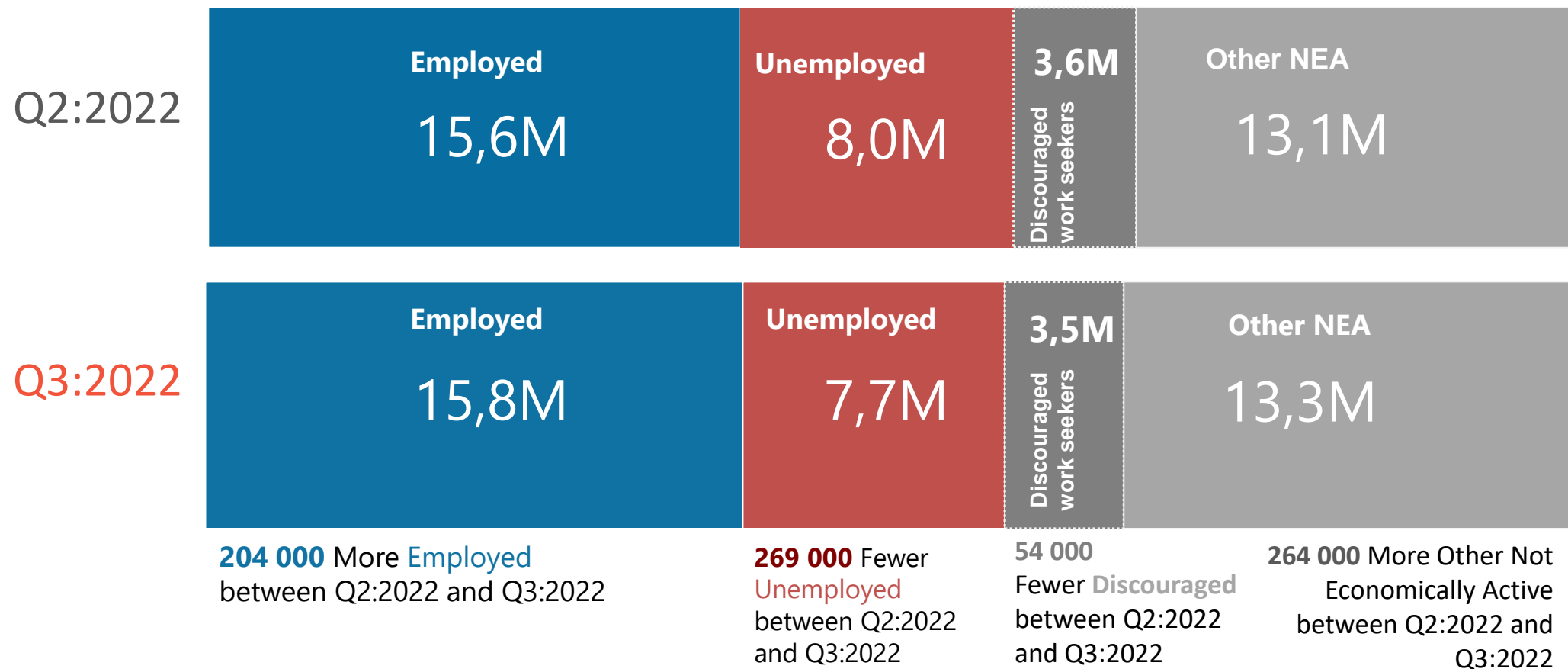Statistician-General

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There were about **269 thousand** less people unemployed in Q3:2022 than in Q2:2022

Not Economically Active (NEA)

Q2:2022	**Employed** 15,6M	**Unemployed** 8,0M	**3,6M** Discouraged work seekers	**Other NEA** 13,1M

Q3:2022	**Employed** 15,8M	**Unemployed** 7,7M	**3,5M** Discouraged work seekers	**Other NEA** 13,3M

204 000 More Employed between Q2:2022 and Q3:2022

269 000 Fewer Unemployed between Q2:2022 and Q3:2022

54 000 Fewer Discouraged between Q2:2022 and Q3:2022

264 000 More Other Not Economically Active between Q2:2022 and Q3:2022

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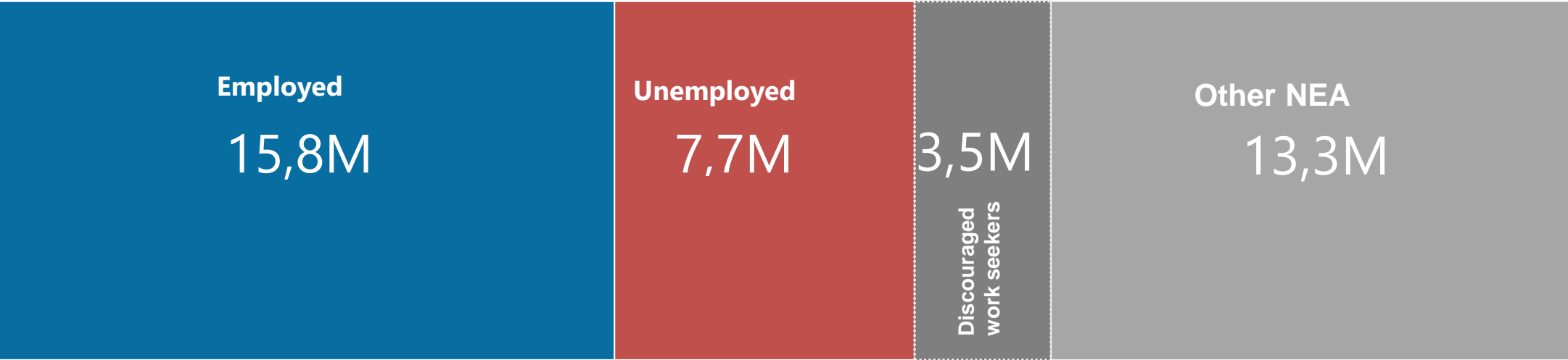# There were about **204 thousand** more people employed in Q3:2022 than in Q2:2022

40,3 million
People of working age in South Africa (15 – 64-year-old)

Labour force

Not **Economically** Active

23,5 million

16,8 million

Employed	Unemployed	Discouraged work seekers	Other NEA
15,8M	7,7M	3,5M	13,3M

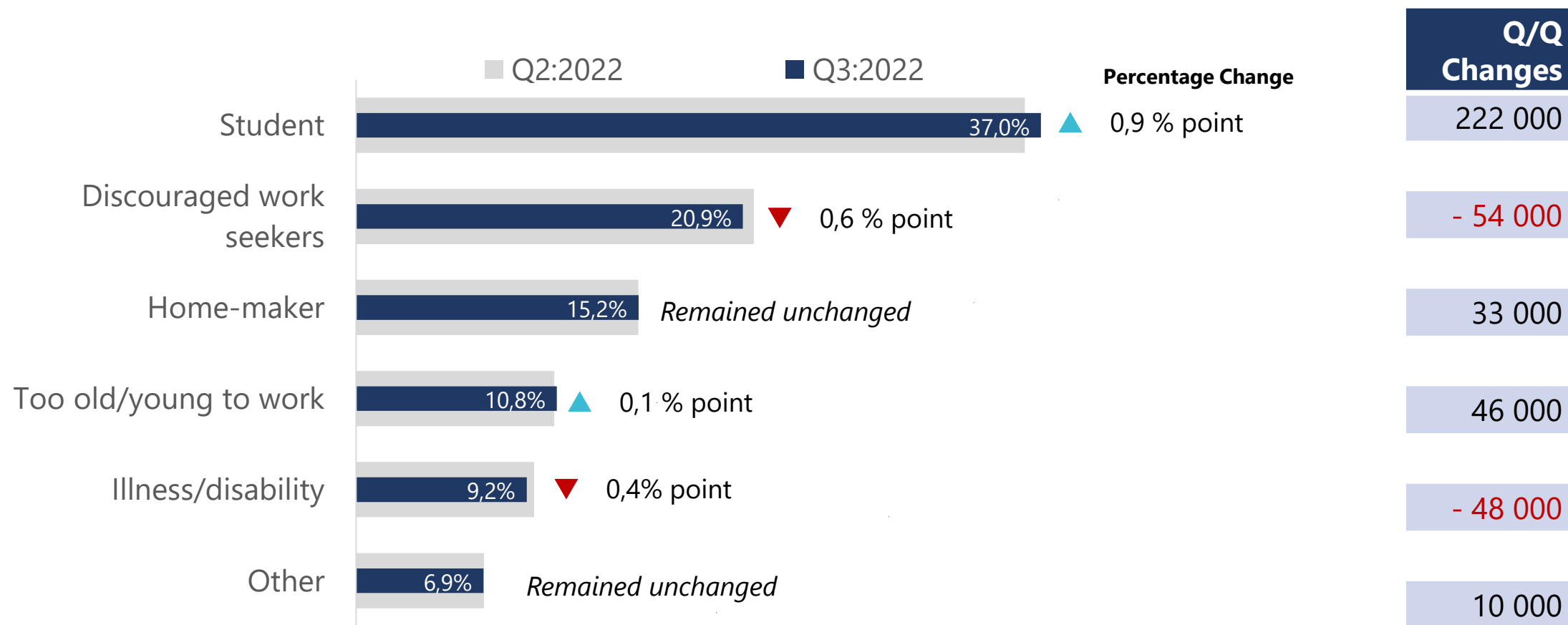**SA's official unemployment rate stands at**

