

# Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) Q2:2024

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**Risenga Maluleke**  
Statistician-General



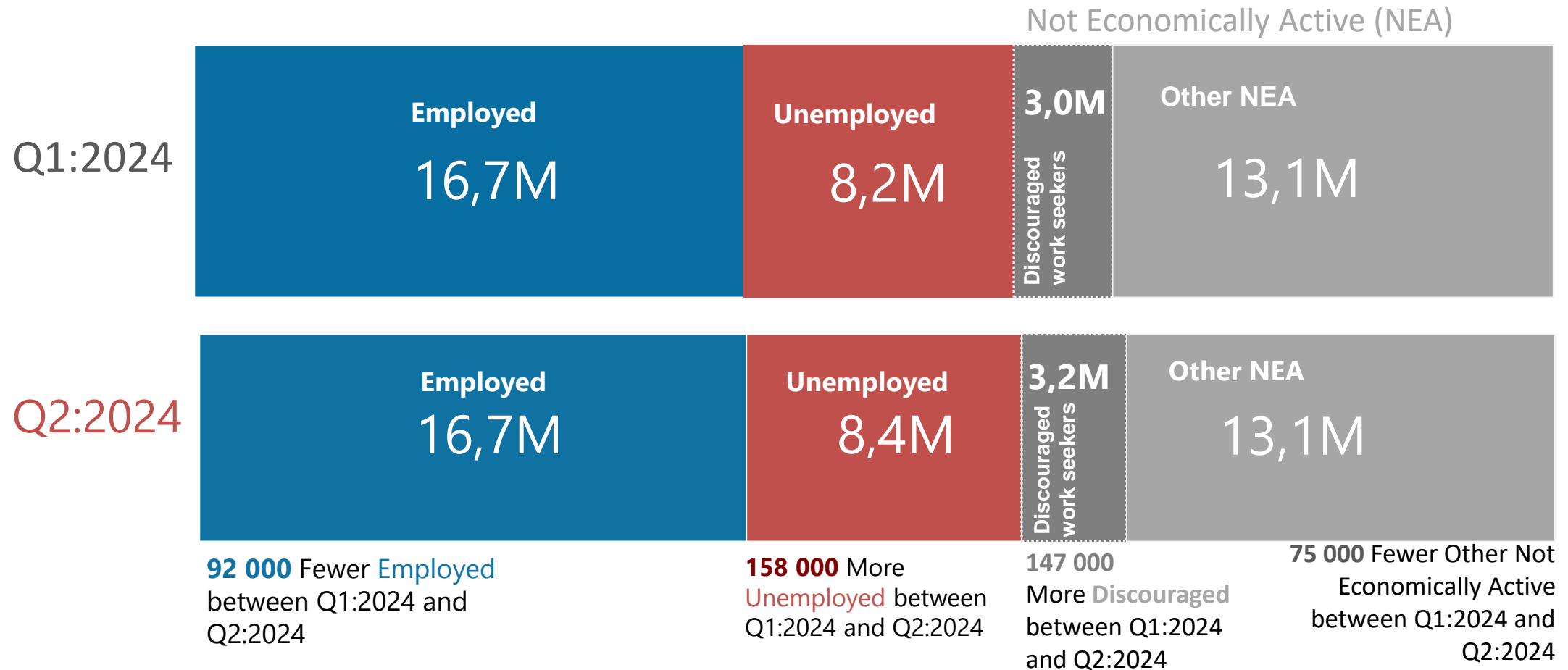
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IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS

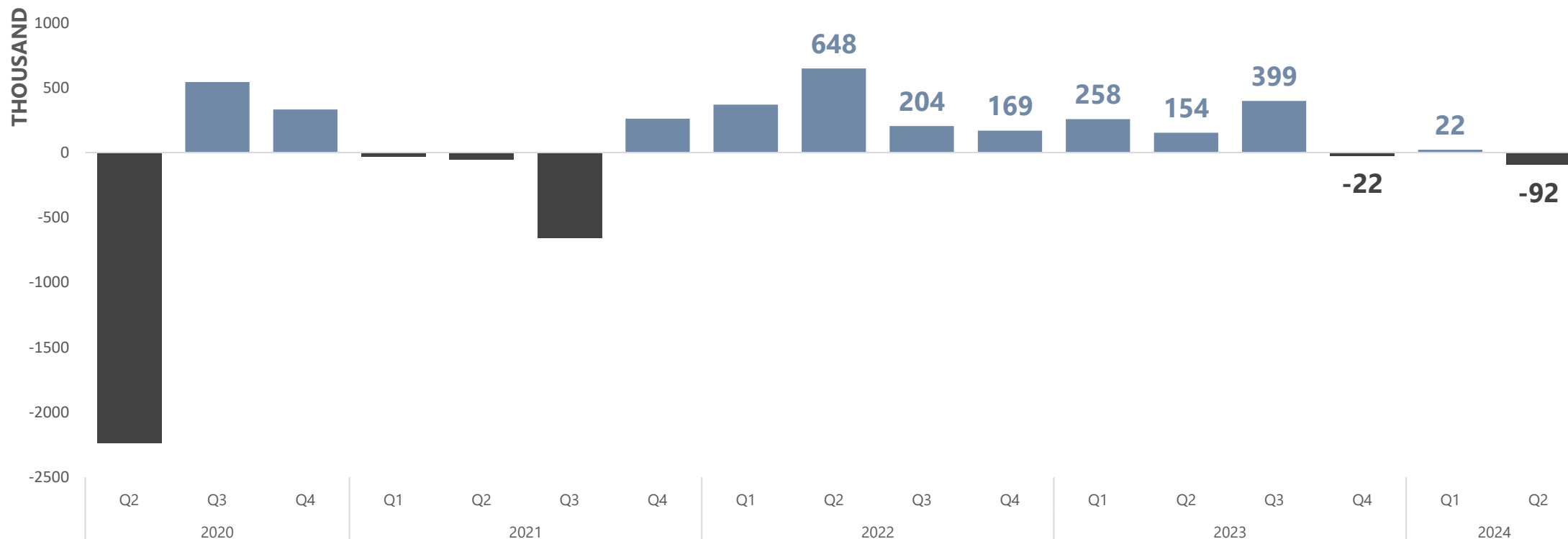


There were about 158 **thousand** more people who were unemployed in Q2:2024 than in Q1:2024



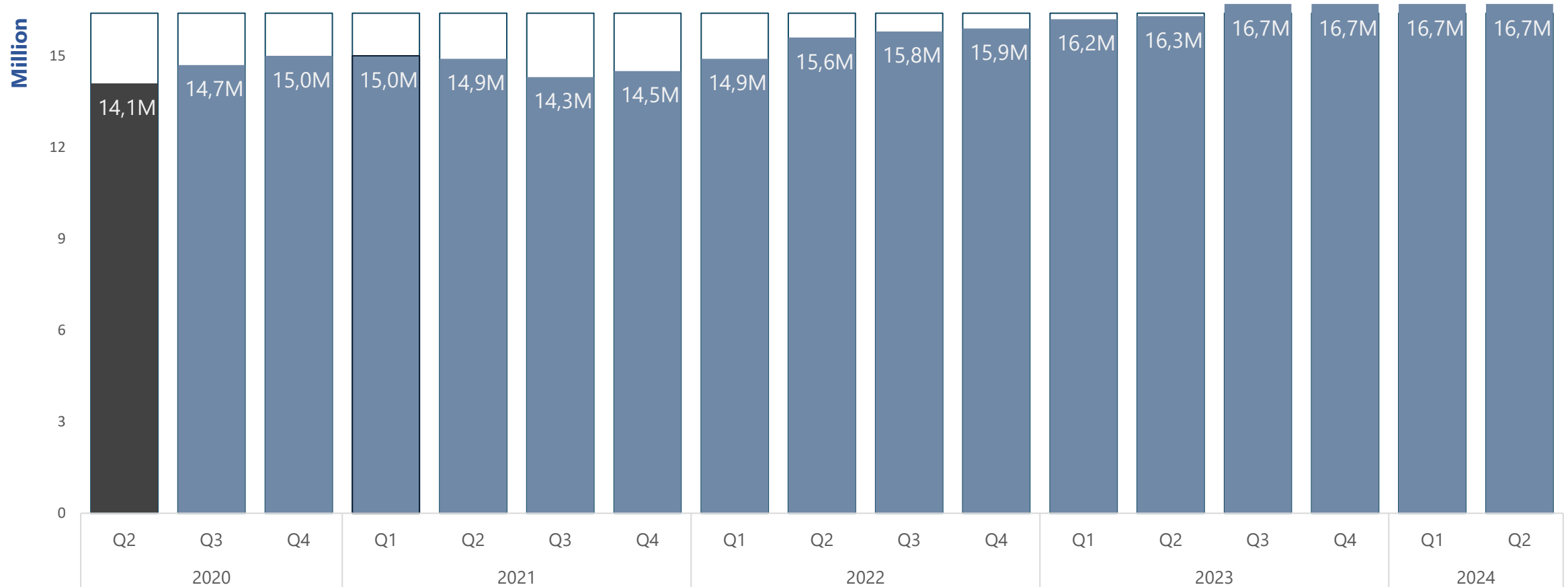
**Employment** decreased by 92 000 in the second quarter of 2024, following an increase of 22 000 in the first quarter of 2024.

