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Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) Q4:2023

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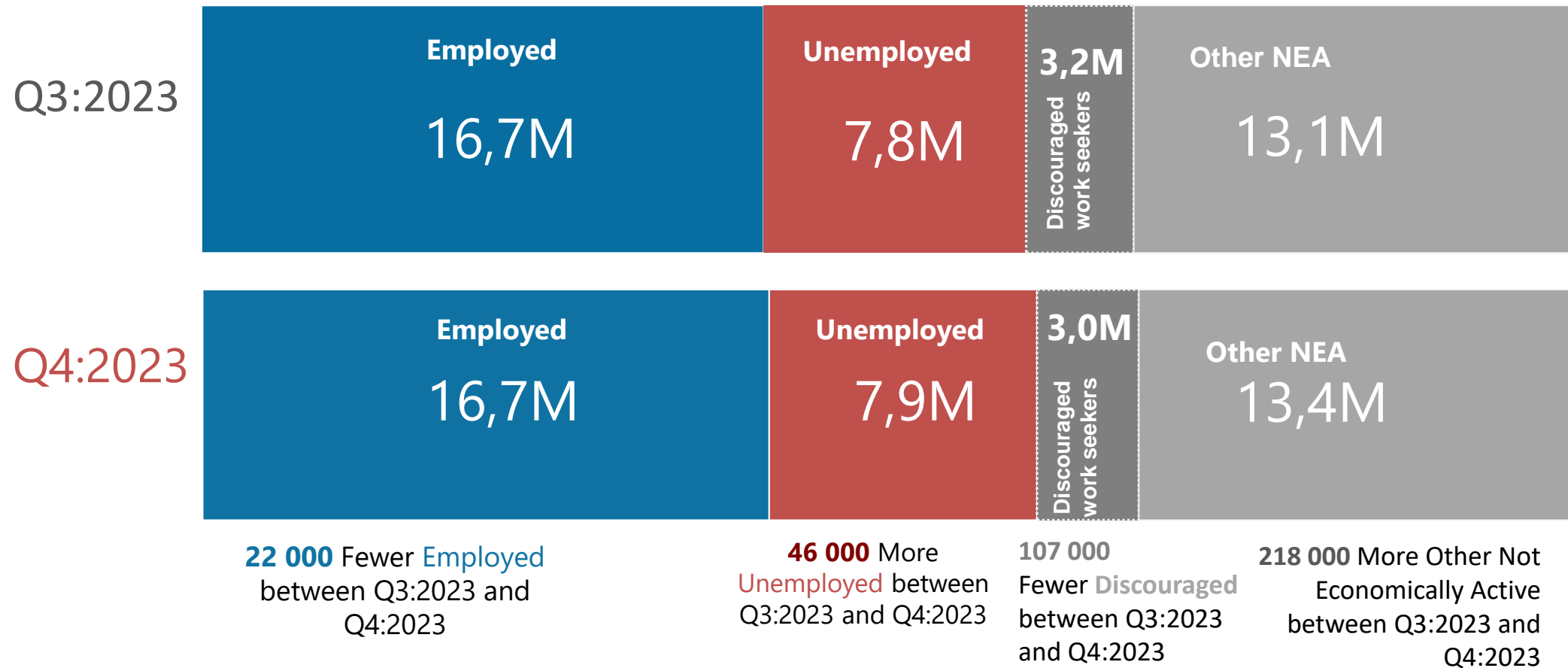
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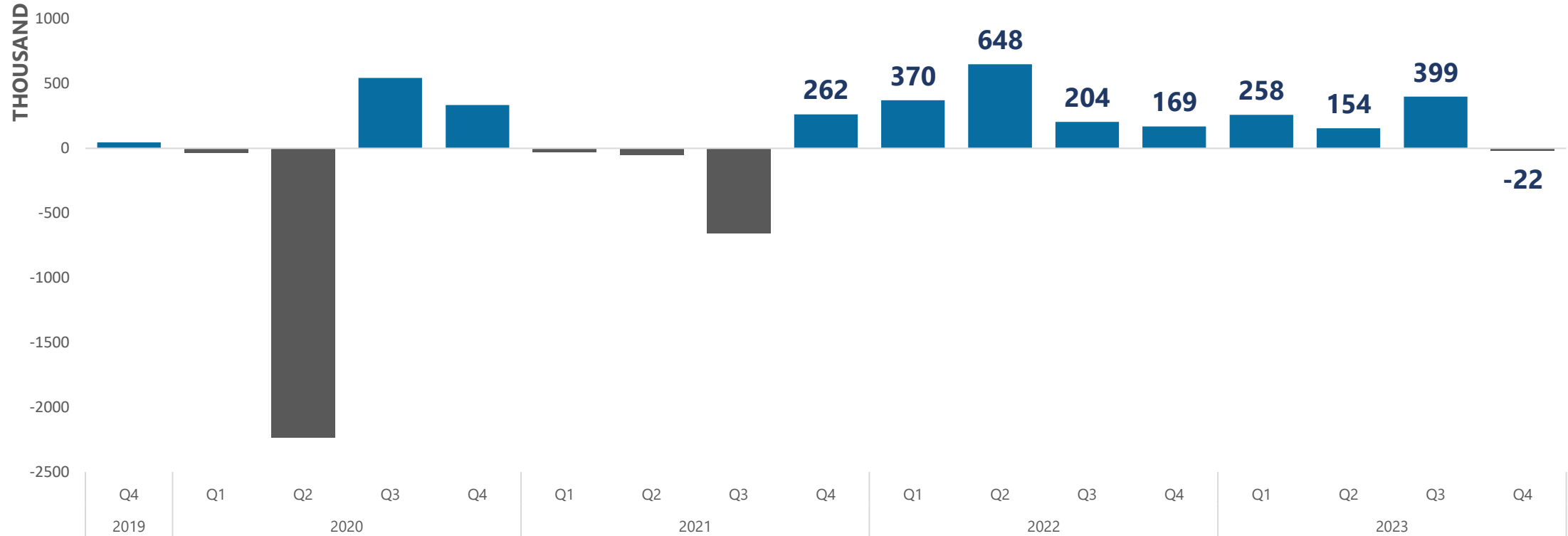
Total employment decreased by **22 thousand** to **16,7 M** in Q4:2023

Not Economically Active (NEA)



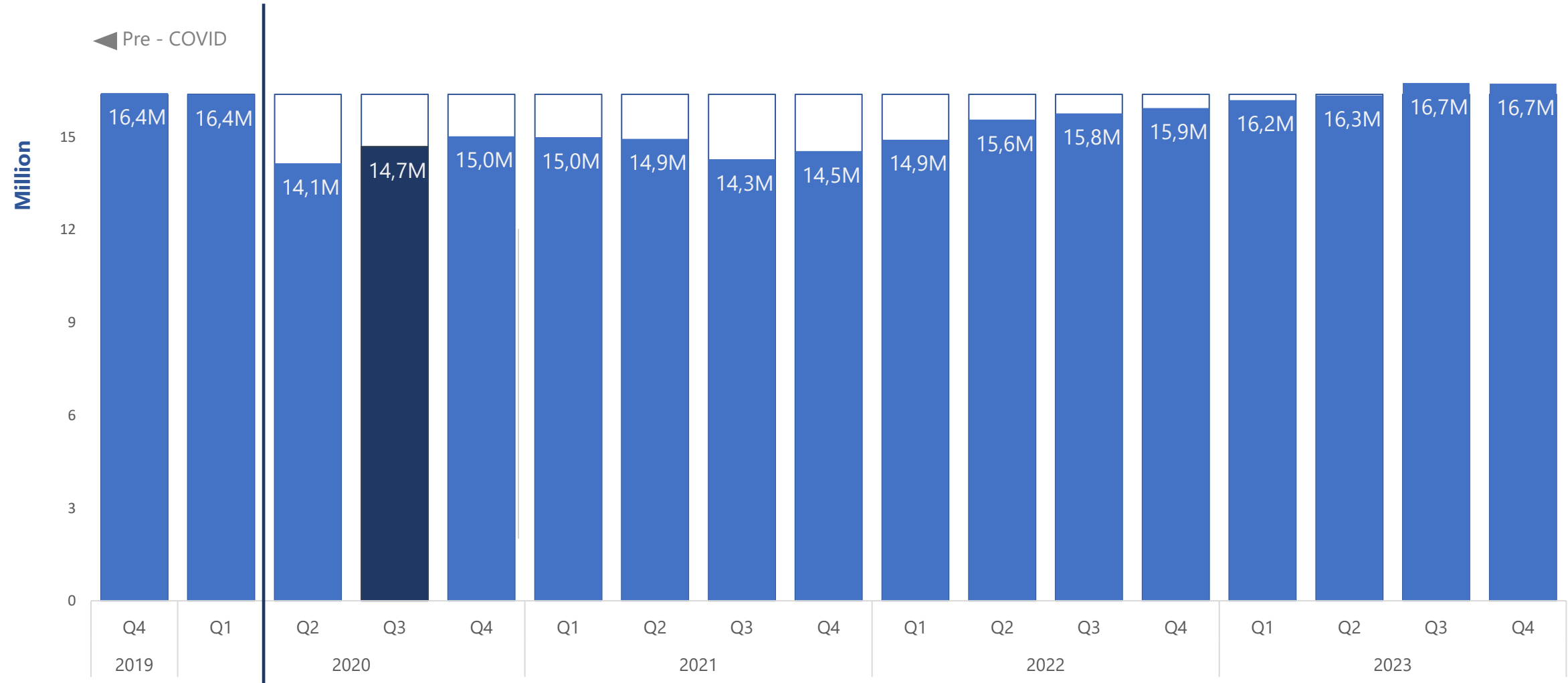
After eight consecutive increases, employment decreased by 22 000 in the last quarter of 2023.