32,9%

Decreased by 1,0 percentage point between Q2:2022 and Q3:2022

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

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The number of **Not Economically Active** persons **increased by 210 000** in Q3:2022 compared to Q2:2022

Characteristics of the not economically active, Q2:2022 vs Q3:2022

	Q/Q Changes
	222 000
	- 54 000
	33 000
	46 000
	- 48 000
	10 000

Percentage Change

Student — Q2:2022 / Q3:2022 37,0% ▲ 0,9 % point

Discouraged work seekers — 20,9% ▼ 0,6 % point

Home-maker — 15,2% *Remained unchanged*

Too old/young to work — 10,8% ▲ 0,1 % point

Illness/disability — 9,2% ▼ 0,4% point

Other — 6,9% *Remained unchanged*

Due to rounding numbers may not add up

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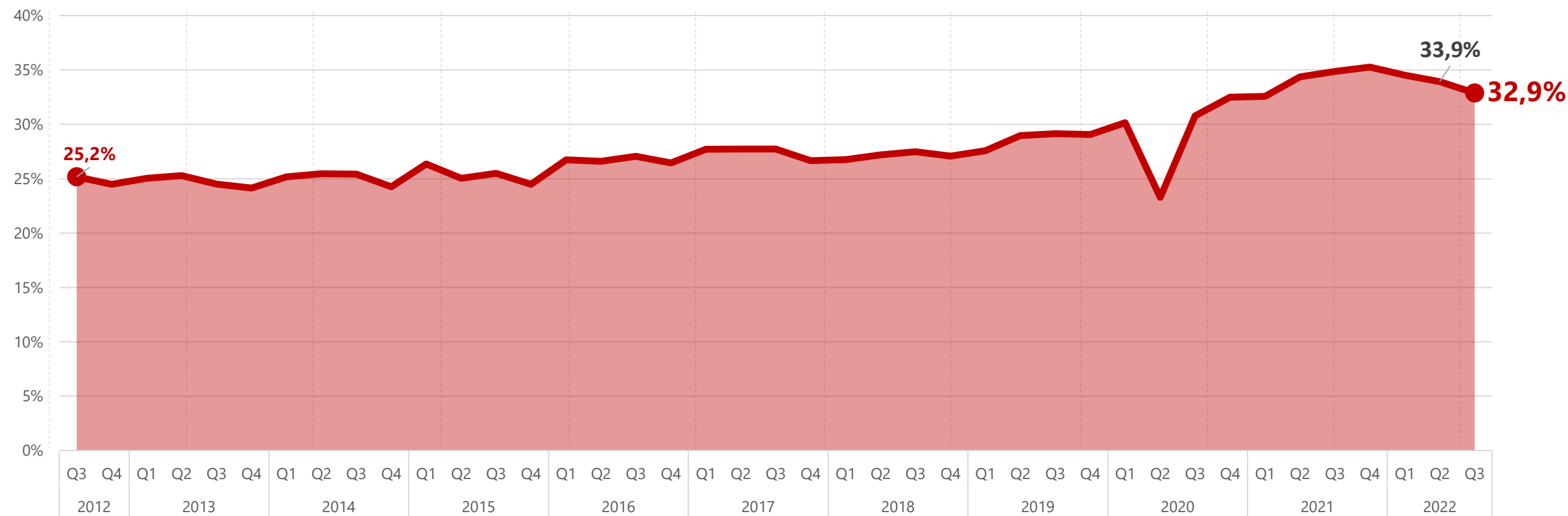REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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The **Labour force participation rate** decreased by 0,3 of a percentage point from 58,6% in Q2:2022 to 58,3% in Q3:2022