Employment changes Q2:2020-Q2:2024



The number of **employed** persons increased from 14,1 M in Q2:2020 (COVID inception) to 16,7M in Q2:2024.

Employment Q2: 2020 – Q2: 2024



**The official unemployment rate** increased by 0,6 of a percentage point to **33,5 %** in Q2:2024 compared to Q1:2024.

**41,3 million**

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

**Labour force**

**Not Economically Active**

**25,0 million**

**16,3 million**



SA's official unemployment rate stands at

**33,5%**

Increased by 0,6 of a percentage point between Q1:2024 and Q2:2024

*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.*



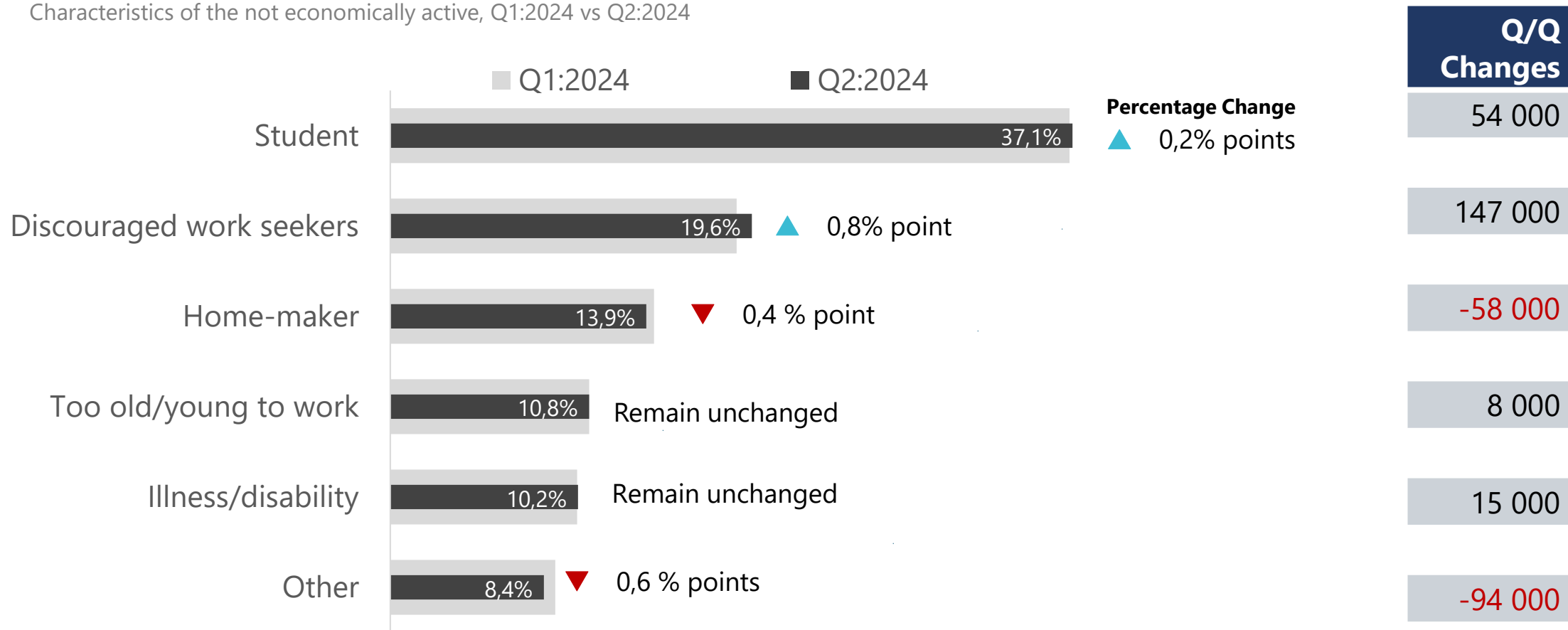
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# The number of **Not Economically Active** persons **increased by 72 000** in Q2:2024 compared to Q1:2024

Characteristics of the not economically active, Q1:2024 vs Q2:2024



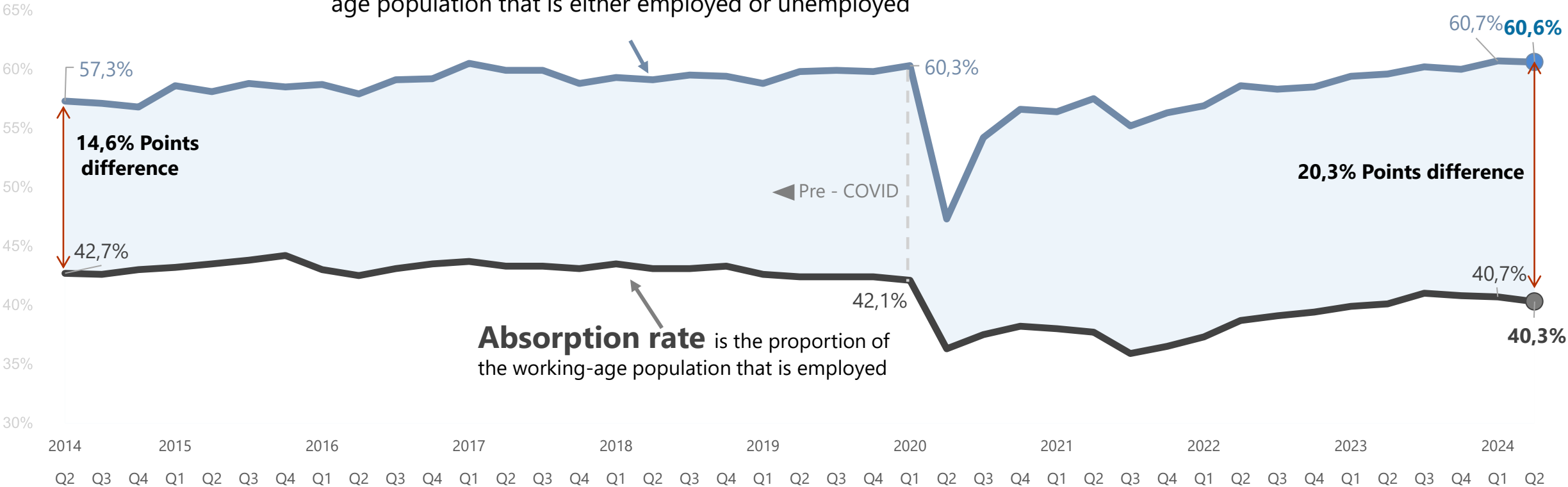
Due to rounding numbers may not add up

The **absorption rate** decreased by 0,4 of a percentage point from 40,7% in Q1:2024 to 40,3% in Q2:2024.

Labour force participation and absorption rates Q2:2014-Q2:2024

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

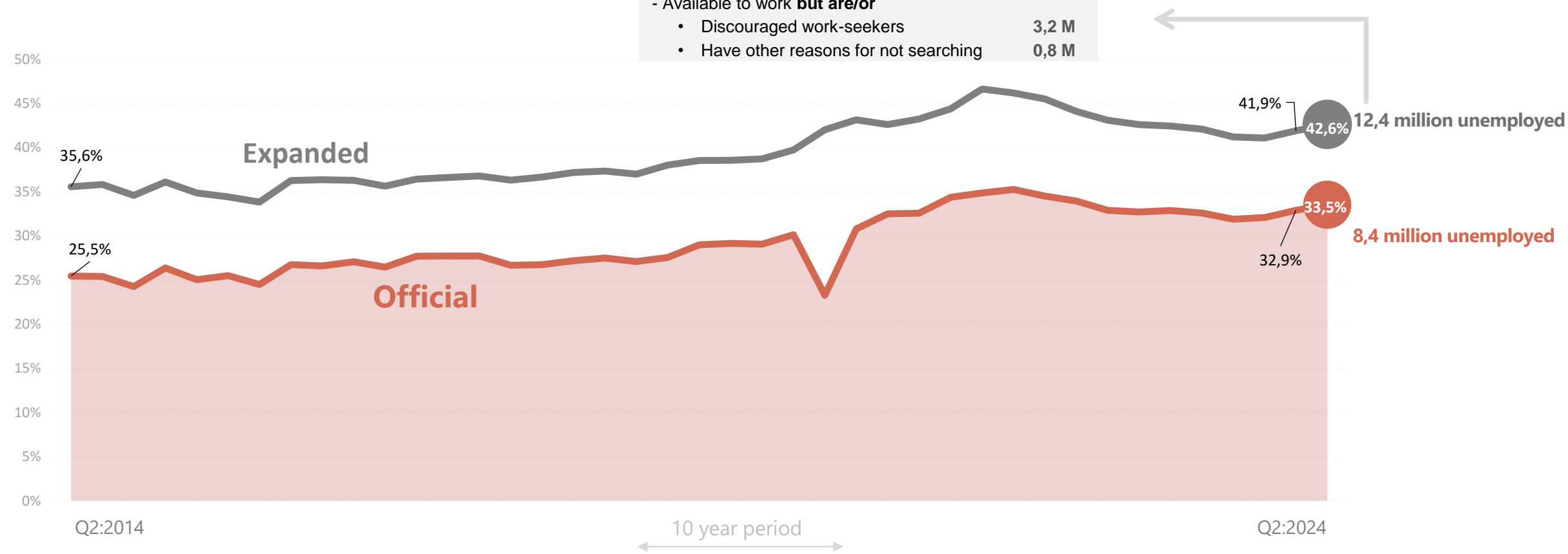
**Absorption rate** is the proportion of the working-age population that is employed