Employment changes Q4:2019-Q4:2023



The number of **employed** persons remains at 16,7M in Q4:2023 compared to Q3:2023 having surpassed **pre-COVID** level of 16,4M in Q1:2020

Employment Q4: 2019 – Q4: 2023



The official unemployment rate stands at **32,1 %**, an increase of 0,2 of a percentage point in Q4:2023 compared to Q3:2023.

41,0 million

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

Labour force

24,6 million

Not Economically Active

16,4 million

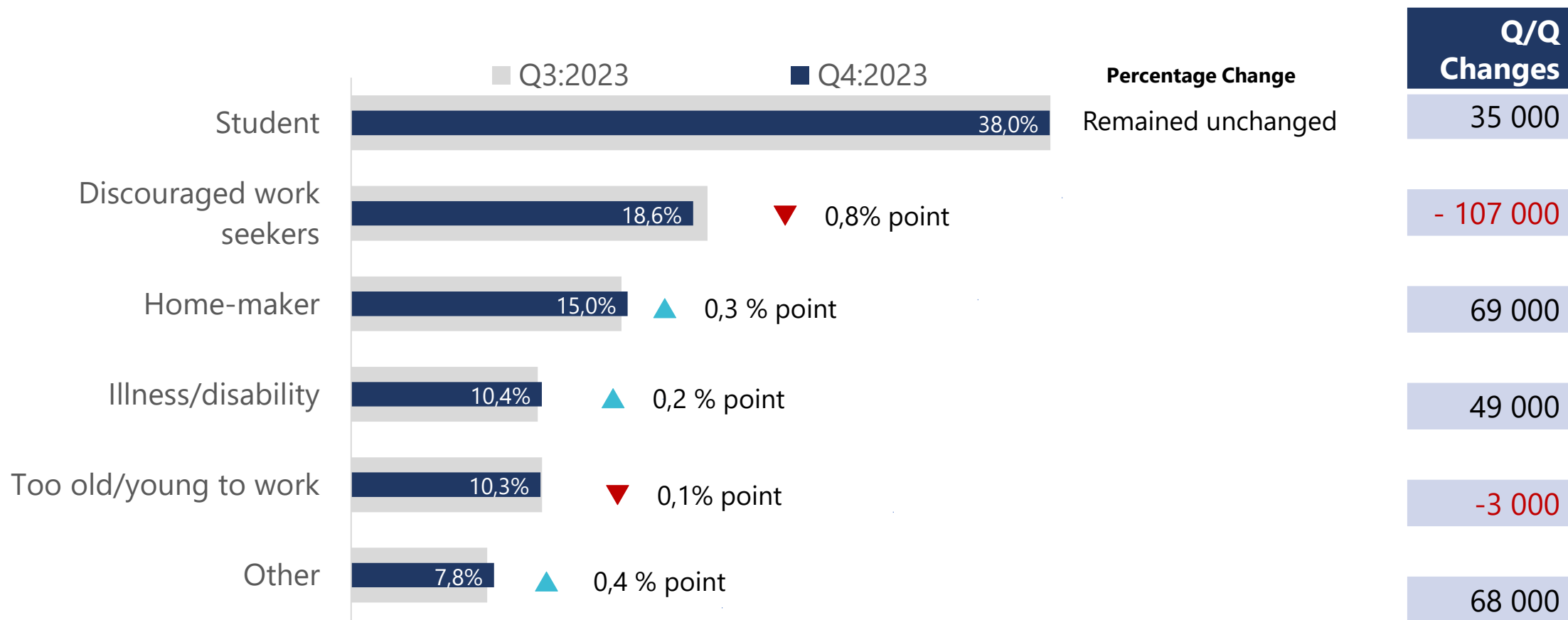


SA's official unemployment rate stands at **32,1%**
 Increased by 0,2 of a percentage point between Q3:2023 and Q4:2023

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.

The number of **Not Economically Active** persons **increased by 111 000** in Q4:2023 compared to Q3:2023

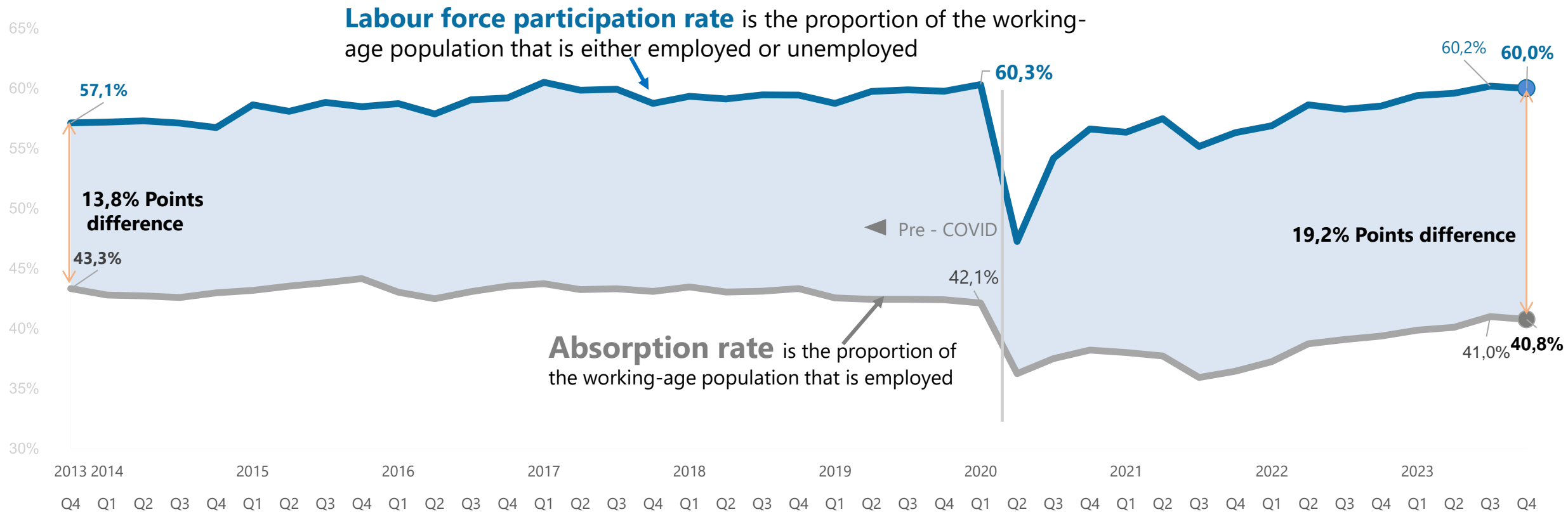
Characteristics of the not economically active, Q3:2023 vs Q4:2023



