There were **258 thousand** more people employed in Q1:2023 than in Q4:2022.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Employed</th>
<th>Unemployed</th>
<th>Not Economically Active (NEA)</th>
<th>Discouraged work seekers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q4:2022</td>
<td>15,9M</td>
<td>7,8M</td>
<td>13,4M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q1:2023</td>
<td>16,2M</td>
<td>7,9M</td>
<td>13,2M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **258 000** More Employed between Q4:2022 and Q1:2023
- **179 000** More Unemployed between Q4:2022 and Q1:2023
- **87 000** Fewer Discouraged work seekers between Q4:2022 and Q1:2023
- **209 000** Fewer Other Not Economically Active between Q4:2022 and Q1:2023
**Employment increased in the first quarter** of 2023 by **258 000** to 16,2 million. This is the 6th consecutive increase since Q4:2021.
There were **179 000** more people who were unemployed in Q1:2023 than in Q4:2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Labour force</th>
<th>Not Economically Active</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24,1 million</td>
<td>16,5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>16,2M</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,9M</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**40,6 million**
People of working age in South Africa (15 – 64-year-old)

SA’s official unemployment rate stands at **32,9%**
Increased by 0,2 of a percentage point between Q4:2022 and Q1:2023

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
The number of **Not Economically Active** persons **decreased by 296 000** in Q1:2023 compared to Q4:2022

Characteristics of the not economically active, Q4:2022 vs Q1:2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Q4:2022</th>
<th>Q1:2023</th>
<th>Percentage Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>36,4%</td>
<td>36,4%</td>
<td>0,7 % point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discouraged work seekers</td>
<td>19,9%</td>
<td>19,7%</td>
<td>0,2% points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home-maker</td>
<td>15,6%</td>
<td>15,7%</td>
<td>0,1 % points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too old/young to work</td>
<td>10,7%</td>
<td>10,7%</td>
<td>Remained unchanged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illness/disability</td>
<td>9,9%</td>
<td>9,9%</td>
<td>Remained unchanged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>7,6%</td>
<td>7,5%</td>
<td>0,9 % point</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q/Q Changes
- Student: -232 000
- Discouraged work seekers: -87 000
- Home-maker: -33 000
- Too old/young to work: -30 000
- Illness/disability: -37 000
- Other: 123 000

*Due to rounding numbers may not add up*
The **Labour force participation rate** increased by 0.9 of a percentage point from 58.5% in Q4:2022 to 59.4% in Q1:2023.

**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.

The expanded unemployment rate decreased by 0.2 of a percentage point to 42.4% in Q1:2023 compared to Q4:2022.

Expanded Definition includes the following:
- Official unemployment (searched and available) 7.9 M
- Available to work but are/or
  - Discouraged work-seekers 3.3 M
  - Have other reasons for not searching 0.7 M

11.9 million unemployed
7.9 million unemployed

Q1:2013
Q1:2023
10 year period
NW (54,0%) recorded the **highest** expanded unemployment rate in Q1:2023, followed by MP (49,7%). NW, KZN and NC recorded more than 15 percentage points difference between expanded and official unemployment rates.
The number of unemployed people in South Africa increased from 4.9 million in Q1:2013 to 7.9 million in Q1:2023. The proportion of those in long-term unemployment increased from 65.5% in Q1:2013 to 77.2% in Q1:2023.

*Long term unemployment – unemployed for a year or longer.
The **formal sector** in South Africa accounts for **69,1%** of total employment.

Employment share by sector, Q1:2013 to Q1:2023
Formal sector employment increased by **209 thousand jobs** between Q4:2022 and Q1:2023.

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

- **Formal sector (non-agricultural)**: Increased by **209 000** (11,2 million jobs)
- **Informal sector (non-agricultural)**: Increased by **107 000** (3,1 million jobs)
- **Agriculture**: Increased by **27 000** (888 thousand jobs)
- **Private households**: Decreased by **85 000** (1,1 million jobs)
**Employment** increases were mainly in finance, community and social services and agricultural industries.

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

- **Finance**: 184 (7.4%)
- **Community and social services**: 175 (4.7%)
- **Agriculture**: 27 (3.2%)
- **Utilities**: 11 (8.7%)
- **Transport**: 10 (1.0%)
- **Manufacturing**: -2 (-0.1%)
- **Construction**: -11 (-0.9%)
- **Mining**: -24 (-5.4%)
- **Trade**: -28 (-0.8%)
- **Private household**: -85 (-7.5%)
Trade, construction and agriculture have higher employment shares relative to their GDP contribution.