# The expanded unemployment rate increased by 0,7 of a percentage point to 42,6% when comparing Q2:2024 and Q1:2024.

Official vs Expanded unemployment: Q2:2014-Q2:2024

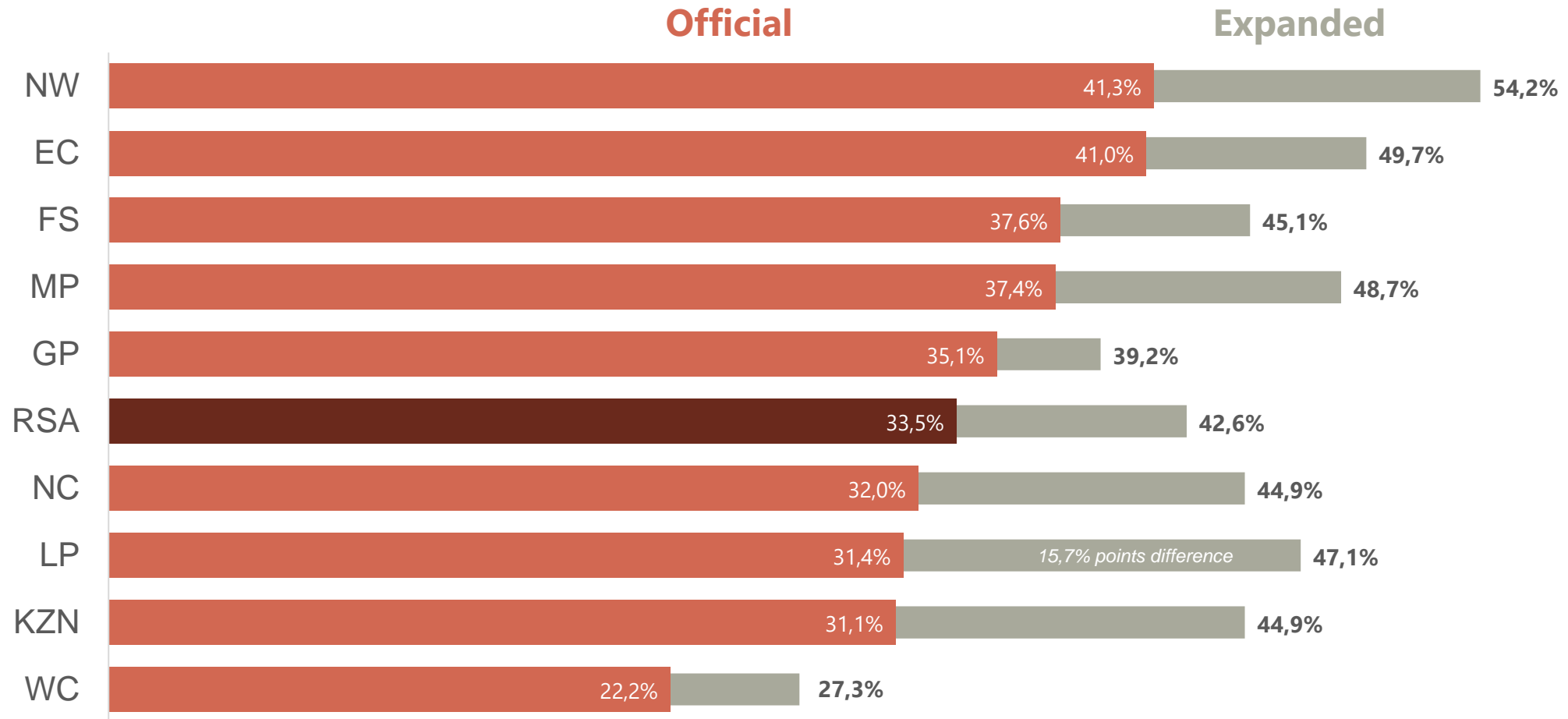
Expanded Definition includes the following	
- Official unemployment (searched and available)	8,4 M
- Available to work <b>but are/or</b>	
• Discouraged work-seekers	3,2 M
• Have other reasons for not searching	0,8 M





**NW** (54,2%) recorded the **highest expanded unemployment rate** in Q2:2024, followed by EC (49,7%). Limpopo recorded the highest difference between **expanded** and **official** unemployment rates of **15,7** percentage points.

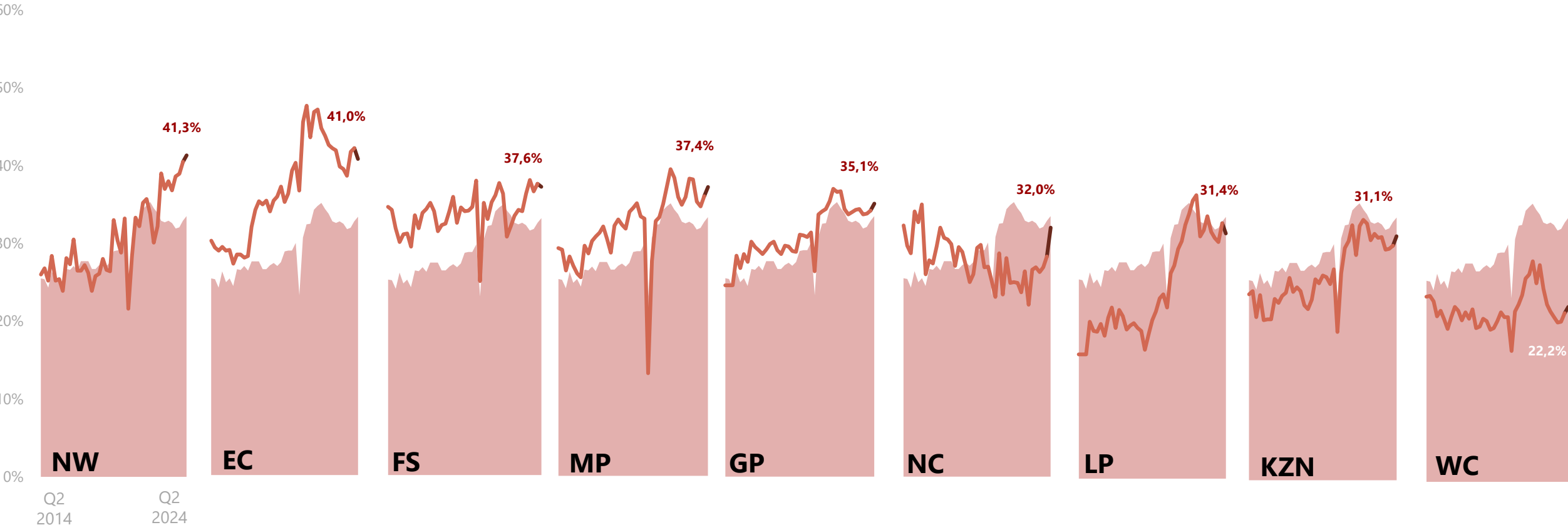
Provincial unemployment rate: **Official** vs Expanded Q2:2024



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.