Due to rounding numbers may not add up

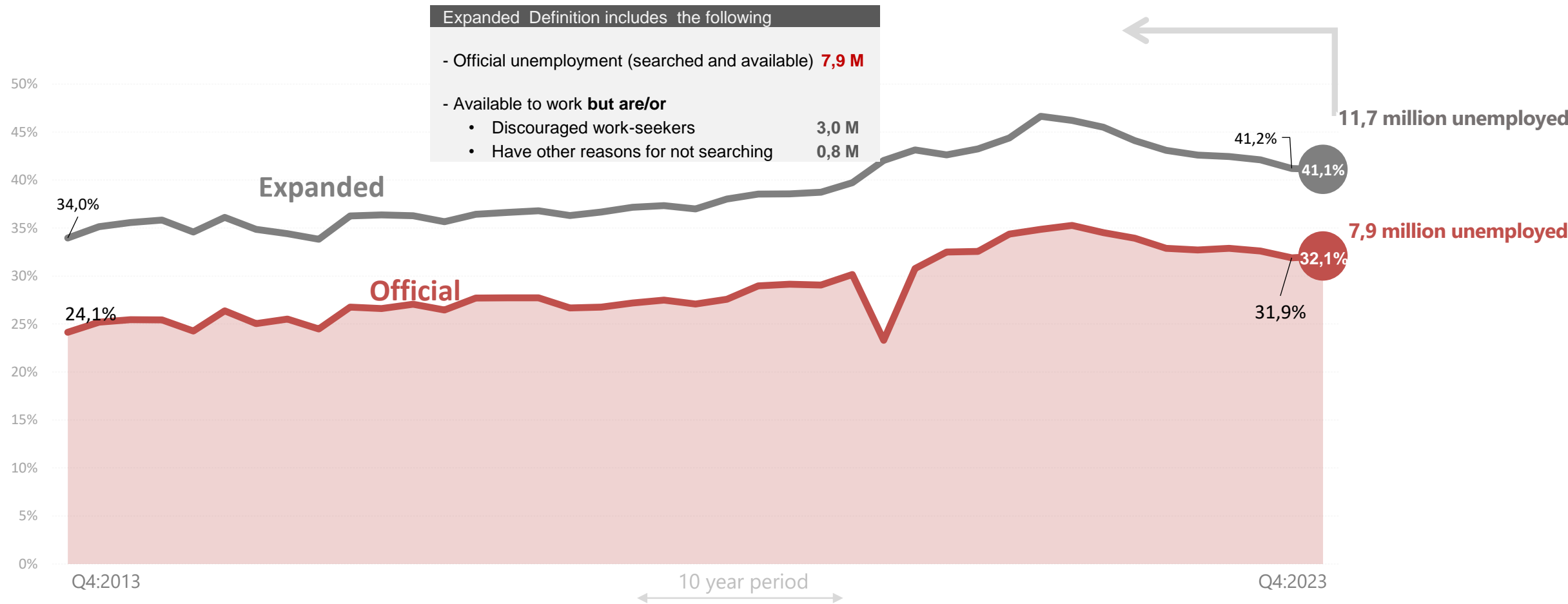
In Q4 of 2023, the labour force participation rate and absorption rate both decreased by 0,2 of a percentage point to 60,0% and 40,8%, respectively.

Labour force participation and absorption rates Q4:2013-Q4:2023



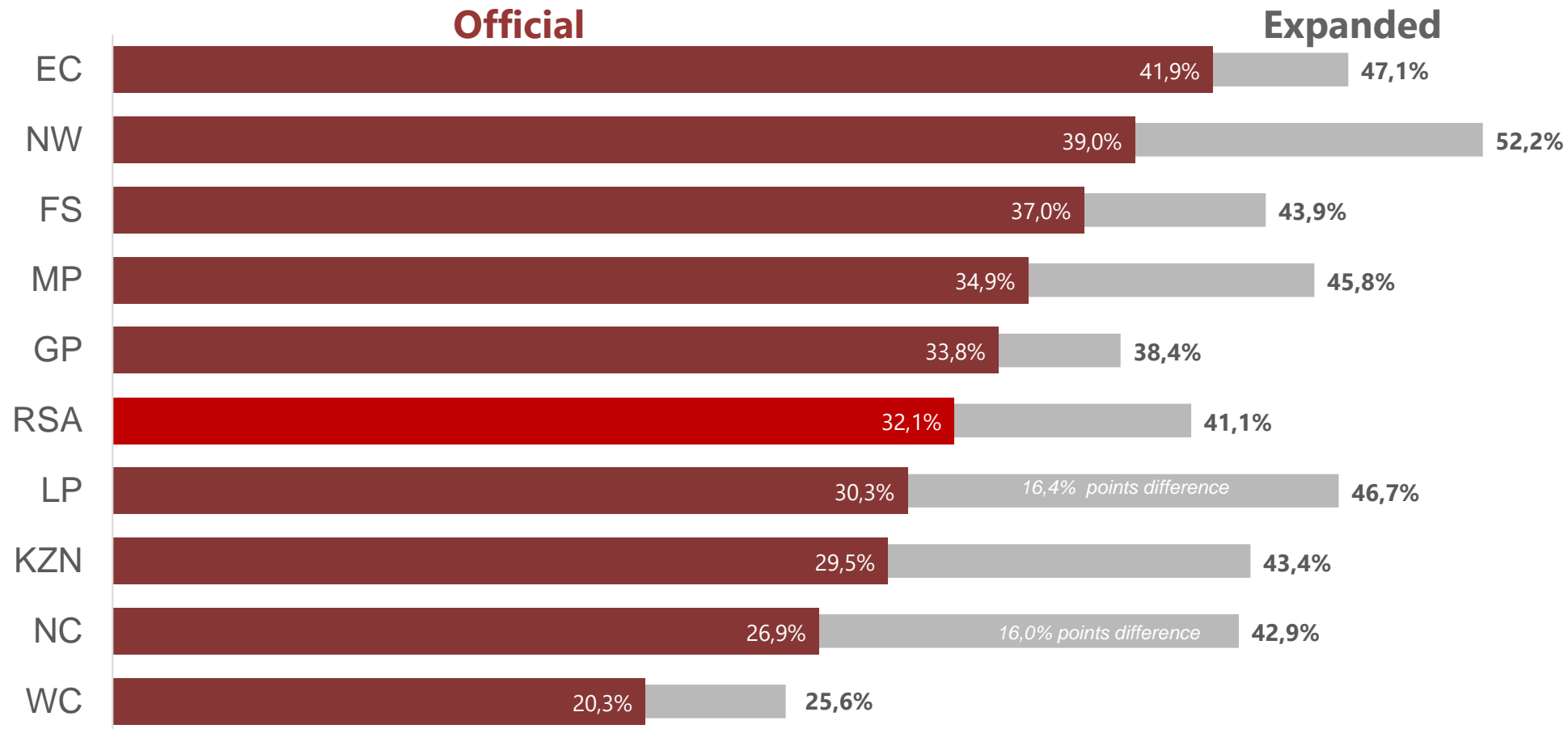
The expanded unemployment rate decreased by 0,1 of a percentage point to 41,1% when comparing Q4:2023 and Q3:2023.

Official vs Expanded unemployment: Q4:2013-Q4:2023



NW (52,2%) recorded the **highest expanded unemployment rate** in Q4:2023, followed by EC (47,1%). **LP and NC** recorded more than a 15 percentage points difference between **expanded** and **official** unemployment rates.

Provincial unemployment rate: **Official** vs Expanded Q4:2023

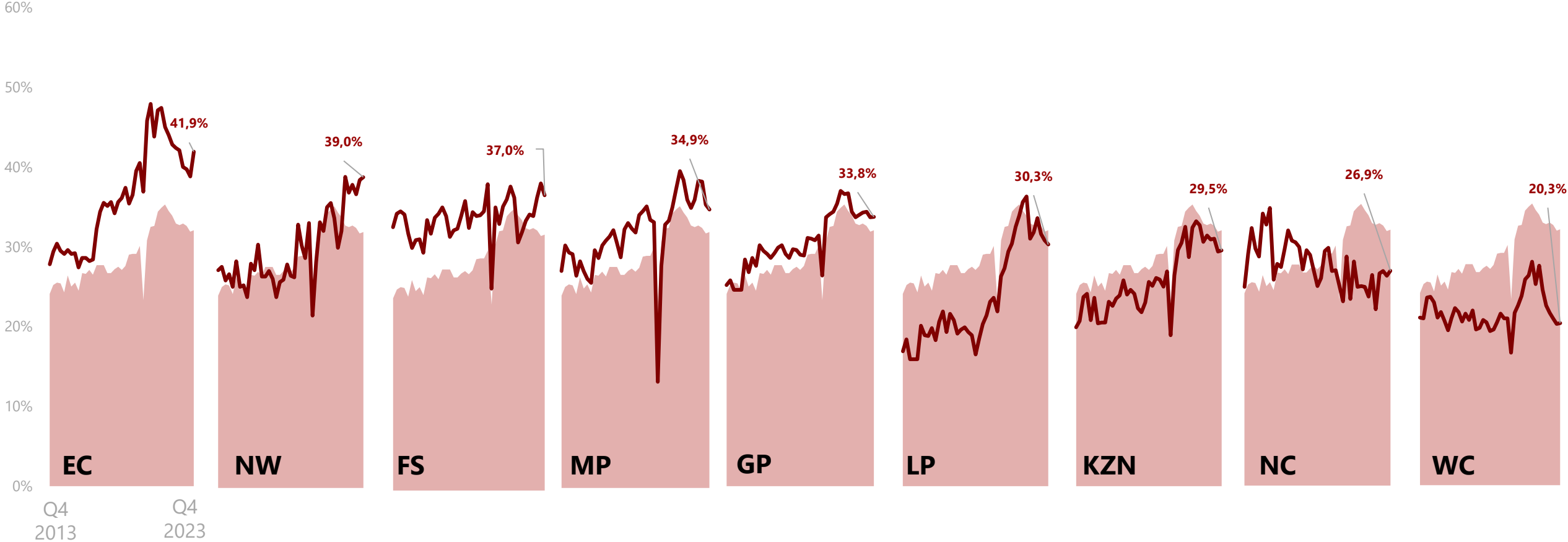


While the unemployment rates in **WC and KZN** have consistently been below the official unemployment rate in SA for the past ten years, the unemployment rate in **EC** has continuously exceeded it.