Labour force participation and absorption rates Q3:2012-Q3:2022

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

14,3% Points difference

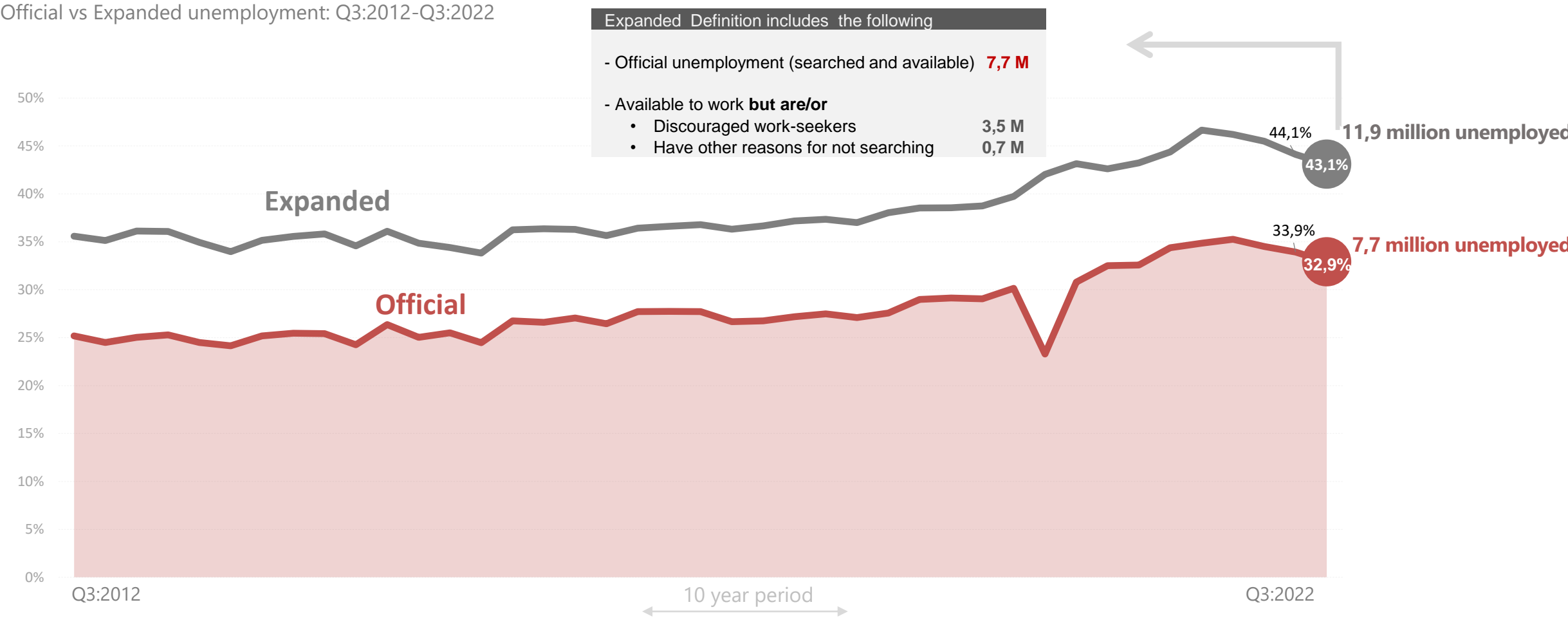19,2% Points difference

56,8%

58,3%

58,6%

42,5%

39,1%

38,7%
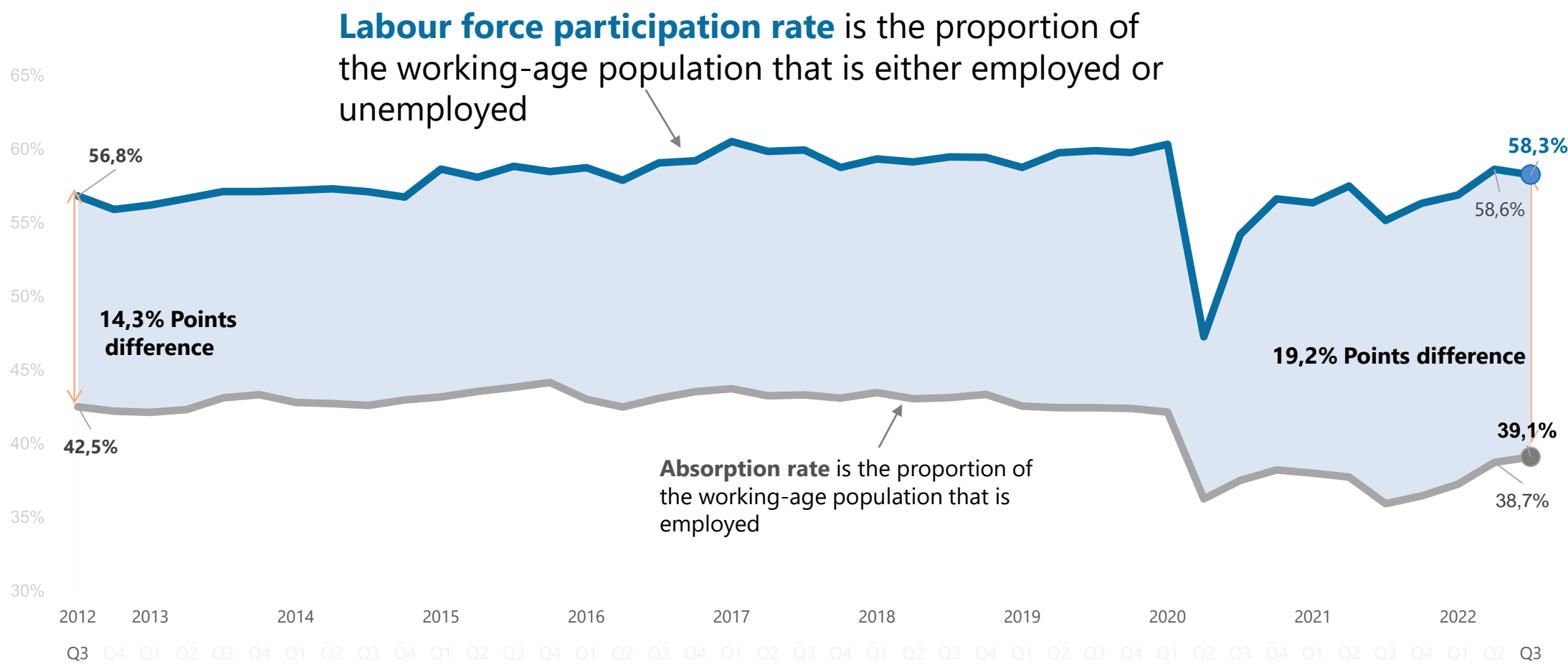
South Africa's **unemployment rate decreased** by 1,0 percentage point to **32,9%** in Q3:2022 compared to Q2:2022.

Unemployment rate trends: Q3:2012 to Q3:2022

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Quarterly Labour Force Survey Q3:2022

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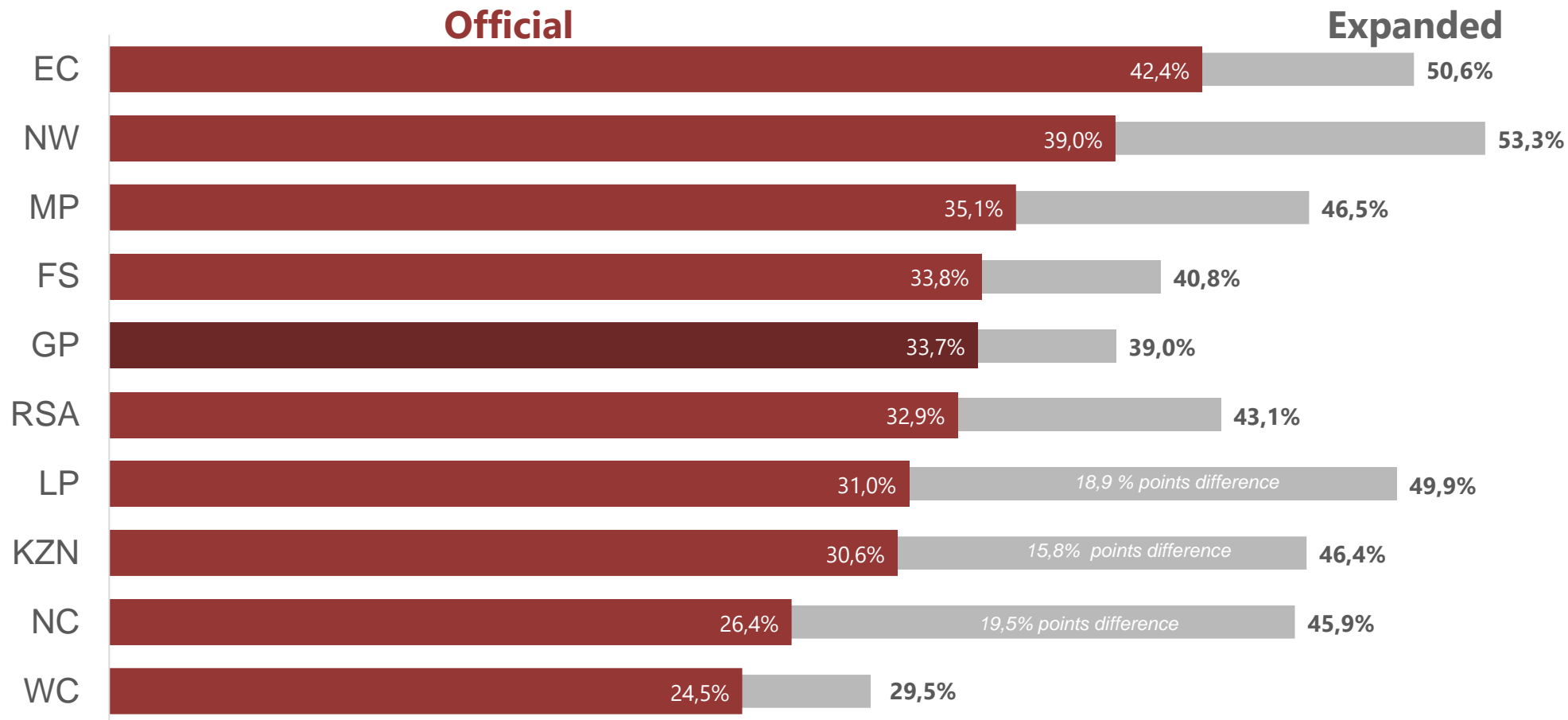REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Expanded unemployment rate **decreased by 1,0** percentage point to **43,1%** in Q3:2022 compared to Q2:2022.

Official vs Expanded unemployment: Q3:2012-Q3:2022

Expanded Definition includes the following	
- Official unemployment (searched and available)	**7,7 M**
- Available to work **but are/or**	
• Discouraged work-seekers	**3,5 M**
• Have other reasons for not searching	**0,7 M**

11,9 million unemployed

44,1%

43,1%

Expanded

33,9%

7,7 million unemployed

32,9%

Official

Q3:2012

10 year period

Q3:2022

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NW (53,3%) recorded the **highest expanded unemployment rate** in Q3:2022, followed by EC (50,6%).
NC, LP and KZN recorded more than 15 percentage points difference between expanded and official unemployment rates