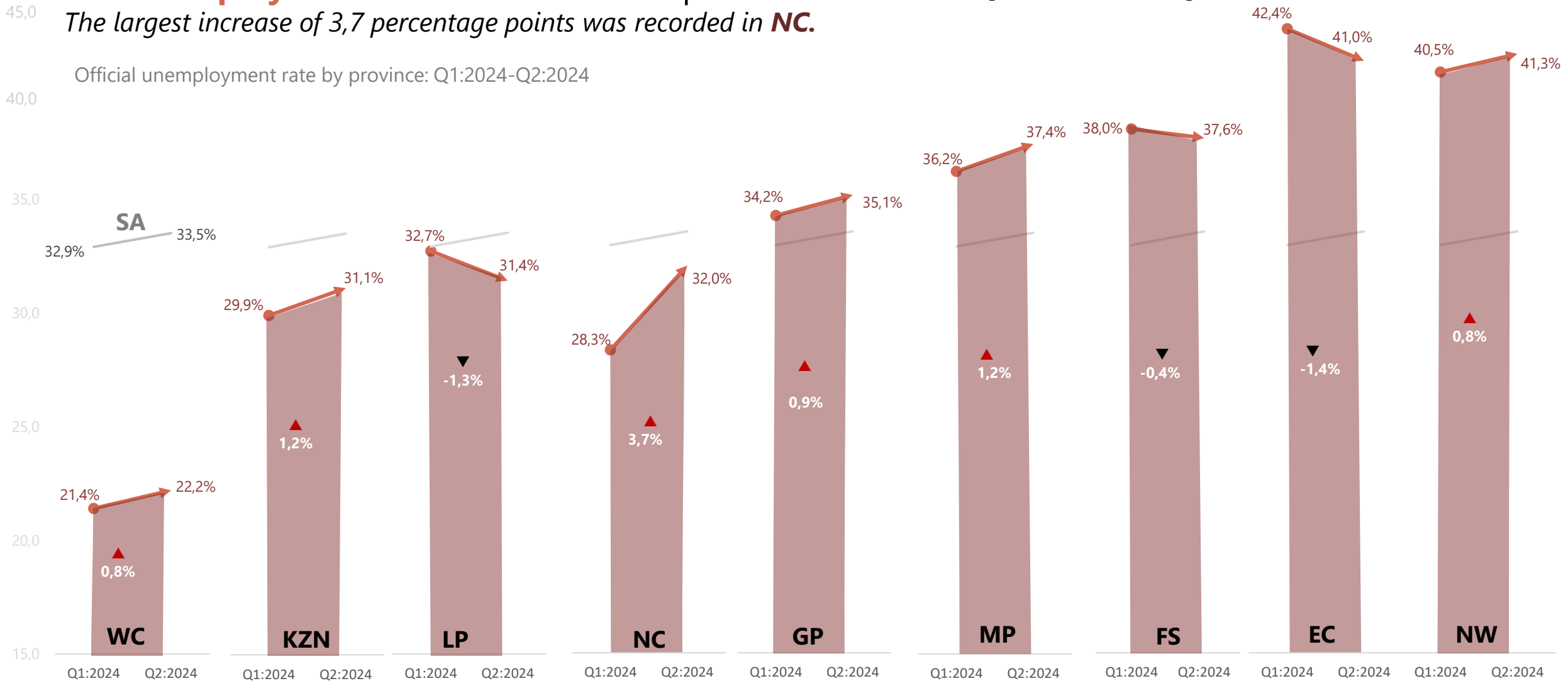
Official Unemployment rates by province, Q2:2014-Q2:2024

SA Unemployment Rate  
Provincial Unemployment Rate



The **unemployment rate** increased in six provinces between Q1:2024 and Q2:2024.  
 The largest increase of 3,7 percentage points was recorded in **NC**.

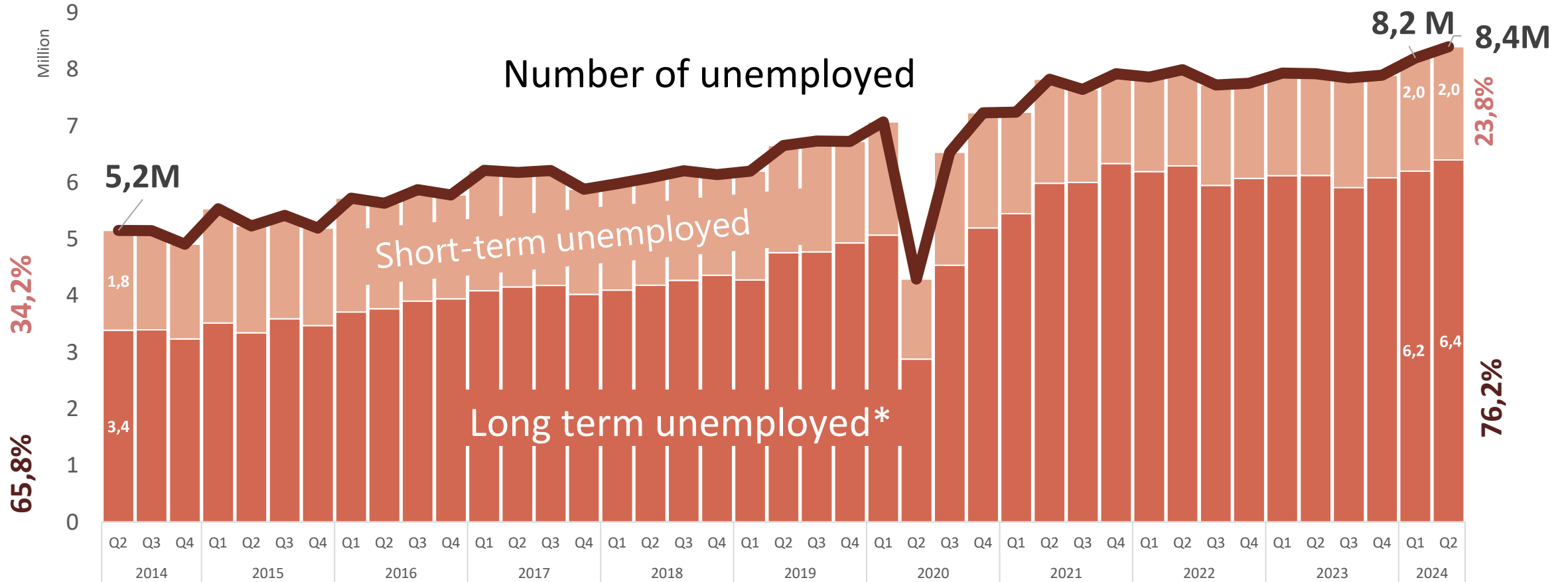
Official unemployment rate by province: Q1:2024-Q2:2024



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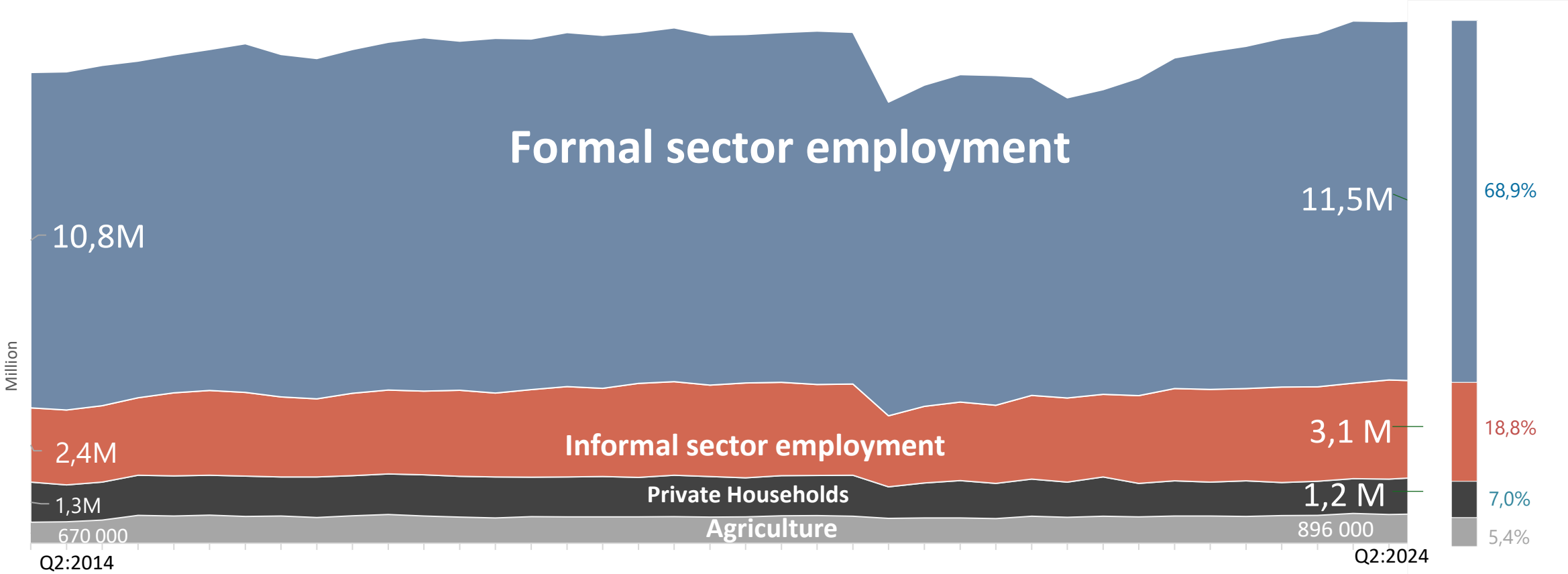
The number of unemployed people in South Africa increased from 5,2 million in Q2:2014 to 8,4 million in Q2:2024. The proportion of those in long-term unemployment increased from 65,8% in Q2:2014 to 76,2% in Q2:2024