Official Unemployment rates by province, Q4:2013-Q4:2023

SA Unemployment Rate

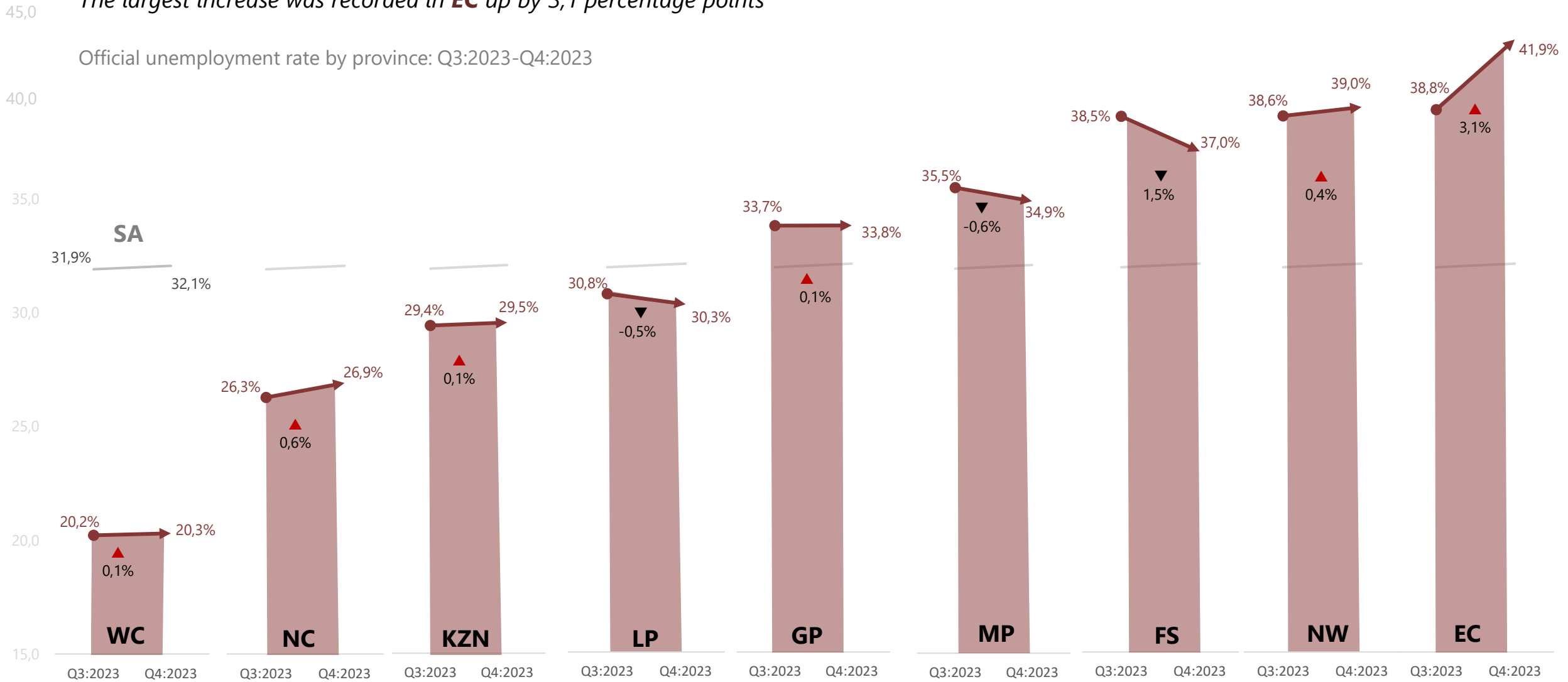
Provincial Unemployment Rate



The **unemployment rate** increased in six provinces between Q3:2023 and Q4:2023.

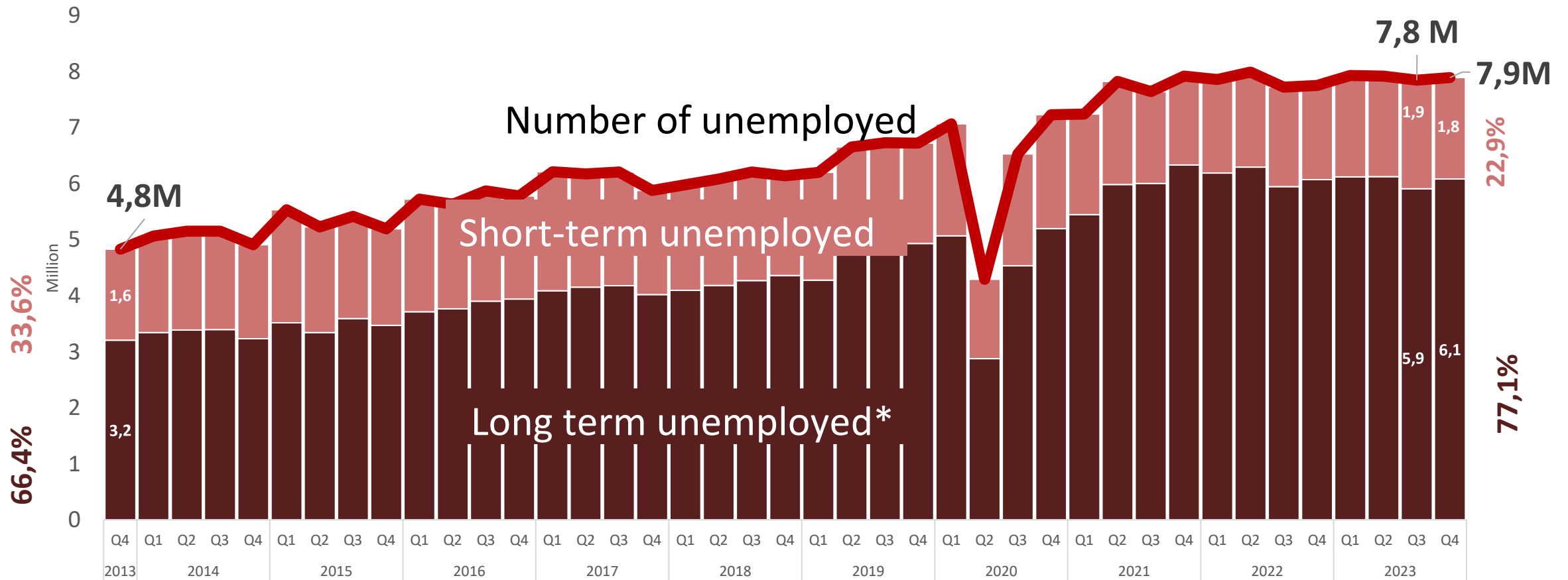
The largest increase was recorded in **EC** up by 3,1 percentage points