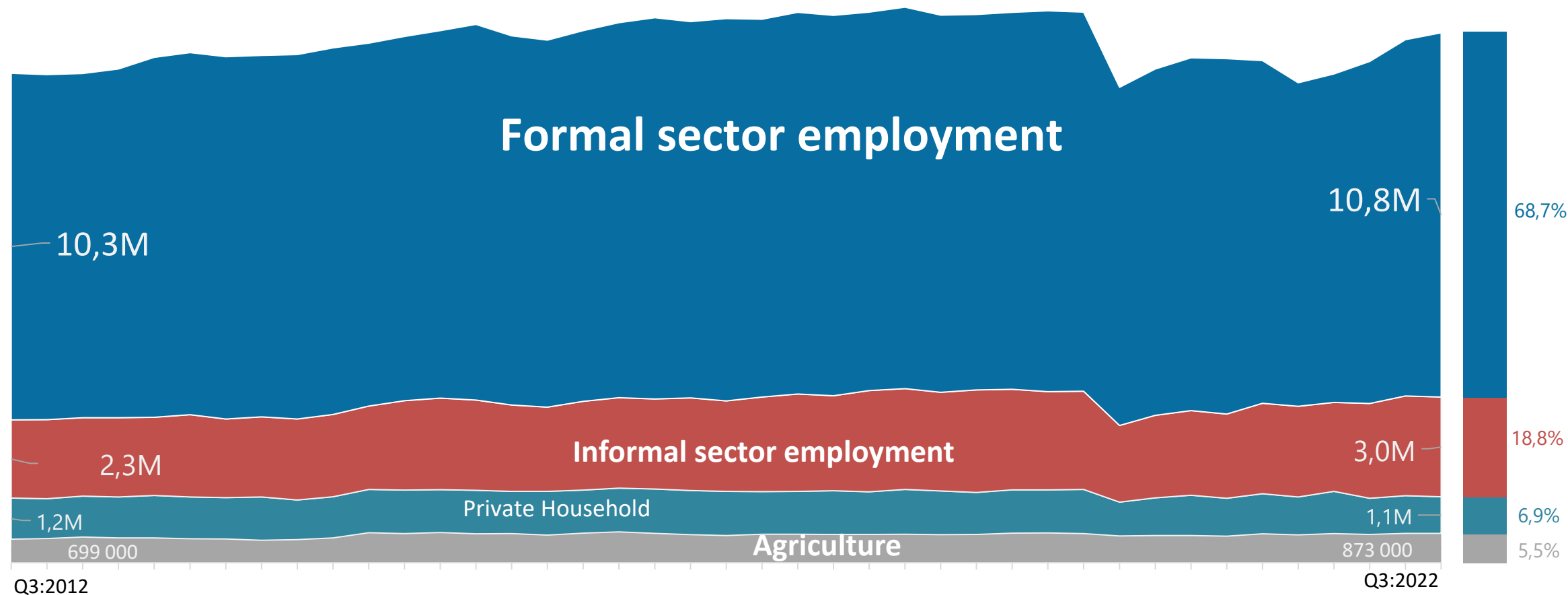Provincial unemployment rate: Official vs Expanded Q2:2022

Official   **Expanded**

Province	Official	Expanded
EC	42,4%	50,6%
NW	39,0%	53,3%
MP	35,1%	46,5%
FS	33,8%	40,8%
GP	33,7%	39,0%
RSA	32,9%	43,1%
LP	31,0%	49,9% (18,9 % points difference)
KZN	30,6%	46,4% (15,8% points difference)
NC	26,4%	45,9% (19,5% points difference)
WC	24,5%	29,5%

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The number of unemployed people in South Africa increased from 4,9 million in Q3:2012 to 7,7 million in Q3:2022. *The proportion of those in long-term unemployment increased from 67,3% in Q3:2012 to **77,0%** in Q3:2022*

*Long term unemployment –unemployed for a year or longer

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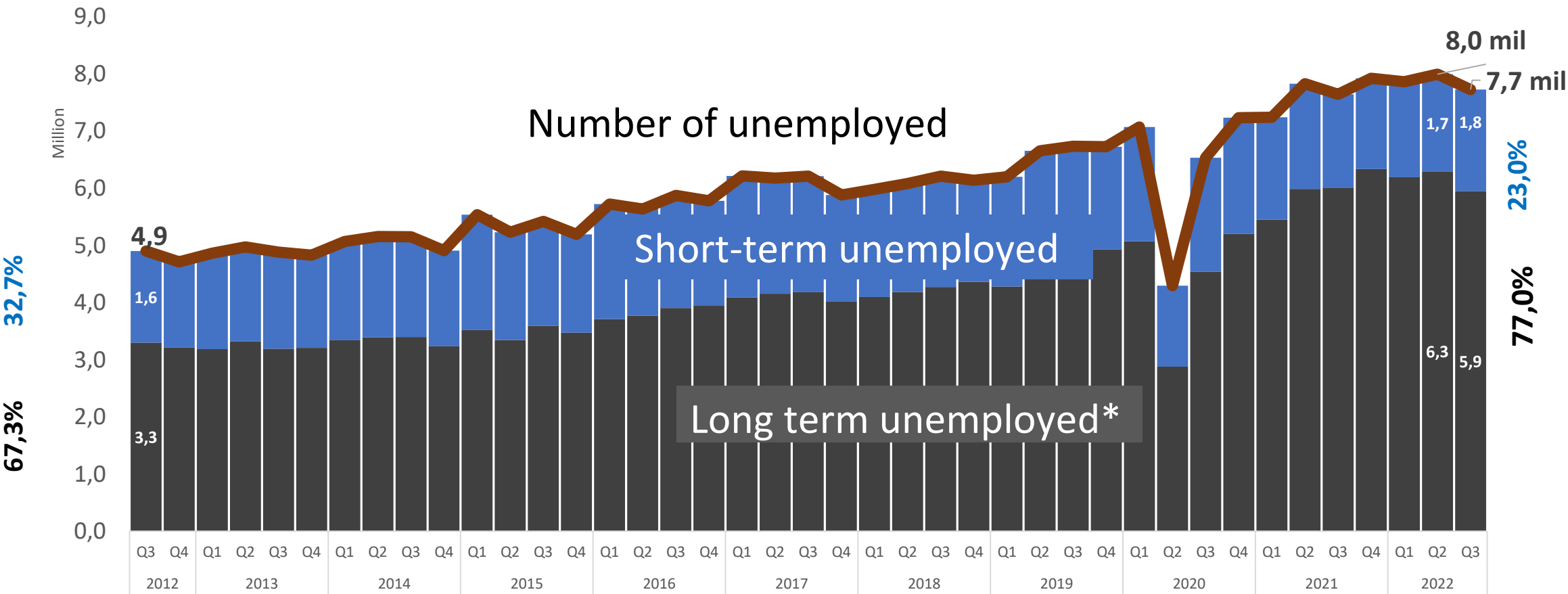
The **formal sector** in South Africa accounts for **68,7%** of total employment.