\*Long term unemployment –unemployed for a year or longer



# The **formal sector** in South Africa accounts for **68,9%** of total employment.

Employment share by sector, Q2:2014 to Q2:2024



*Due to rounding numbers may not add up*

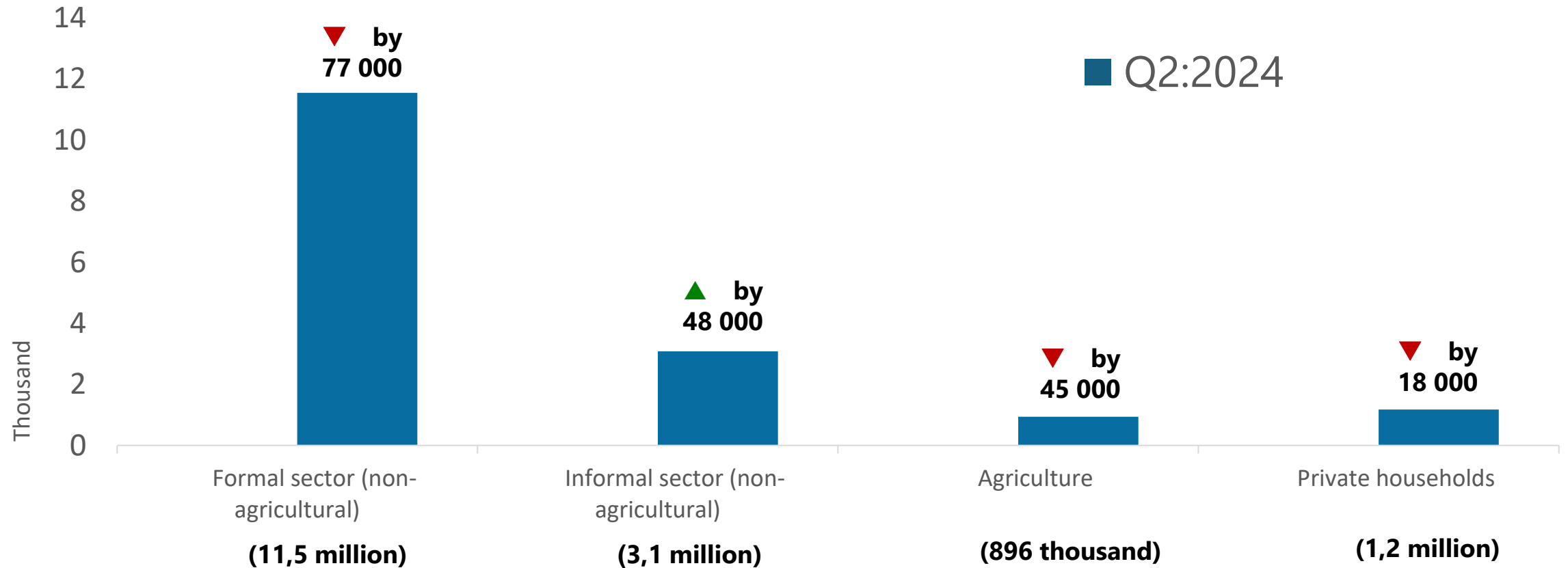


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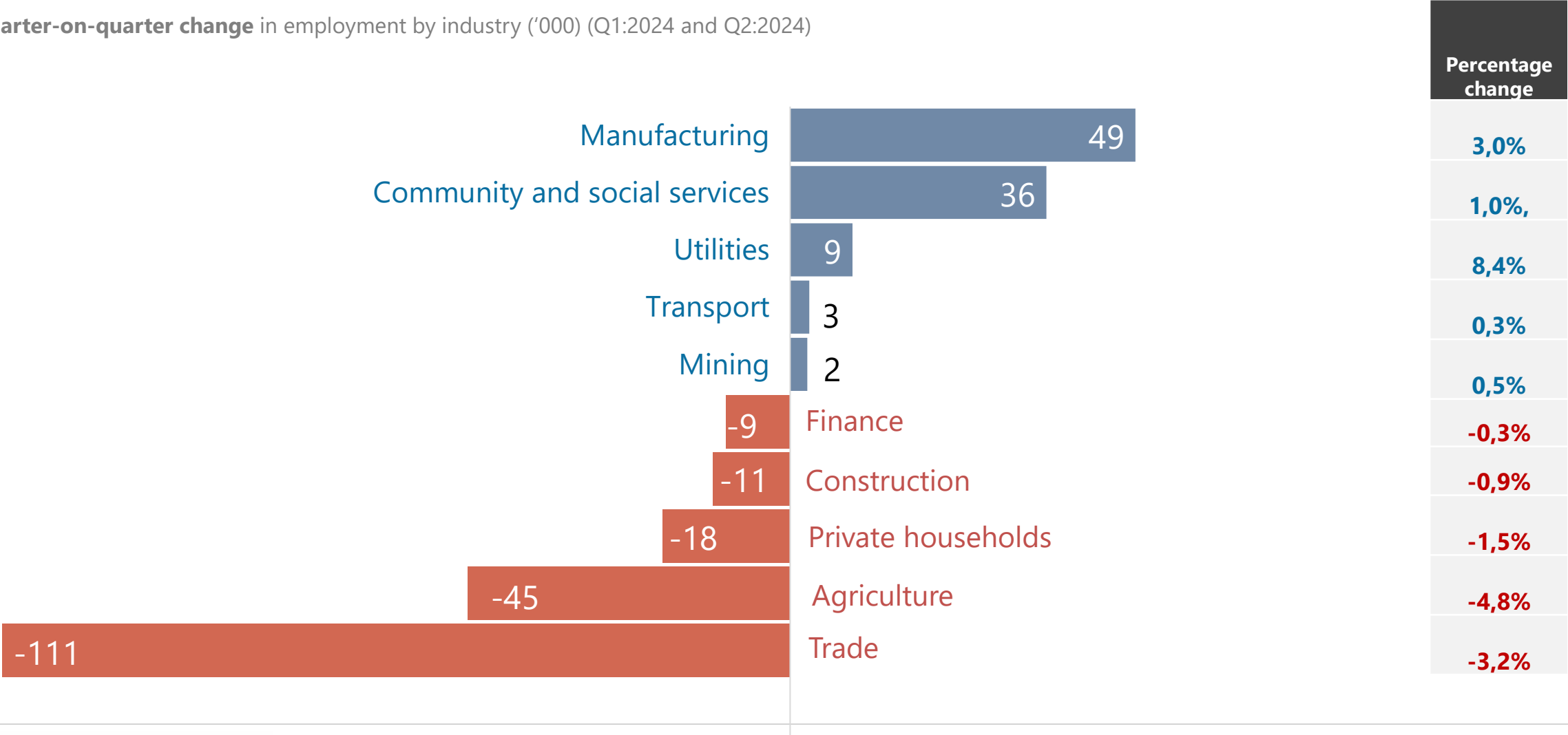
All employment sectors decreased between Q1:2024 and Q2:2024, except for the informal sector which increased by **48 000 jobs**.