Official unemployment rate by province: Q3:2023-Q4:2023



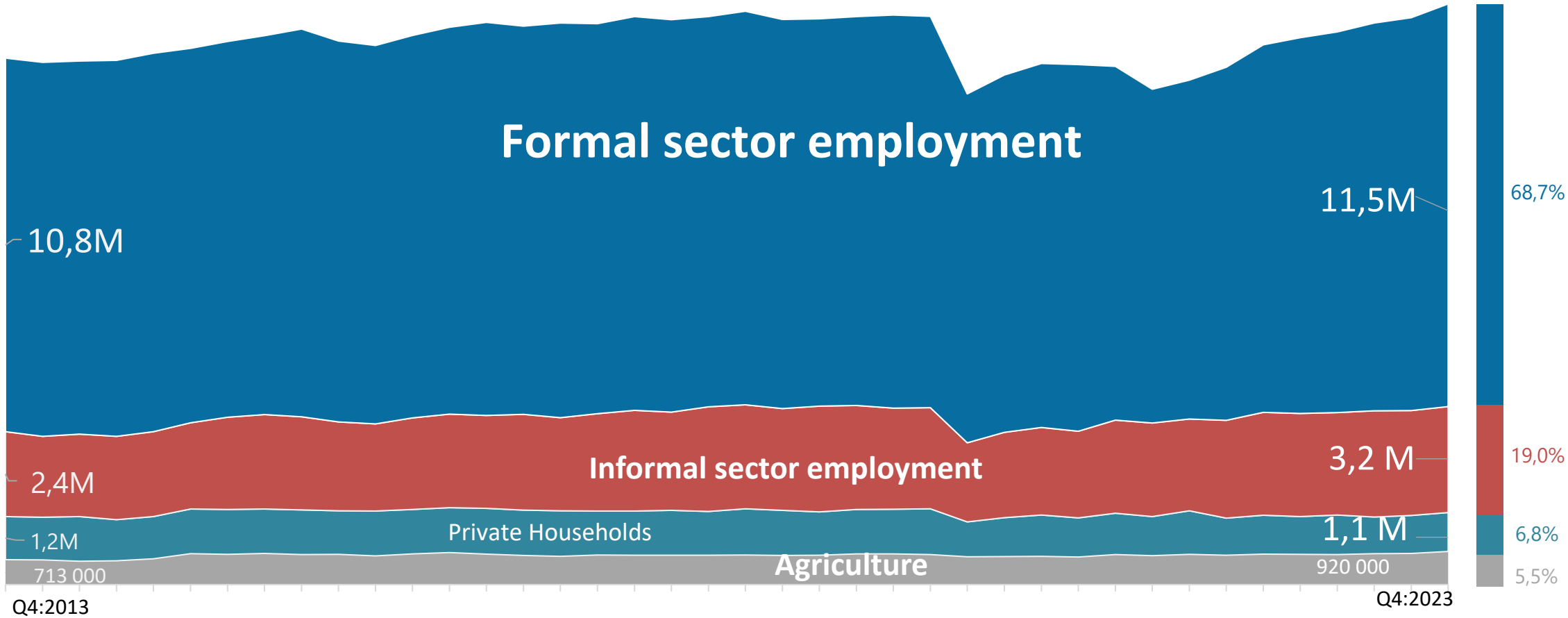
The number of unemployed people in South Africa increased from 4,8 million in Q4:2013 to 7,9 million in Q4:2023. The proportion of those in long-term unemployment increased from 66,4% in Q4:2013 to 77,1% in Q4:2023

*Long term unemployment –unemployed for a year or longer



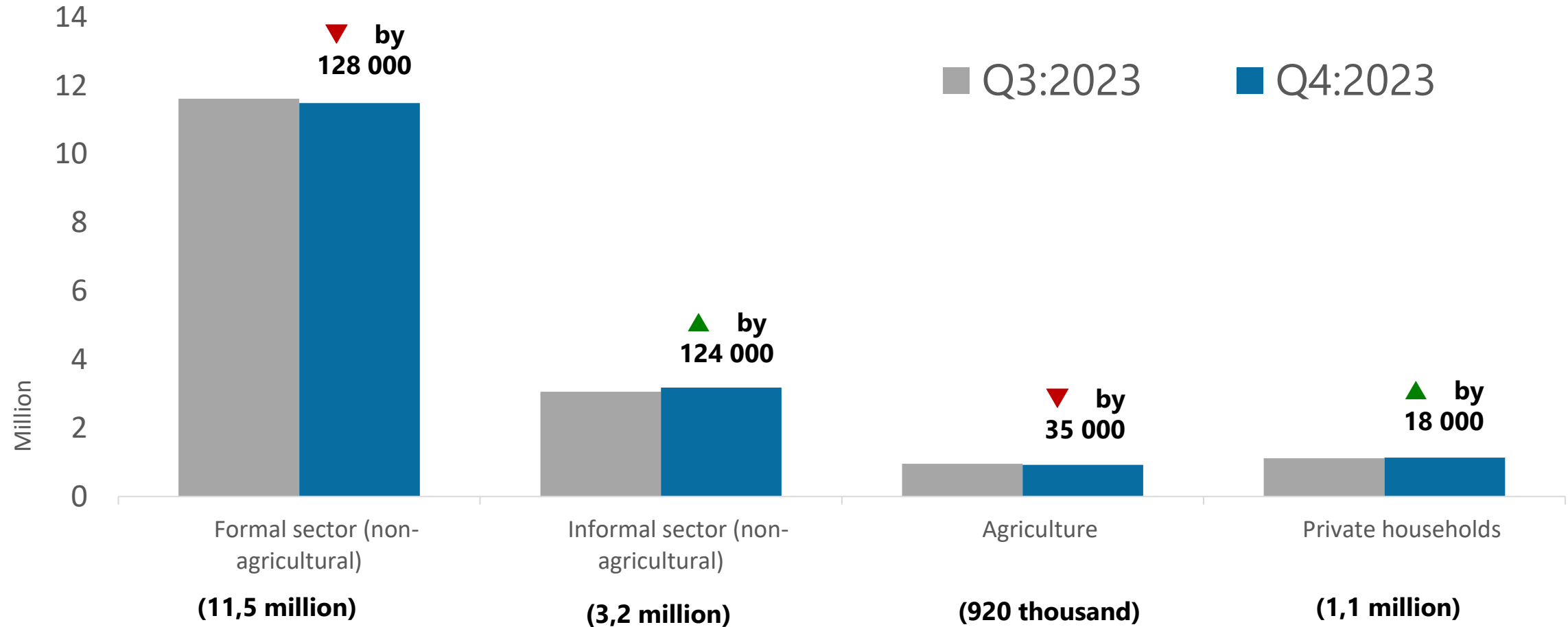
The **formal sector** in South Africa accounts for **68,7%** of total employment.

Employment share by sector, Q4:2013 to Q4:2023



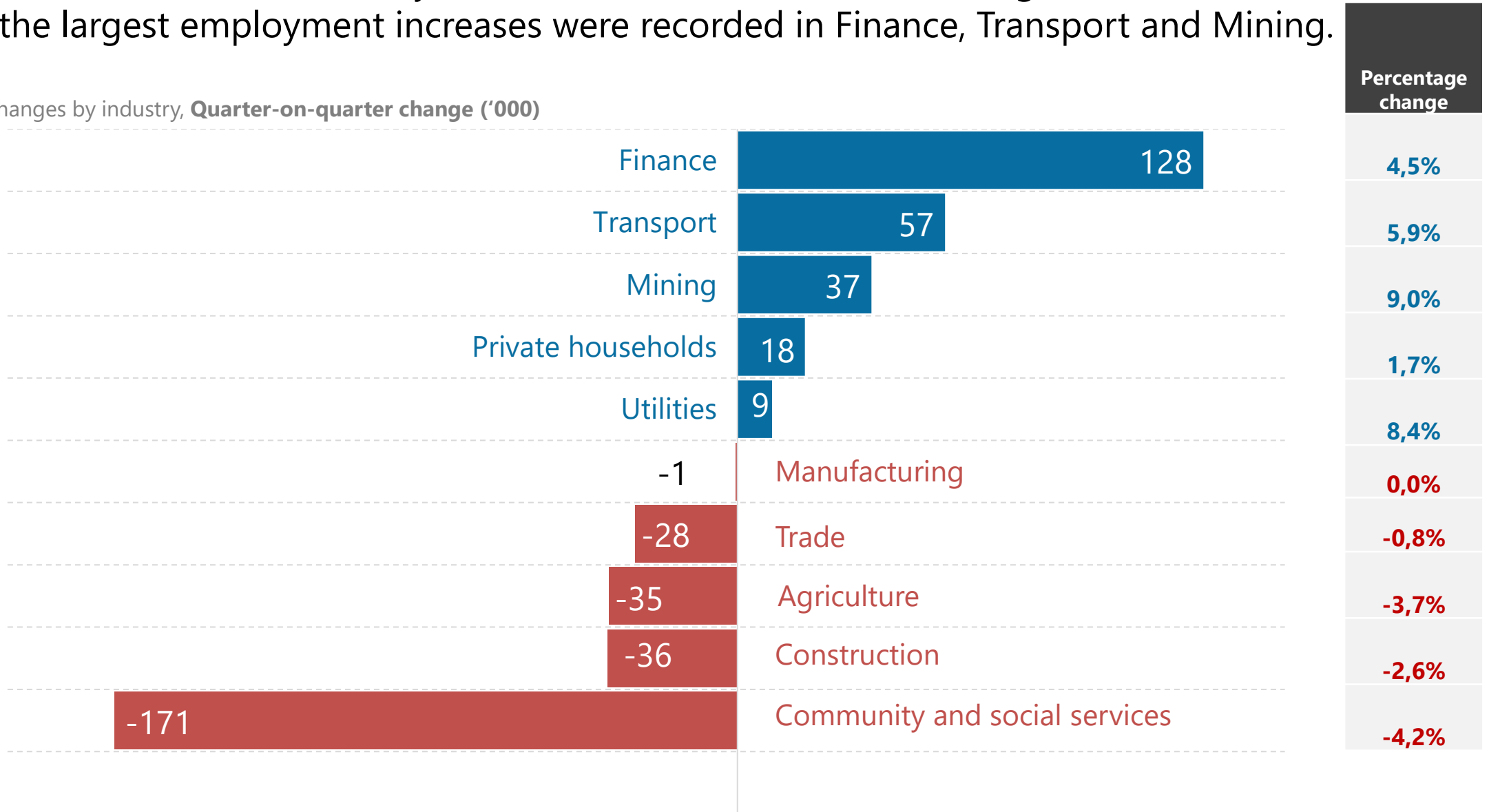
Formal sector employment decreased by **128 thousand jobs** between Q3:2023 and Q4:2023.