Employment and GDP share per industry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Employment Share, Q4:2022</th>
<th>GDP Share, Q4:2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community and social services</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
<td>25.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>20.7%</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
<td>23.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private household</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**GP, LP and WC** recorded the largest employment increases in Q1: 2023

Quarter-to-quarter change in employment by province (’000)
(Q1:2023 and Q4:2022)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Change (’000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gauteng</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limpopo</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Cape</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KwaZulu-Natal</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Cape</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Cape</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North West</td>
<td>-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free State</td>
<td>-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mpumalanga</td>
<td>-45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Graduate unemployment rate (10.6%) is 22.3 percentage points lower than the national official unemployment rate.
In the past 10 years graduate unemployment increased from 5,5% in Q1:2013 to 10,6% in Q1:2023

Graduate unemployment 2013-2023
Youth aged 15-24 years and 25-34 years recorded the highest unemployment rates of 62.1% and 40.7% respectively.

Labour market rates by age group, Q1:2023

Unemployment rate:
- 15-64 yrs: 32.9%
- 55-64 yrs: 10.8% (down 2.5%)
- 45-54 yrs: 18.8% (down 1.5%)
- 35-44 yrs: 27.9% (up 0.3%)
- 25-34 yrs: 40.7% (up 0.8%)
- 15-24 yrs: 62.1% (up 1.1%)

Absorption rate:
- 15-64 yrs: 39.9%
- 55-64 yrs: 36.7% (up 2.1%)
- 45-54 yrs: 59.5% (up 1.1%)
- 35-44 yrs: 56.6% (up 0.1%)
- 25-34 yrs: 43.3% (down 0.2%)
- 15-24 yrs: 10.4% (down 0.4%)

Participation rate:
- 15-64 yrs: 59.4%
- 55-64 yrs: 41.1% (up 1.1%)
- 45-54 yrs: 73.3% (up 0.4%)
- 35-44 yrs: 78.5% (up 0.4%)
- 25-34 yrs: 72.9% (up 0.6%)
- 15-24 yrs: 27.6% (up 1.9%)

Change: Percentage points Q4:2022 to Q1:2023

- 15-24 yrs: 1.1%
- 25-34 yrs: 0.6%
- 35-44 yrs: 0.1%
- 45-54 yrs: 0.1%
- 55-64 yrs: 2.5%
Approximately **3,7 million (36,1%) out of 10,2 million** young people aged 15-24 years were not in employment, education or training (NEET).
The overall NEET rate (15 – 24yrs) decreased by 0.9% of a percentage point in Q1:2023 compared to Q1:2022.

2015-2023 NEET rate for ages 15-24 & 15-34 year old
The unemployment rate among the **Black African (37.2%)** population group remains higher than the national average and other population groups.
**Black African women** continue to be the most vulnerable with an unemployment rate of **39,9%** in Q1:2023. *This is 4,5 percentage points higher than the national average for women at 35,4%.*

**Official** unemployment rate by population group and sex, Q1:2023

- **Male**
  - Black African: 35,0%
  - SA: 30,7%
- **Female**
  - Black African: 39,9%
  - SA: 35,4%

4,7% Gap in **official unemployment** between the sexes

**Increasing Official Unemployment**

- **Indian/Asian**
  - Male: 10,4%
  - Female: 21,1%
- **White**
  - Male: 5,3%
  - Female: 10,2%
- **Coloured**
  - Male: 22,4%
  - Female: 22,4%
Using the expanded unemployment definition, **Gender disparity** persist throughout all population groups.

EXPANDED unemployment rate by population group and sex, Q1:2023

- **Black African**
  - Male: 43.9%
  - Female: 51.0%

- **Coloured**
  - Male: 28.8%
  - Female: 31.0%

- **Indian/Asian**
  - Male: 15.3%
  - Female: 29.2%

- **White**
  - Male: 6.7%
  - Female: 12.5%

7.1% Gap in **expanded unemployment** between the sexes

Increasing Expanded Unemployment
RECAP (QLFS, Q1:2023)

- Unemployment rate **increased** by 0.2 of a percentage point to 32.9%. The Absorption rate increased by 0.5 of a percentage point to 39.9% and the labour force participation rate increased by 0.9 of a percentage point to 59.4%.

- The number of unemployed **increased** by 179 000 in Q1:2023 compared to Q4:2022. While the number of those who are employed **increased** by 258 000 in the same quarter.

- The largest **industry employment gains** were recorded in Finance (184 000) ,Community and social services(175 000) and Agriculture(27 000).
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)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN

CENSUS 2022
Ndzi hela kwala!