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



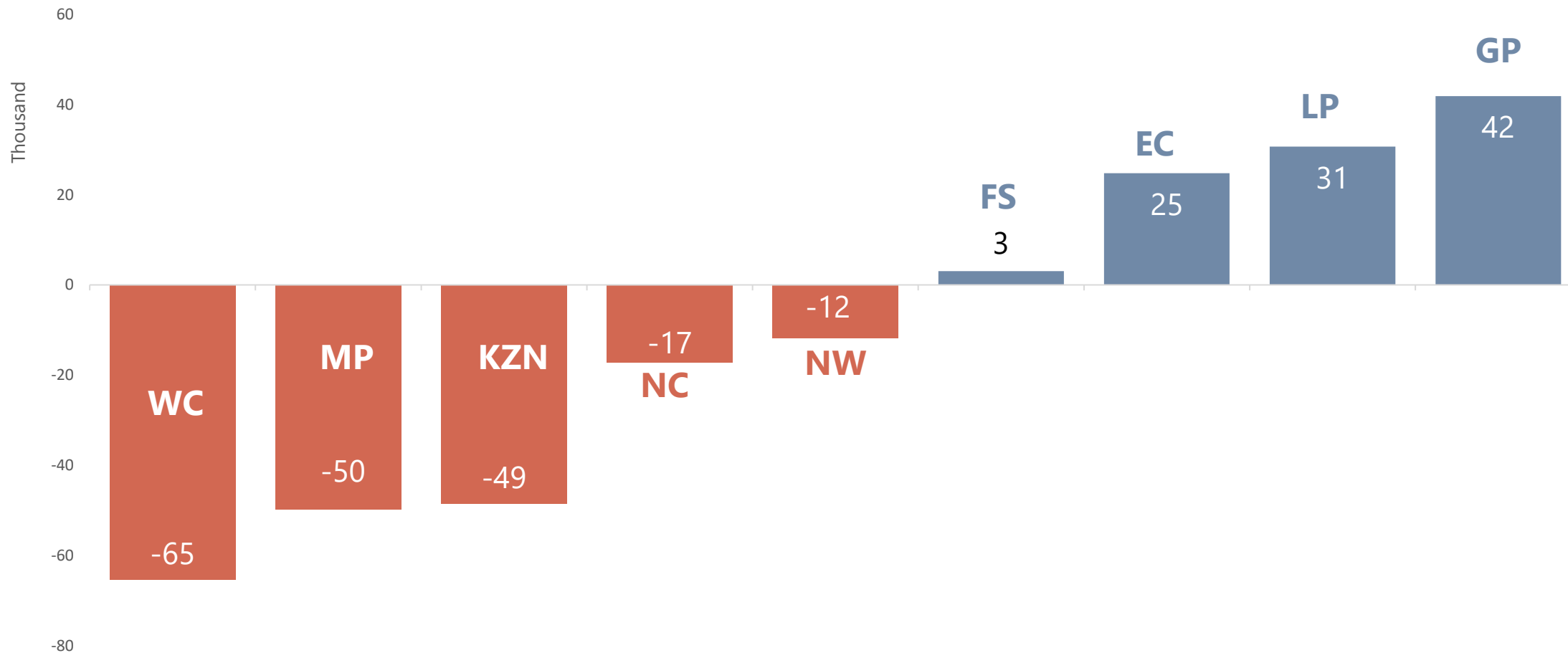
**Employment** decreases were mainly in the Trade, Agriculture, and Private households industries. However, the largest increases in employment were recorded in Manufacturing and Services.

Quarter-on-quarter change in employment by industry ('000) (Q1:2024 and Q2:2024)



# WC, MP and KZN recorded the largest decreases in employment in Q2:2024, while GP and LP recorded the largest increases.

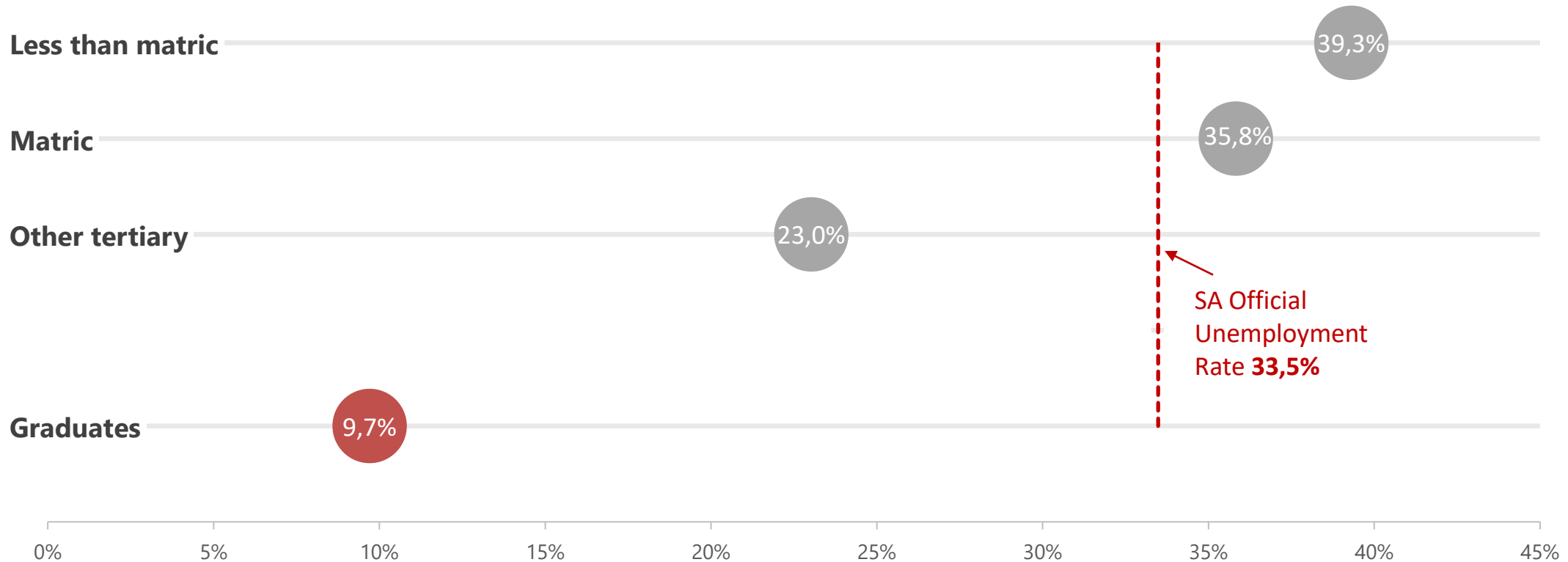
Quarter-on-quarter change in employment by province (Q1:2024 and Q2:2024)



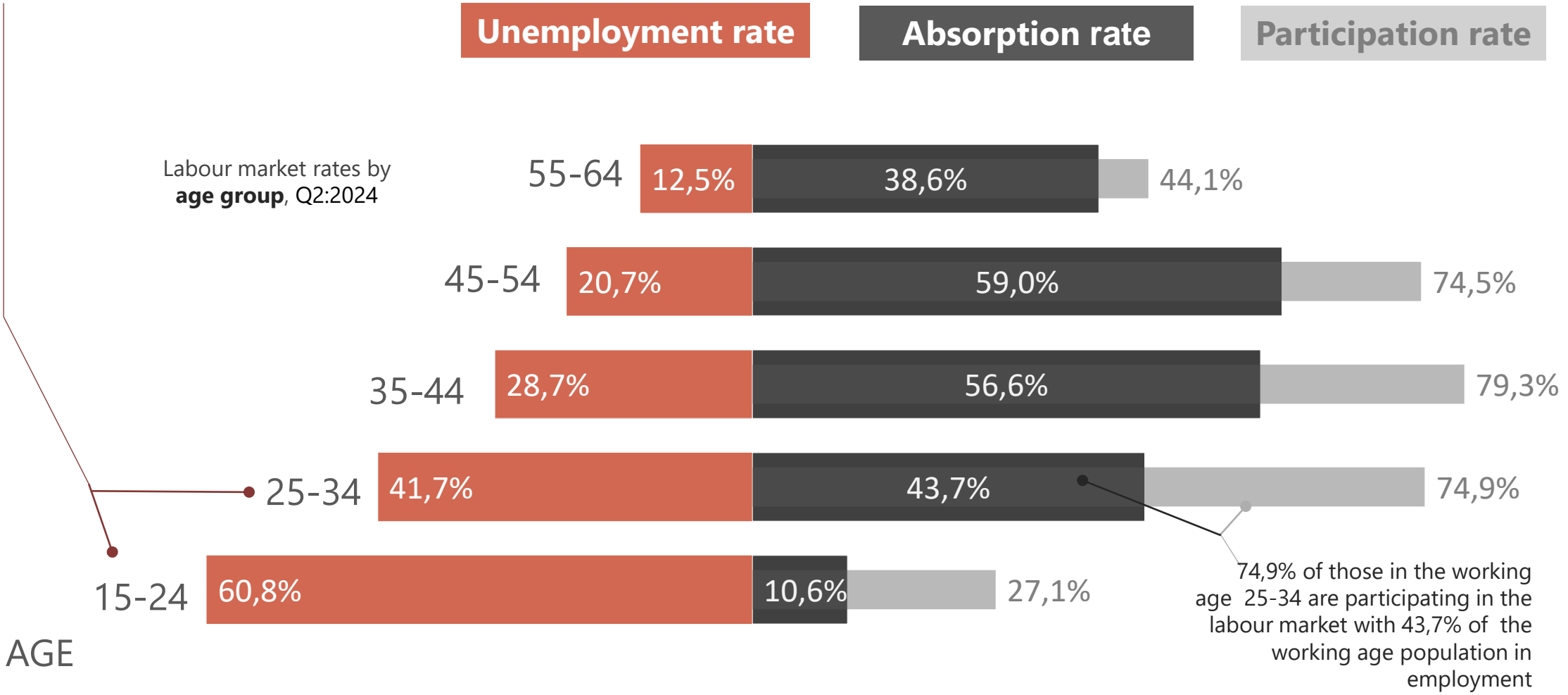


**Graduate** unemployment rate decreased by 2,1 percentage points to **9,7%** in Q2:2024 compared to 11,8% in Q1:2024. Those with **matric** and **less than matric** remain vulnerable with unemployment rates of 35,8% and 39,3% respectively.