Employment share by sector, Q3:2012 to Q3:2022

Formal sector employment

10,3M

10,8M

68,7%

Informal sector employment

2,3M

3,0M

18,8%

Private Household

1,2M

1,1M

6,9%

Agriculture

699 000

873 000

5,5%

Q3:2012

Q3:2022

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Formal and Informal sector employment increased by **235 000 and 6 000** jobs respectively between Q2:2022 and Q3:2022.
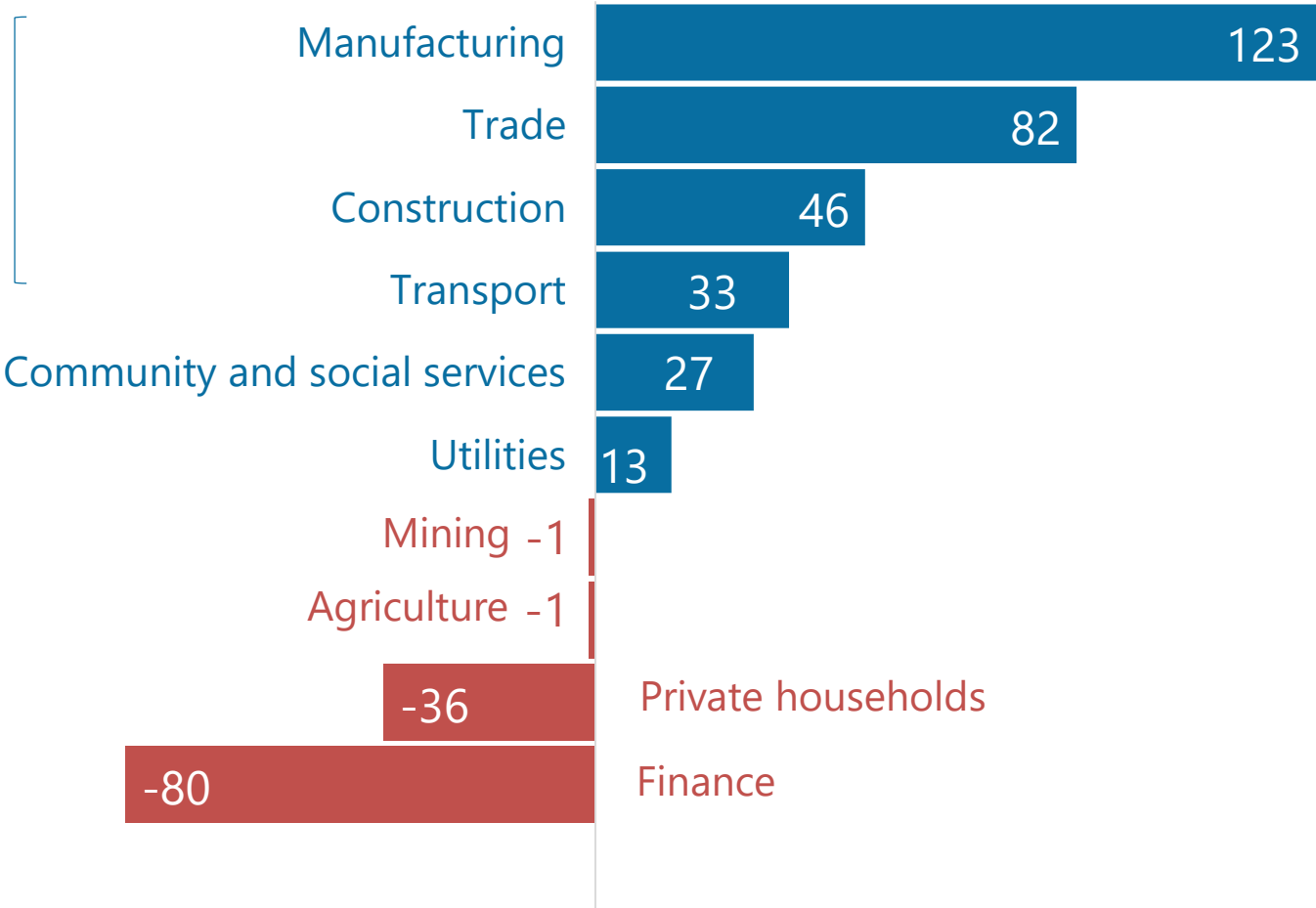
Employment changes by sector, (Quarter-on-quarter)
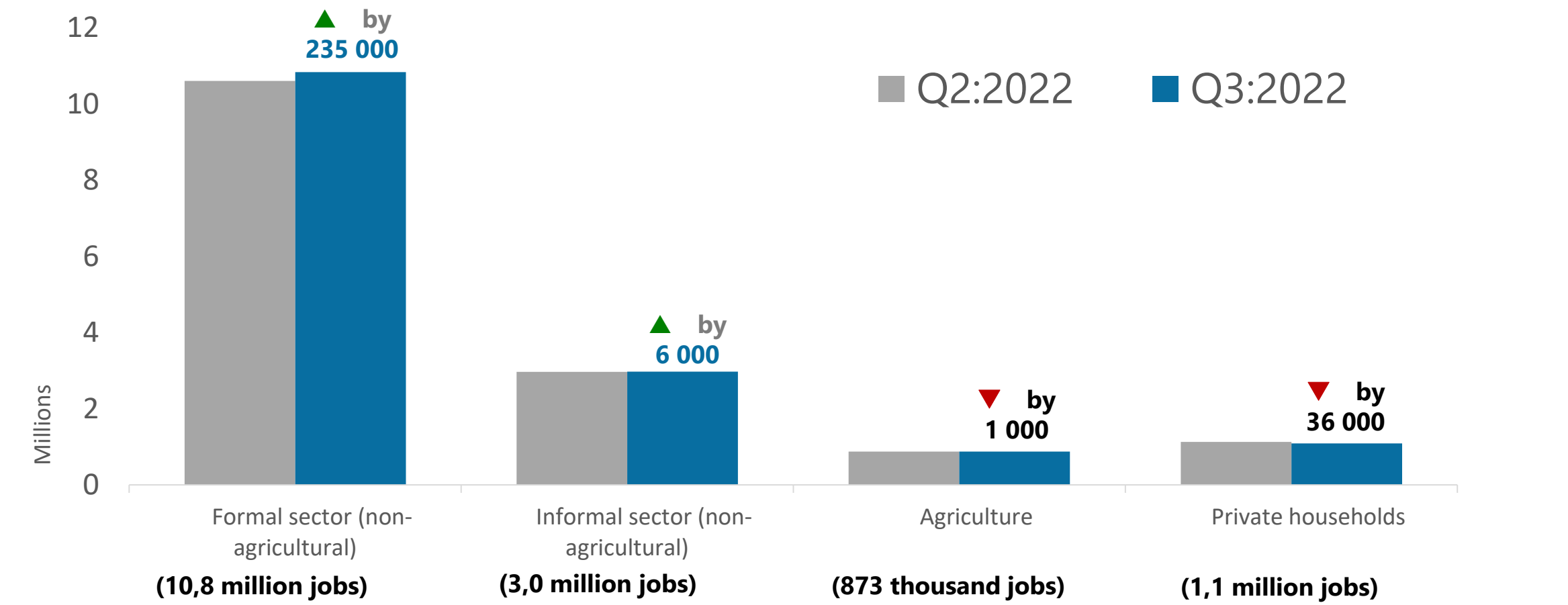
Employment **increased by 204 000** in Q3:2022 compared to Q2:2022.

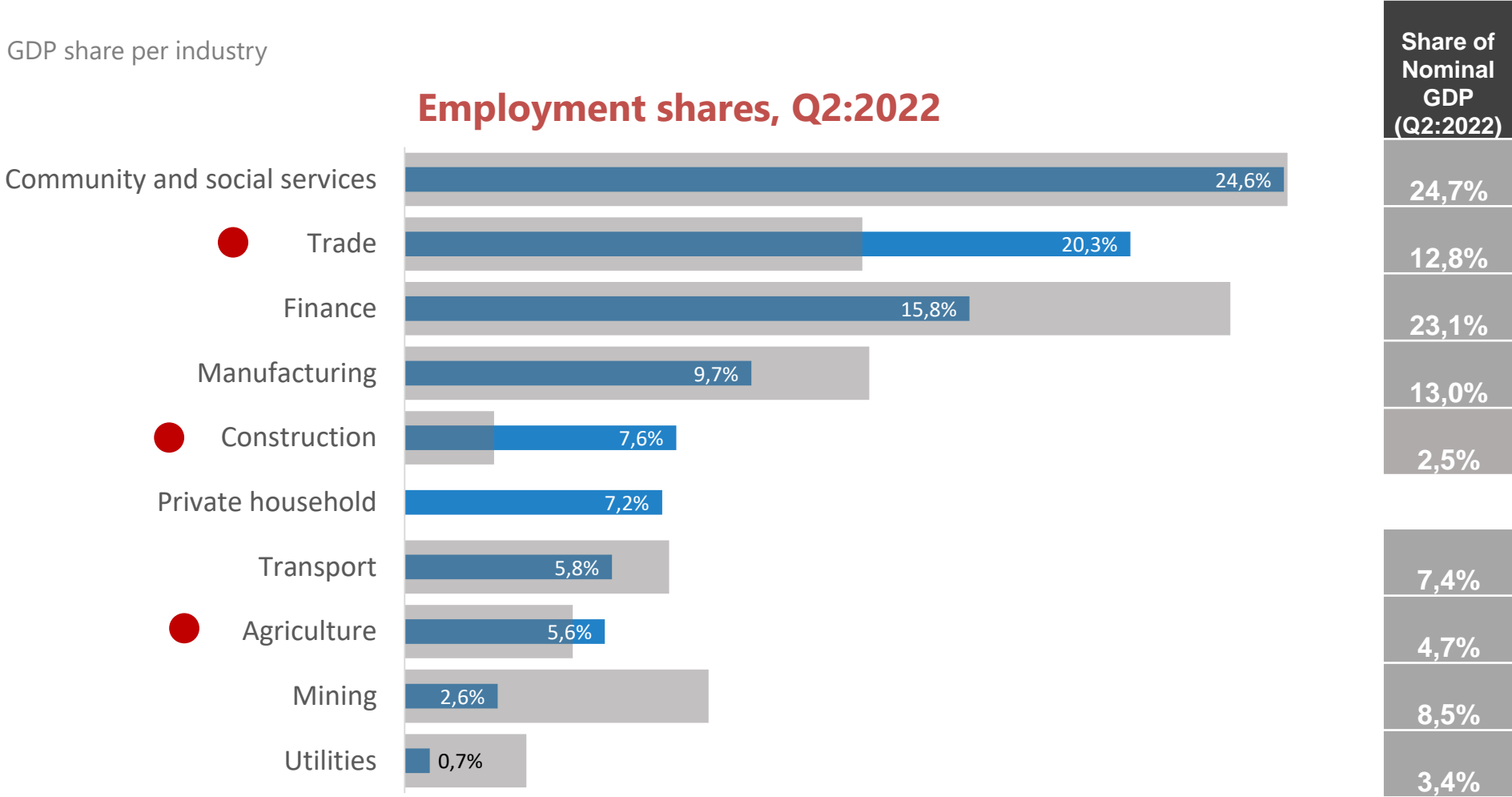Employment changes by industry, **Quarter-on-quarter change ('000)**