Employment changes by sector, (Quarter-on-quarter)



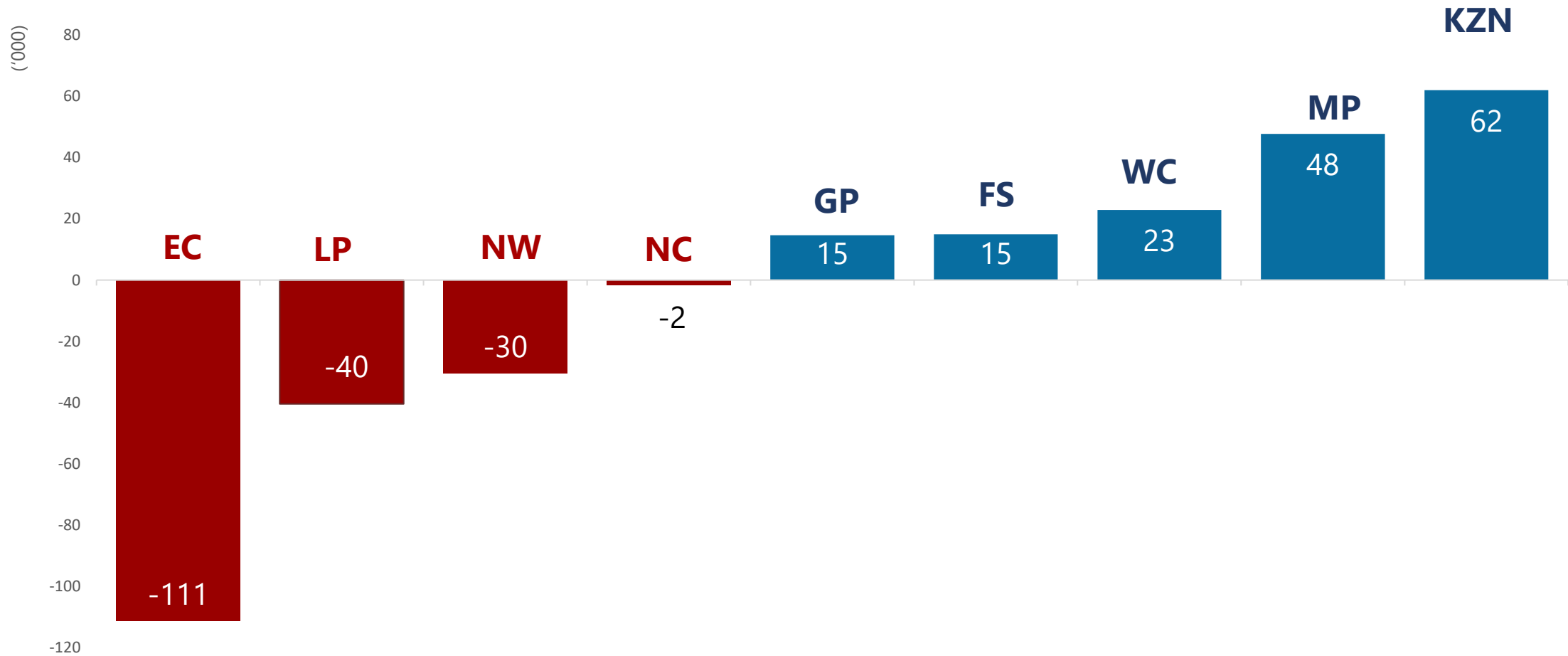
Employment decreases were mainly in the Services, Construction, and Agriculture industries. However, the largest employment increases were recorded in Finance, Transport and Mining.

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



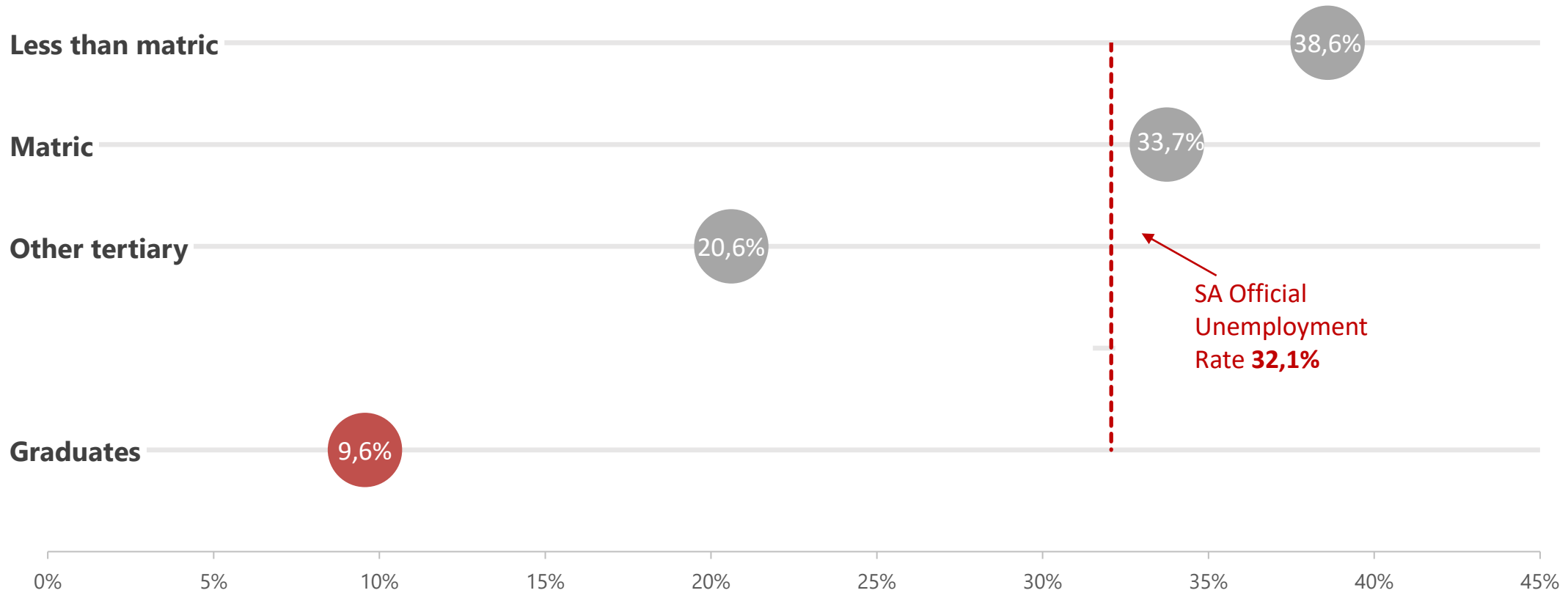
EC, LP and NW recorded the largest decreases in employment in Q4:2023 while **KZN,MP and WC** recorded the largest employment increases.