Official Unemployment rate by level of education, Q2:2024

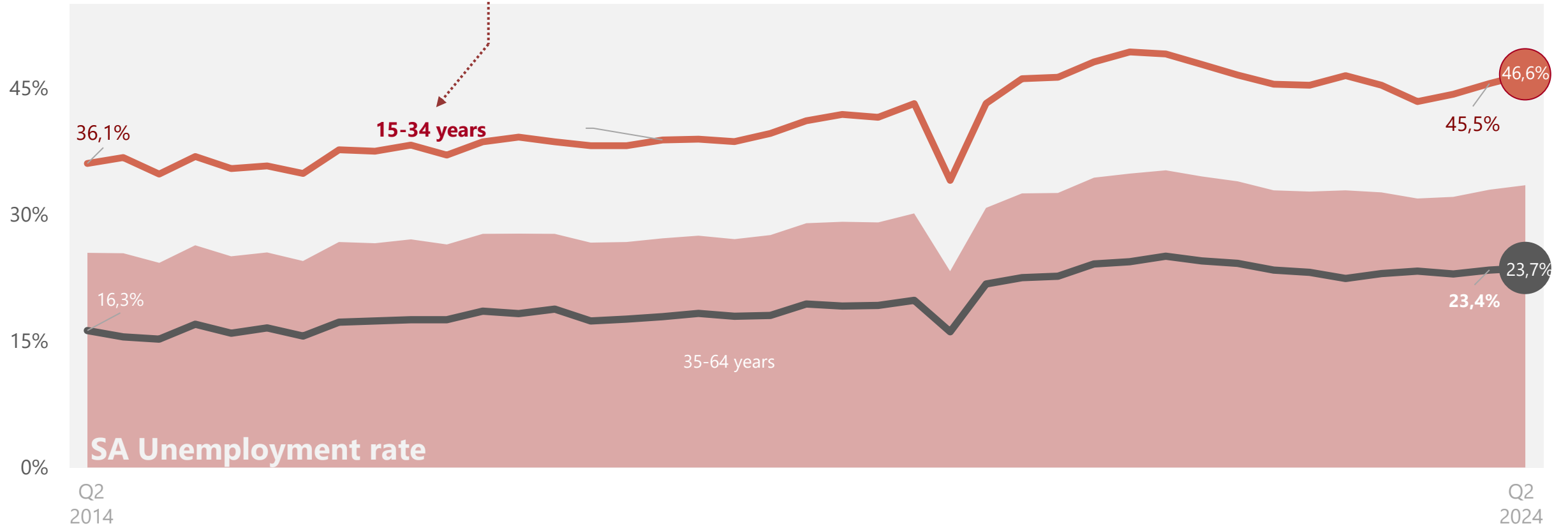


Youth aged 15-24 years and 25-34 years continue to have the highest unemployment rates at **60,8%** and **41,7%** respectively.

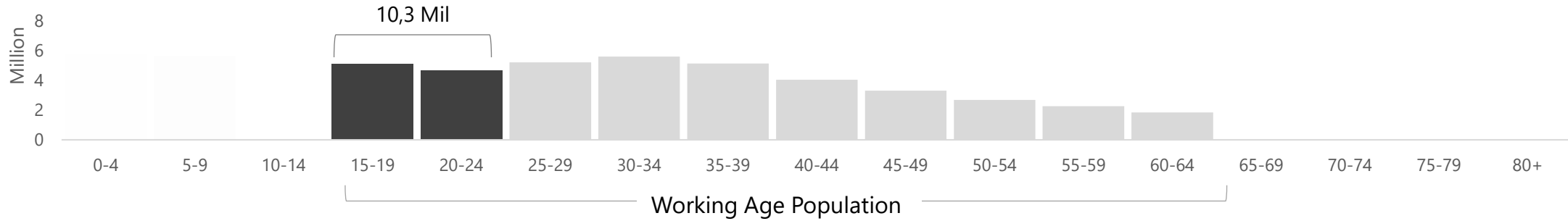


# Youth aged **15-34 years** unemployment rate is higher as compared to older age groups

Official Unemployment rates by age group,  
**Q2:2014-Q2:2024**



Approximately **3,6 million (35,2%)** out of **10,3 million** young people aged 15-24 years were not in employment, education or training (NEET).



Number of NEET for ages 15-24  
Q2:2024

**3,6 Million**  
**NEET**

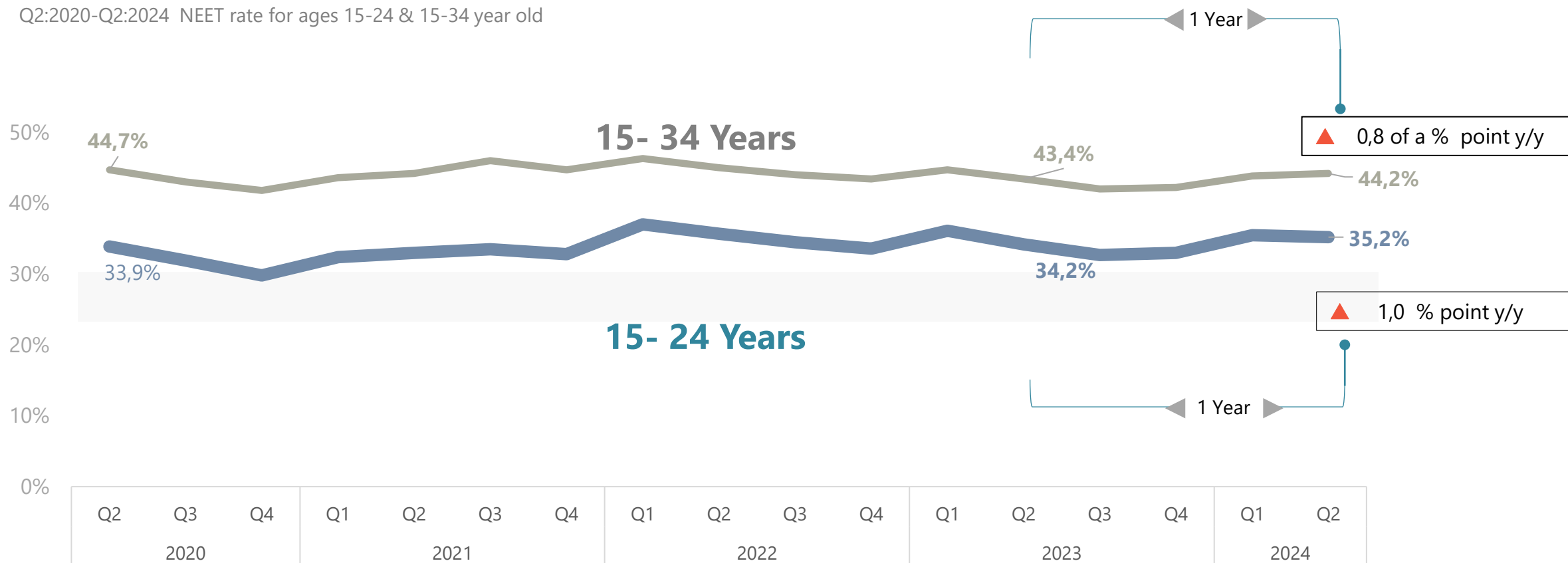
**6,6 Million**

**Employed or in  
Education or Training**

*Due to rounding numbers may not add up*

The overall NEET rate (15 – 24yrs) increased by 1,0 percentage point in Q2:2024 compared to Q2:2023.