Increases in employment were mainly in **Manufacturing, Trade, Construction**

Industry	Change	Percentage change
Manufacturing	123	8,2%
Trade	82	2,6%
Construction	46	3,9%
Transport	33	3,6%
Community and social services	27	0,7%
Utilities	13	12,2%
Mining	-1	-0,2%
Agriculture	-1	-0,1%
Private households	-36	-3,2%
Finance	-80	-3,2%

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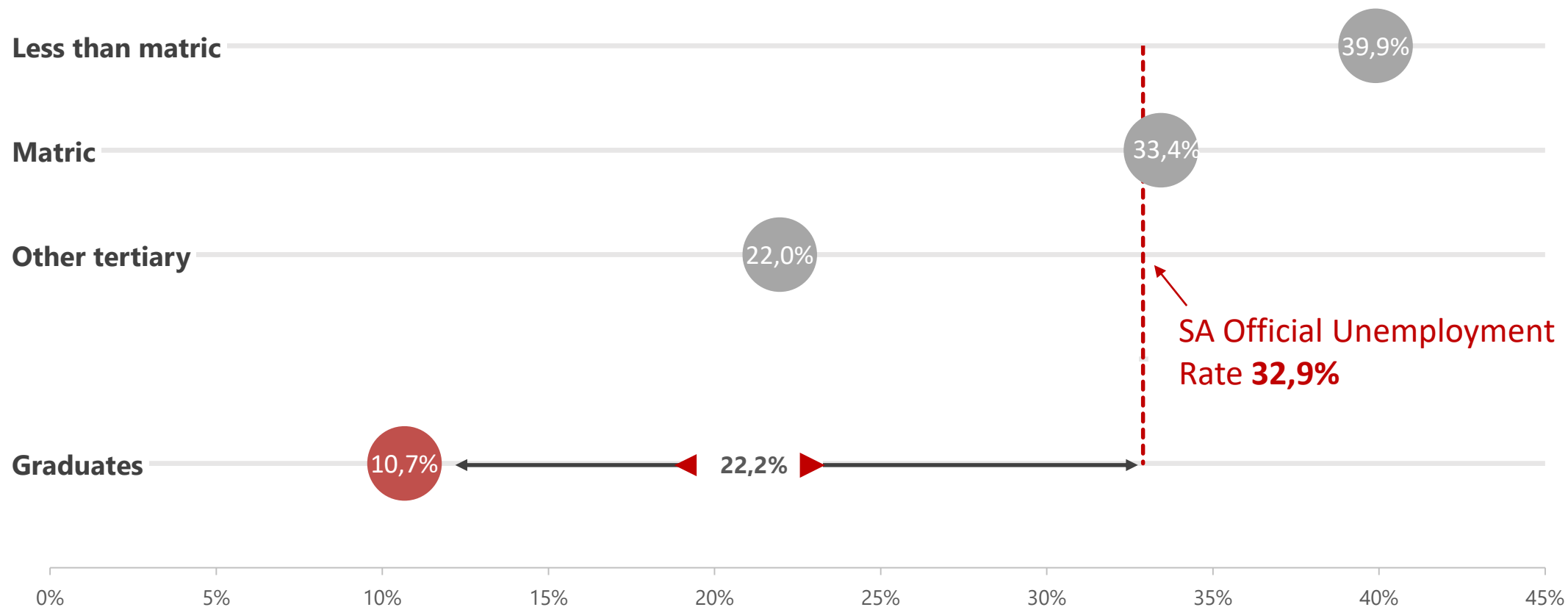Statistics South Africa
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Trade, construction and agriculture have higher employment shares relative to their GDP contribution.

Employment and GDP share per industry

Employment shares, Q2:2022

Industry	Employment share	Share of Nominal GDP (Q2:2022)
Community and social services	24,6%	24,7%
● Trade	20,3%	12,8%
Finance	15,8%	23,1%
Manufacturing	9,7%	13,0%
● Construction	7,6%	2,5%
Private household	7,2%	
Transport	5,8%	7,4%
● Agriculture	5,6%	4,7%
Mining	2,6%	8,5%
Utilities	0,7%	3,4%

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Graduate unemployment rate (10,7%) is 22,2 percentage points lower than the national official unemployment rate.

Official Unemployment rate Q3:2022

Less than matric — 39,9%

Matric — 33,4%

Other tertiary — 22,0%

SA Official Unemployment Rate **32,9%**

Graduates — 10,7% ◄ 22,2% ►

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

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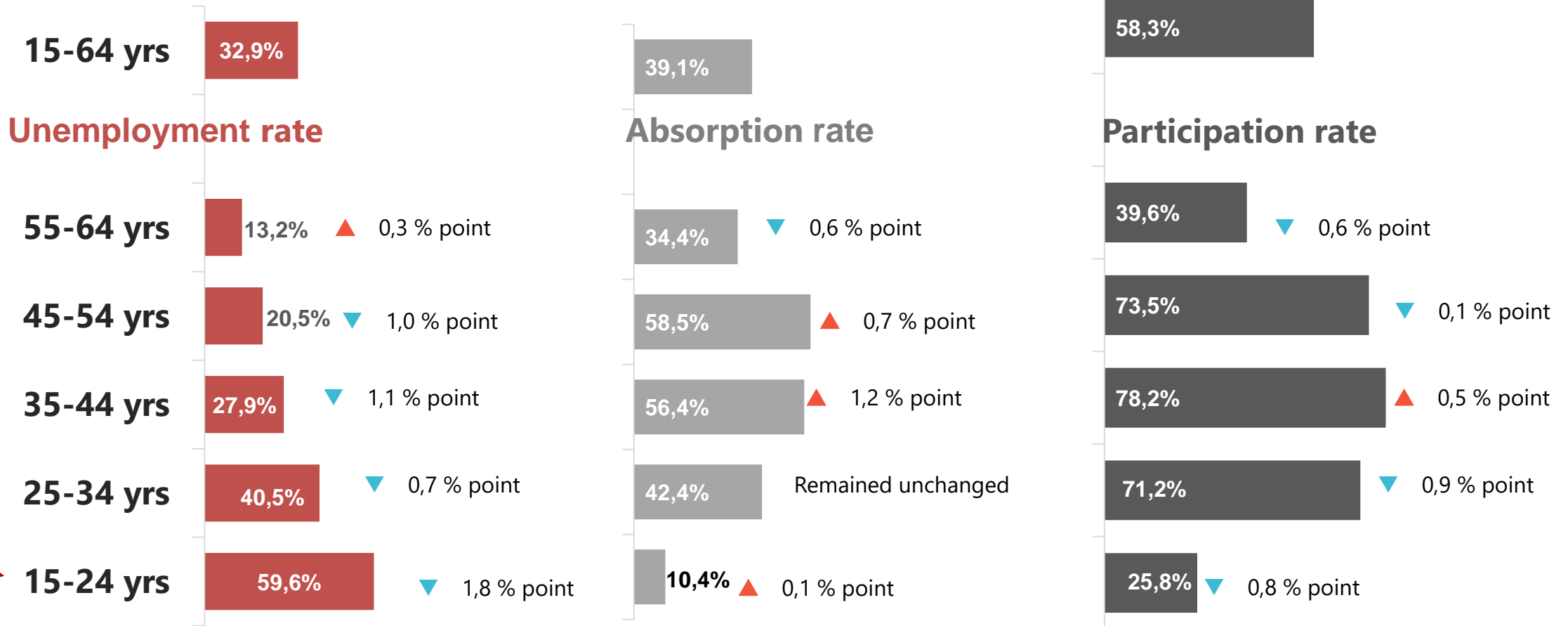
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Youth aged 15-24 years and 25-34 years recorded the highest unemployment rates of 59,6% and 40,5% respectively.