Quarter-on-quarter change in employment by province ('000) (Q3:2023 and Q4:2023)



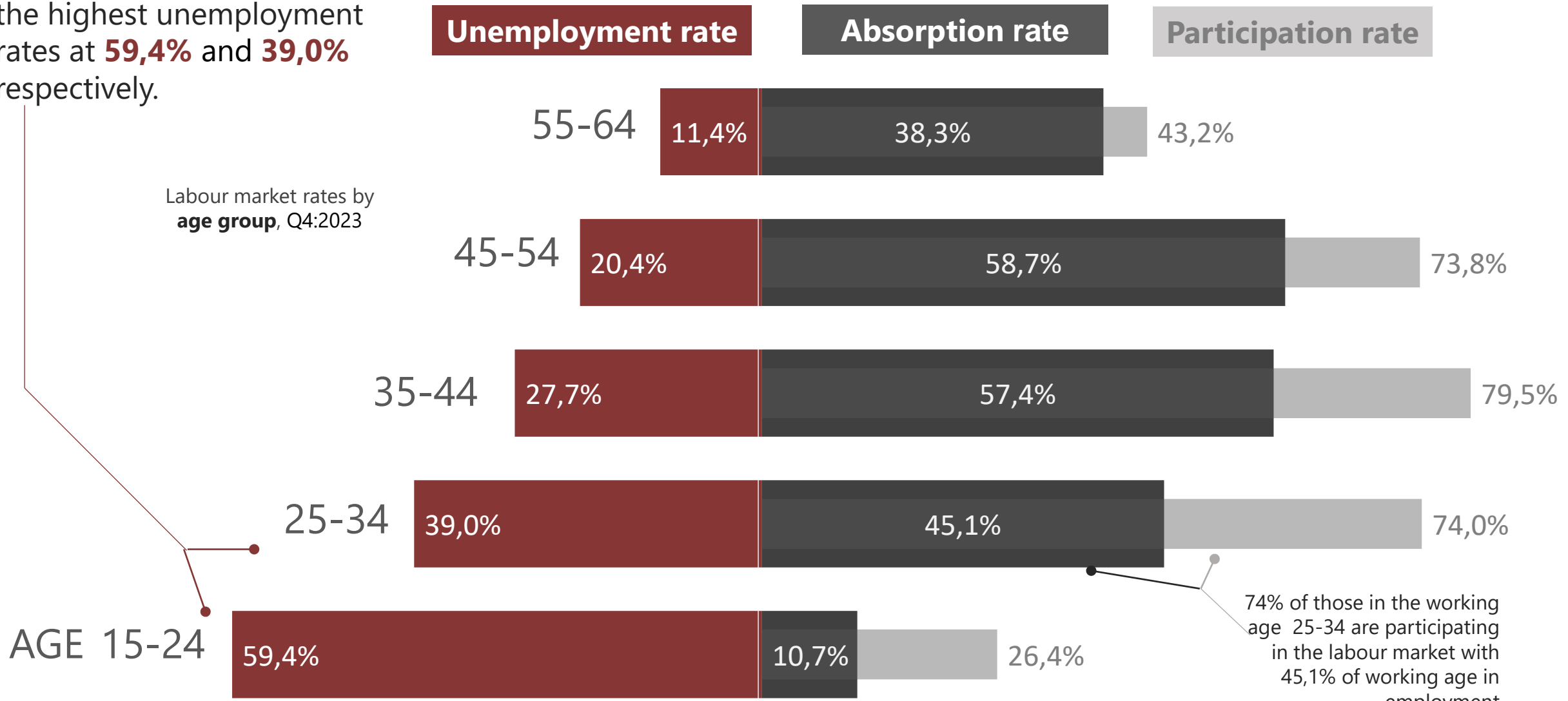
Graduate unemployment rate increased by 1,1 percentage points to **9,6%** in Q4:2023 compared to 8,5% in Q3:2023. Those with **less than matric** remain vulnerable with an unemployment rate of 38,6% which is higher than SA official unemployment rate.

Official Unemployment rate by level of education, Q4:2023



Youth aged 15-24 years and 25-34 years continue to have the highest unemployment rates at **59,4%** and **39,0%** respectively.

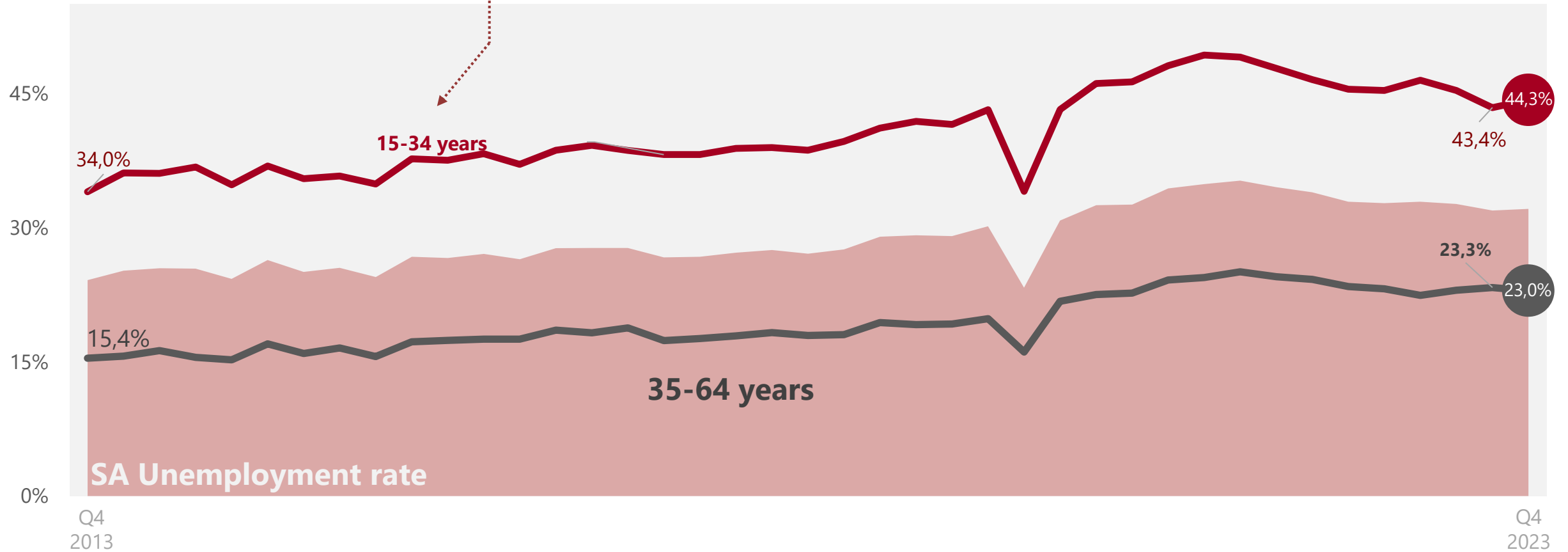
Labour market rates by age group, Q4:2023



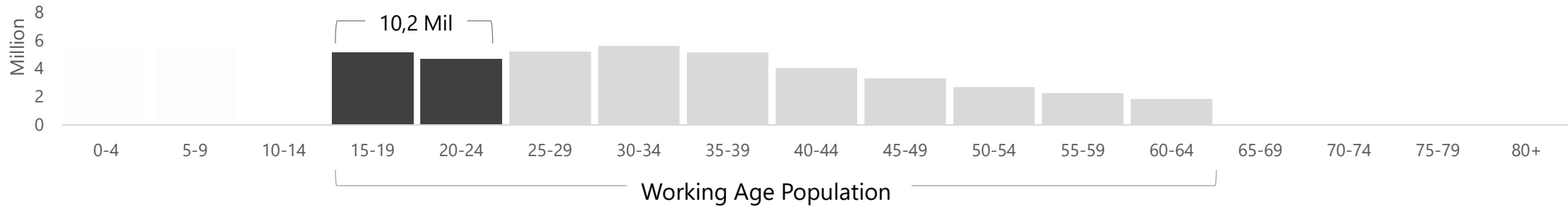
74% of those in the working age 25-34 are participating in the labour market with 45,1% of working age in employment

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

Official Unemployment rates by age group,
Q4:2013-Q4:2023



Approximately **3,4 million (33,0%)** 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
Q4:2023