Labour market rates by age group, Q3:2022

▲▼ Change: Percentage points
Q2:2022 to Q3:2022

Unemployment rate

Age group	Rate	Change
15-64 yrs	32,9%	
55-64 yrs	13,2%	▲ 0,3 % point
45-54 yrs	20,5%	▼ 1,0 % point
35-44 yrs	27,9%	▼ 1,1 % point
25-34 yrs	40,5%	▼ 0,7 % point
15-24 yrs	59,6%	▼ 1,8 % point

Absorption rate

Rate	Change
39,1%	
34,4%	▼ 0,6 % point
58,5%	▲ 0,7 % point
56,4%	▲ 1,2 % point
42,4%	Remained unchanged
10,4%	▲ 0,1 % point

Participation rate

Rate	Change
58,3%	
39,6%	▼ 0,6 % point
73,5%	▼ 0,1 % point
78,2%	▲ 0,5 % point
71,2%	▼ 0,9 % point
25,8%	▼ 0,8 % point

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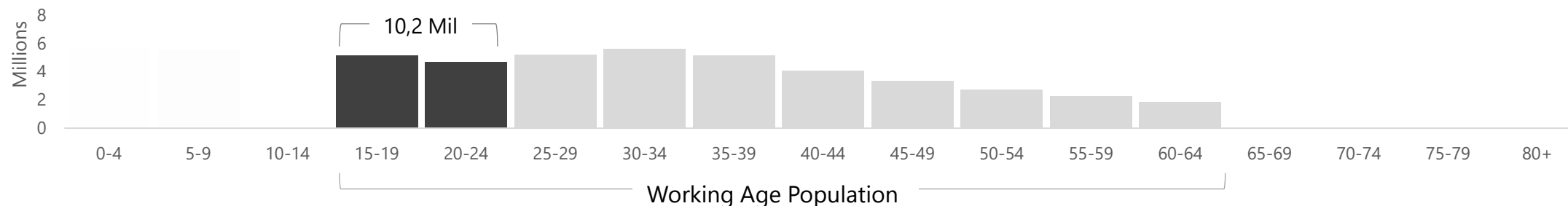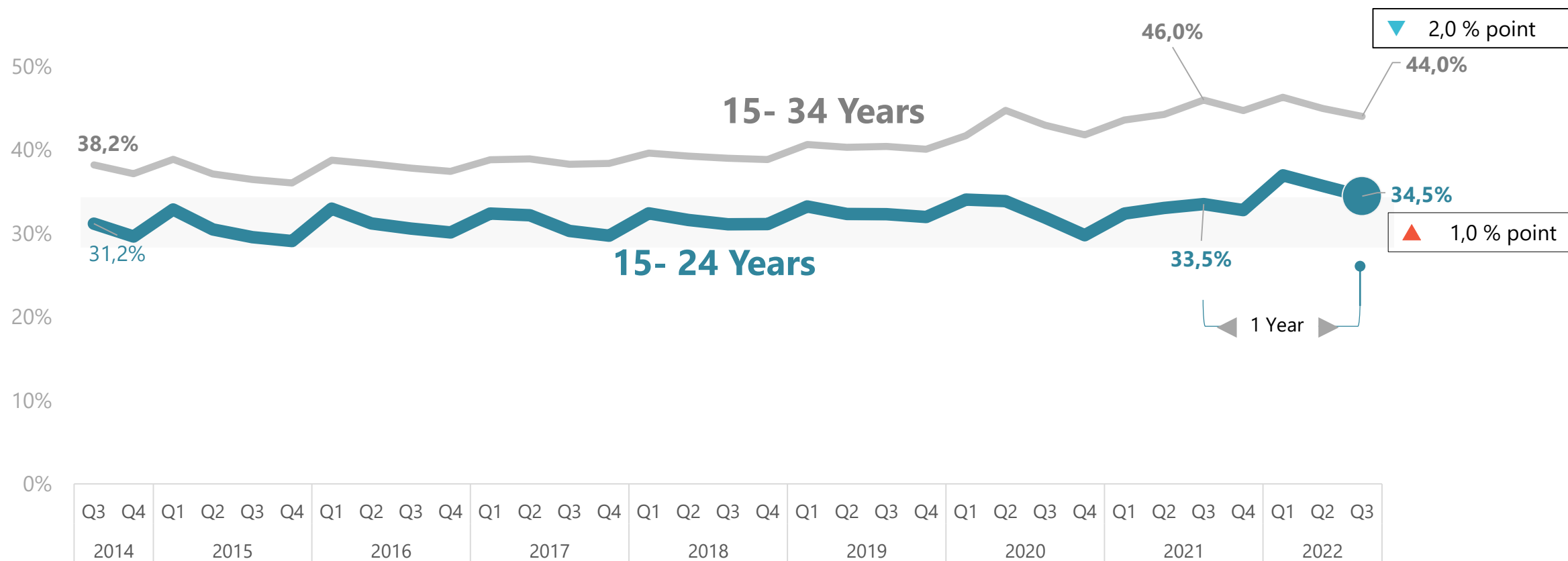

Number of NEET for ages 15-24 Q3:2022

3,5 Mil NEET

6,7 Mil Employed or in Education or Training

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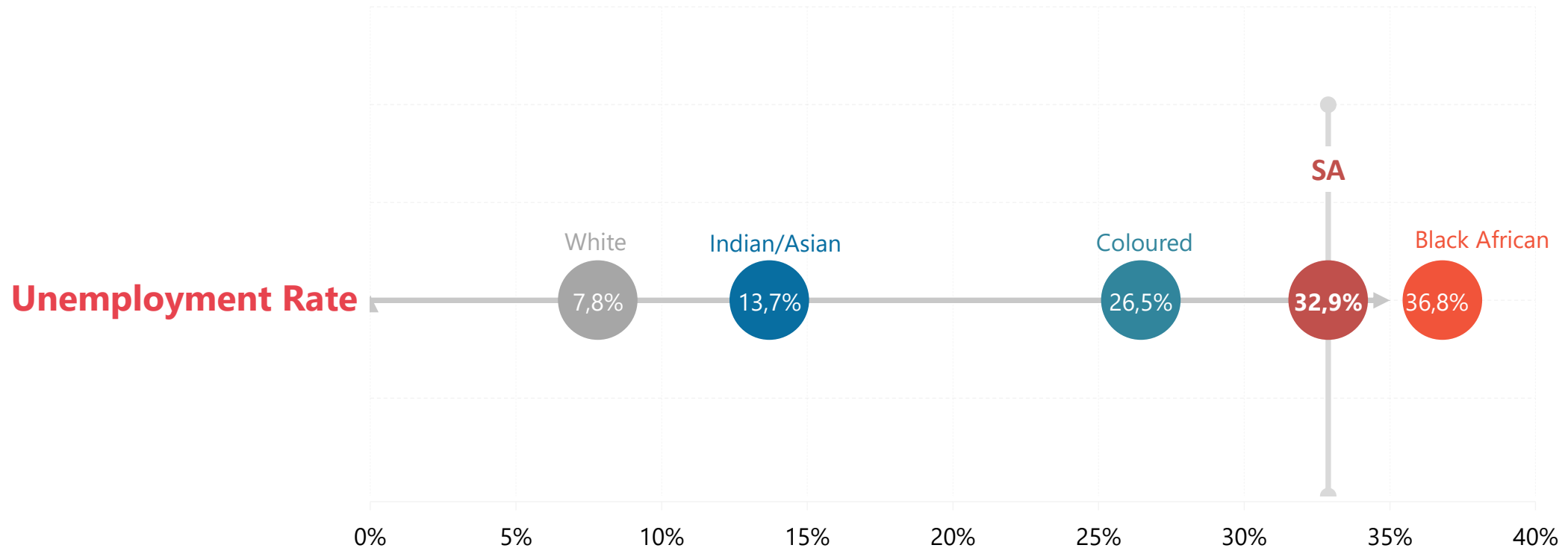REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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The overall NEET rate (15 – 24) increased by 1,0 percentage point in Q3:2022 compared to Q3:2021.

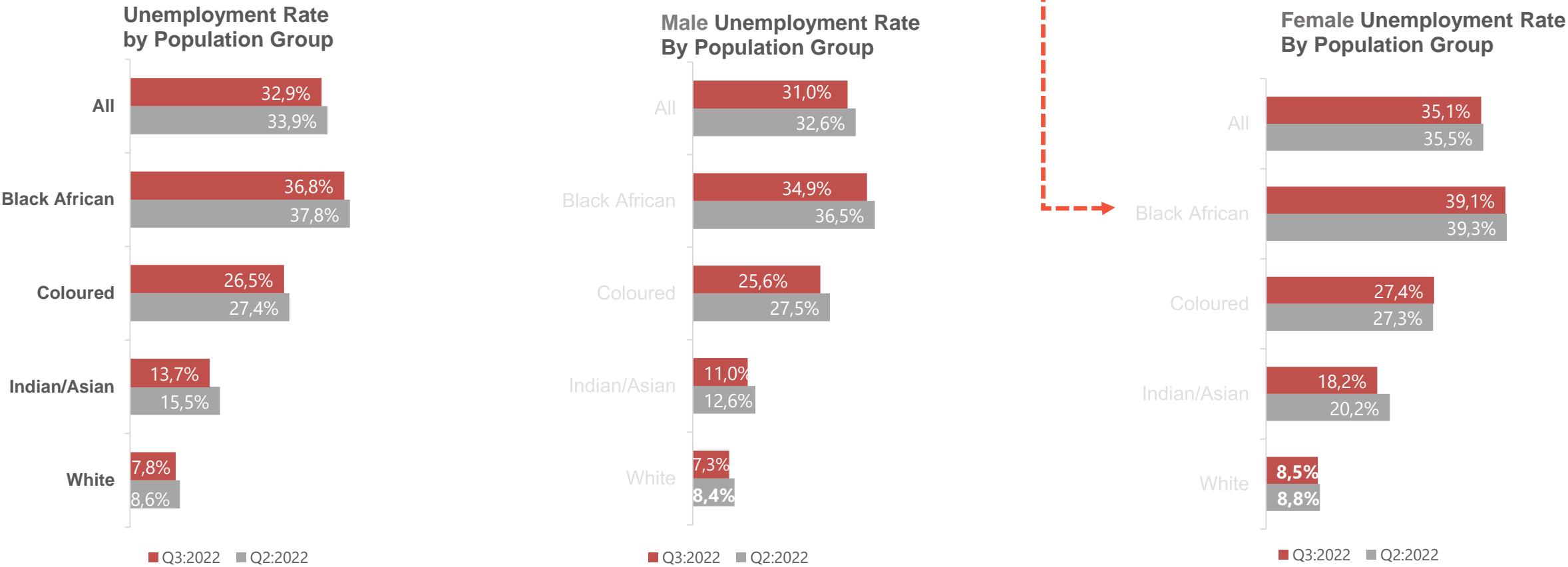2014-2022 NEET rate for ages 15-24 & 15-34

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

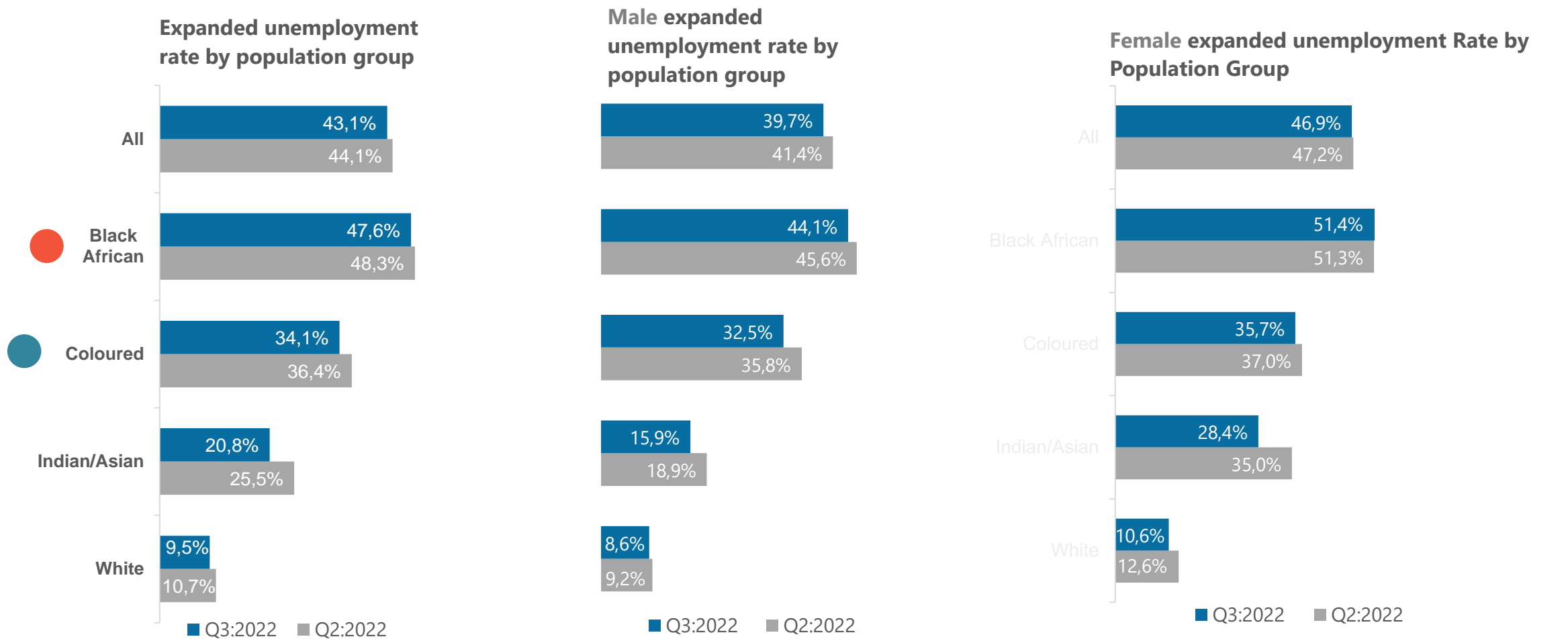*OFFICIAL unemployment rate by population group, Q3:2022*

Black African women are the most vulnerable with an **unemployment rate** of **39,1%** in Q3:2022. *This is 4,0 percentage points higher than the national average for women at 35,1%.*

OFFICIAL *unemployment rate by population group and sex, Q3:2022*

Unemployment Rate by Population Group

Group	Q3:2022	Q2:2022
All	32,9%	33,9%
Black African	36,8%	37,8%
Coloured	26,5%	27,4%
Indian/Asian	13,7%	15,5%
White	7,8%	8,6%

Male Unemployment Rate By Population Group

Group	Q3:2022	Q2:2022
All	31,0%	32,6%
Black African	34,9%	36,5%
Coloured	25,6%	27,5%
Indian/Asian	11,0%	12,6%
White	7,3%	8,4%

Female Unemployment Rate By Population Group

Group	Q3:2022	Q2:2022
All	35,1%	35,5%
Black African	39,1%	39,3%
Coloured	27,4%	27,3%
Indian/Asian	18,2%	20,2%
White	8,5%	8,8%

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Black African and **Coloured** population groups remain vulnerable in the labour market.

EXPANDED unemployment rate by population group and sex

Expanded unemployment rate by population group

Population Group	Q3:2022	Q2:2022
All	43,1%	44,1%
Black African	47,6%	48,3%
Coloured	34,1%	36,4%
Indian/Asian	20,8%	25,5%
White	9,5%	10,7%

Male expanded unemployment rate by population group

Population Group	Q3:2022	Q2:2022
All	39,7%	41,4%
Black African	44,1%	45,6%
Coloured	32,5%	35,8%
Indian/Asian	15,9%	18,9%
White	8,6%	9,2%

Female expanded unemployment Rate by Population Group

Population Group	Q3:2022	Q2:2022
All	46,9%	47,2%
Black African	51,4%	51,3%
Coloured	35,7%	37,0%
Indian/Asian	28,4%	35,0%
White	10,6%	12,6%

RECAP
(QLFS, Q3:2022)

❖ Unemployment rate **decreased** by 1,0 percentage point to 32,9%. The Absorption rate (39,1%) increased by 0,4 of a percentage point and labour force participation rate (58,3%) decreased by 0,3 of a percentage point.

❖ The number of those **unemployed** and those **discouraged** decreased by 269 000 and 54 000 respectively in Q3:2022 compared to Q2:2022. The not economically active increased by 264 000 in the same quarter.

❖ The largest **employment gains** were recorded in Manufacturing (123 000),
Trade (82 000), Construction (46 000).

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CENSUS 2022

Geospatial Information Frame

Quarterly Labour Force Survey (Collected quarterly)

General Household Survey (January – December)

Domestic Tourism Survey (January – December)

Consumer Price Index

Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (April 2022 - March 2023)

Income and Expenditure Survey (over 12 months, November 2022 –November 2023)

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