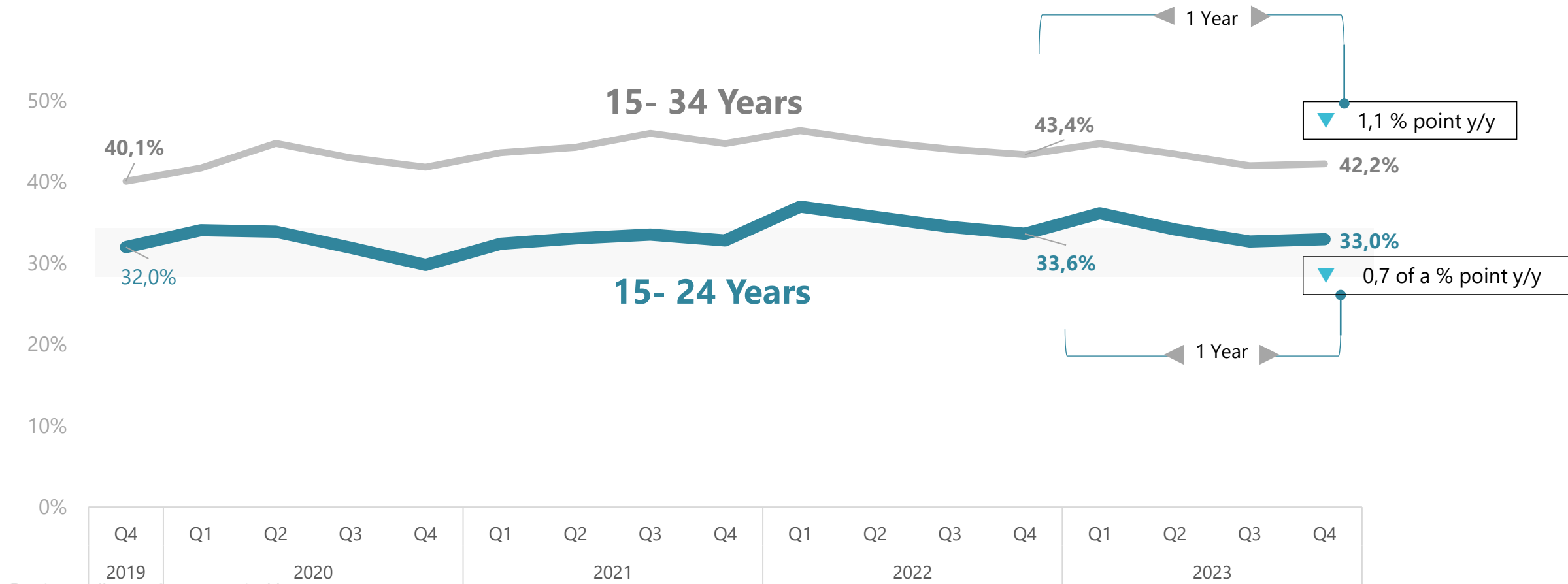
3,4 Million
NEET

6,9 Million

**Employed or in
Education or Training**

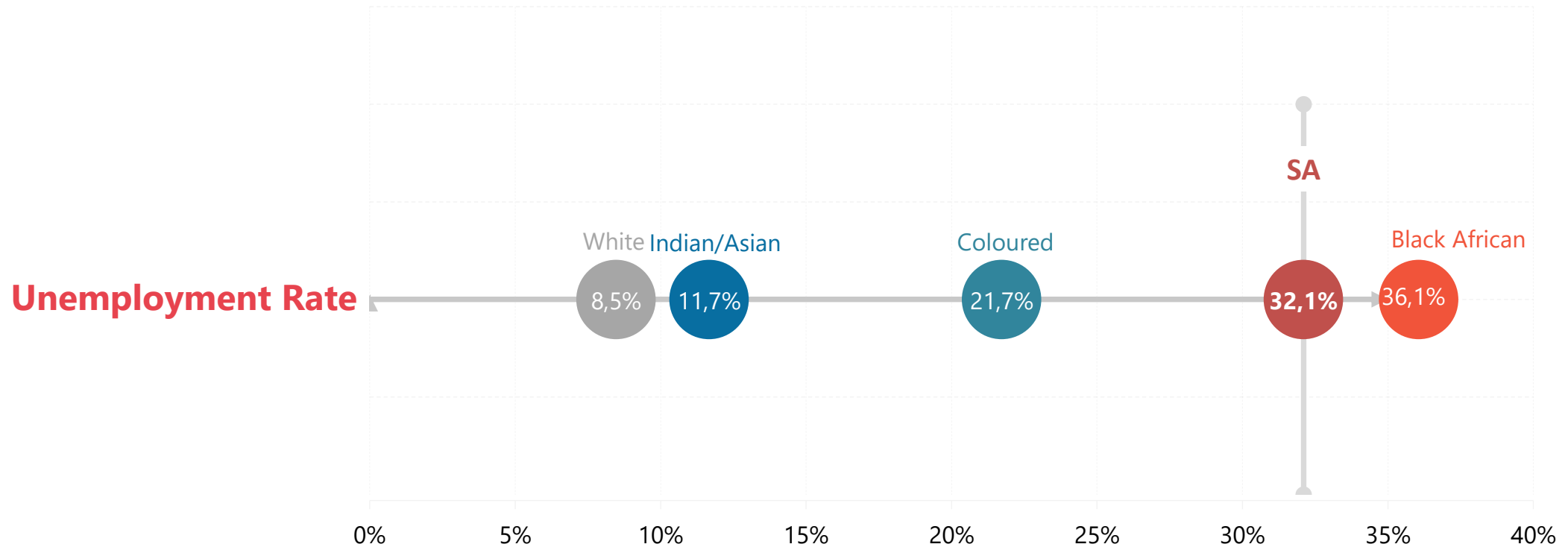
The overall NEET rate (15 – 24yrs) decreased by 0,7 of a percentage point in Q4:2023 compared to Q4:2022.

Q4:2019-Q4:2023 NEET rate for ages 15-24 & 15-34 year old



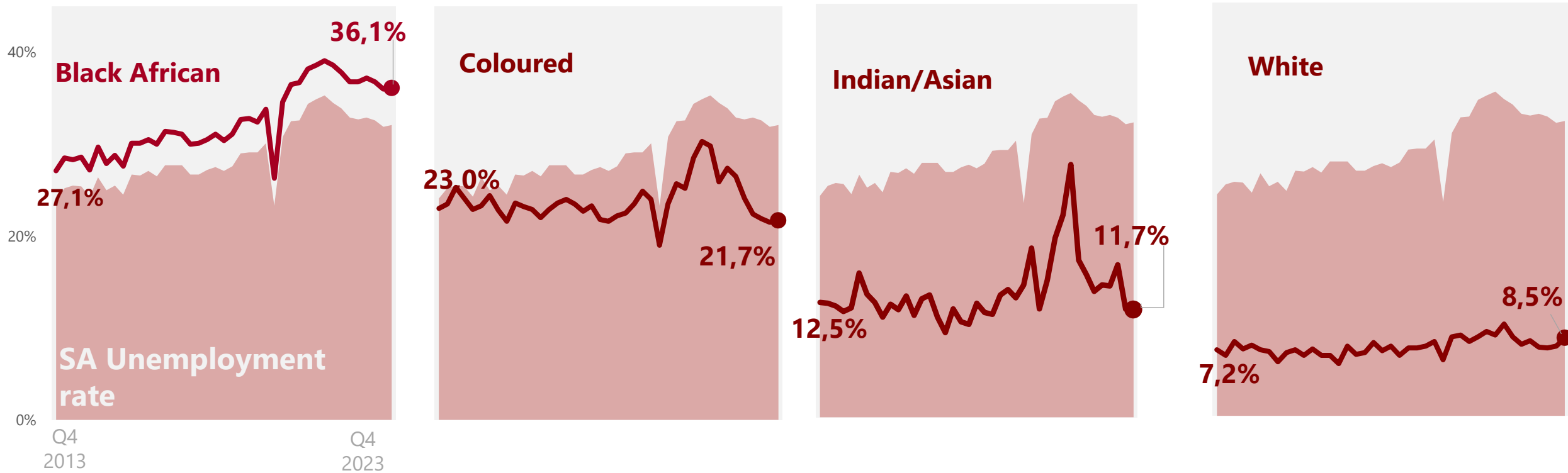
The unemployment rate among the **Black African (36,1%)** population group remains higher than the national average and other population groups.

OFFICIAL unemployment rate by population group, Q4:2023



Black African unemployment rates have been consistently higher than other population groups over the past 10-year period.

Official Unemployment rates by population group,
Q4:2013-Q4:2023



RECAP (QLFS, Q4:2023)

- ❖ Unemployment rate **increased** by 0,2 of a percentage point to 32,1% in Q4:2023. Both Absorption rate and labour force participation rate decreased by 0,2 of a percentage point to 40,8% and 60,0% respectively.
- ❖ The number of unemployed persons **increased** by 46 000 in Q4:2023 compared to Q3:2023. While the number of those who were employed **decreased** by 22 000 in the same quarter.
- ❖ The largest **industry employment losses** were recorded in Community and social services (171 000), Construction (36 000), and Agriculture (35 000). While the largest **industry employment gains** were recorded in Finance (128 000), Transport (57 000), and Mining (37 000).



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
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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)



Quarterly Labour Force Survey Q4:2023

QLFS

Q4:2023

Ndzi hela kwala!



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