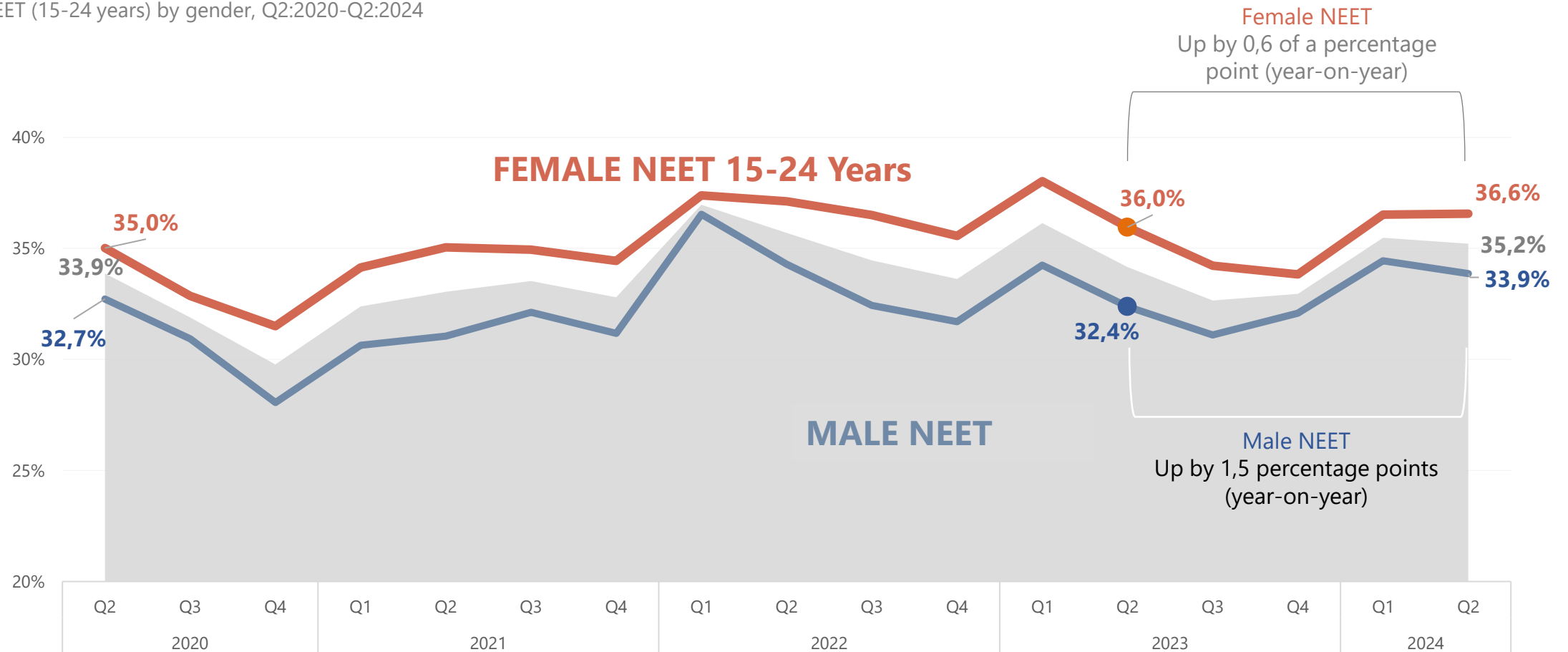
Q2:2020-Q2:2024 NEET rate for ages 15-24 & 15-34 year old



Due to rounding numbers may not add up

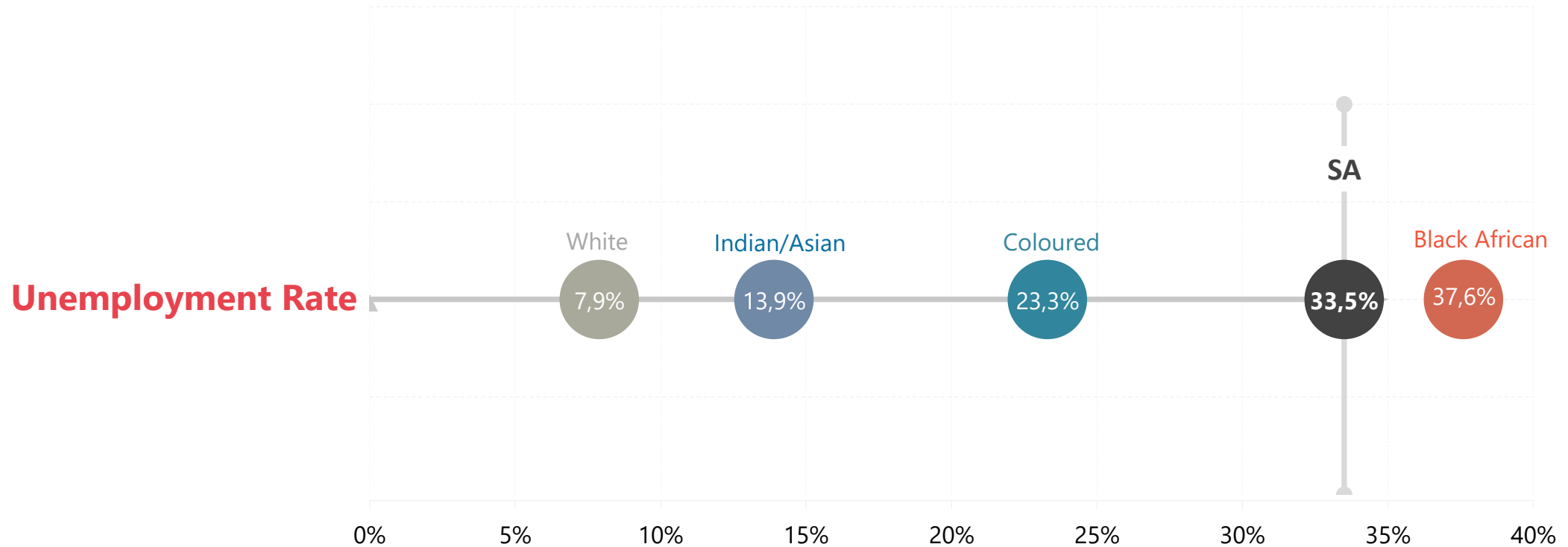
**36,6% of young females** aged 15-24 years were not in employment, education or training (NEET) in Q2: 2024. This is a 0,6 of a percentage point increase compared to Q2: 2023.

NEET (15-24 years) by gender, Q2:2020-Q2:2024



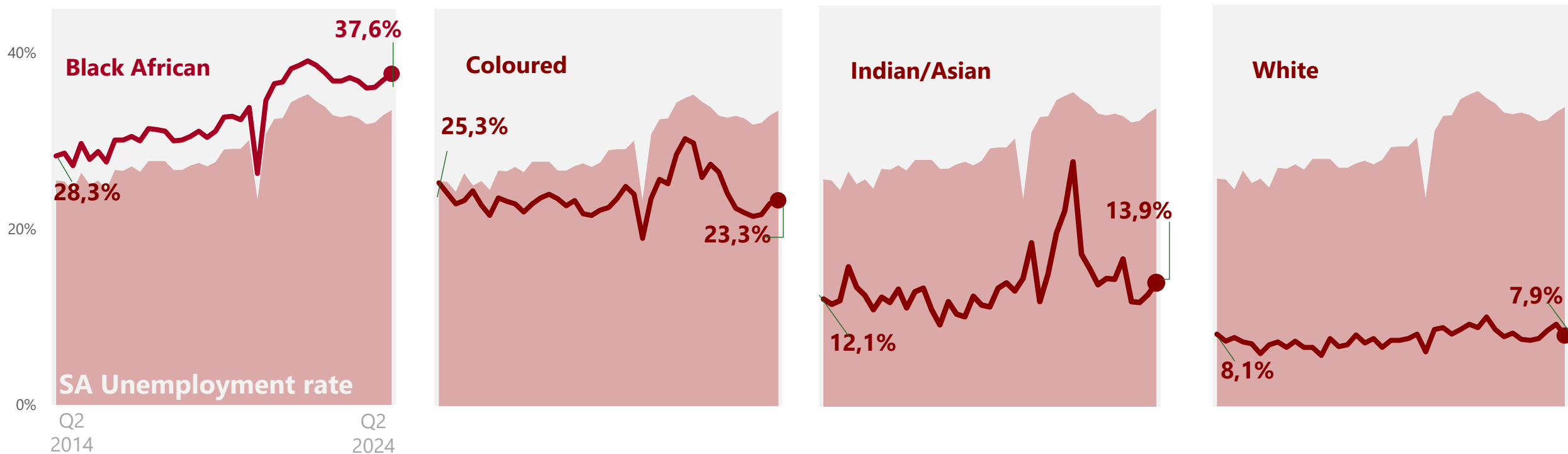
The unemployment rate among the **Black African (37,6%)** population group remains higher than the national average and other population groups.

**OFFICIAL** unemployment rate by population group, Q2:2024



Black African unemployment rate has consistently been higher than the national average and other population groups over the past 10-year period.

Official Unemployment rates by population group,  
Q2:2014-Q2:2024





# Women in South Africa



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# The unemployment rate for women stands at **35,8 %** in Q2:2024.

**20,8 million**

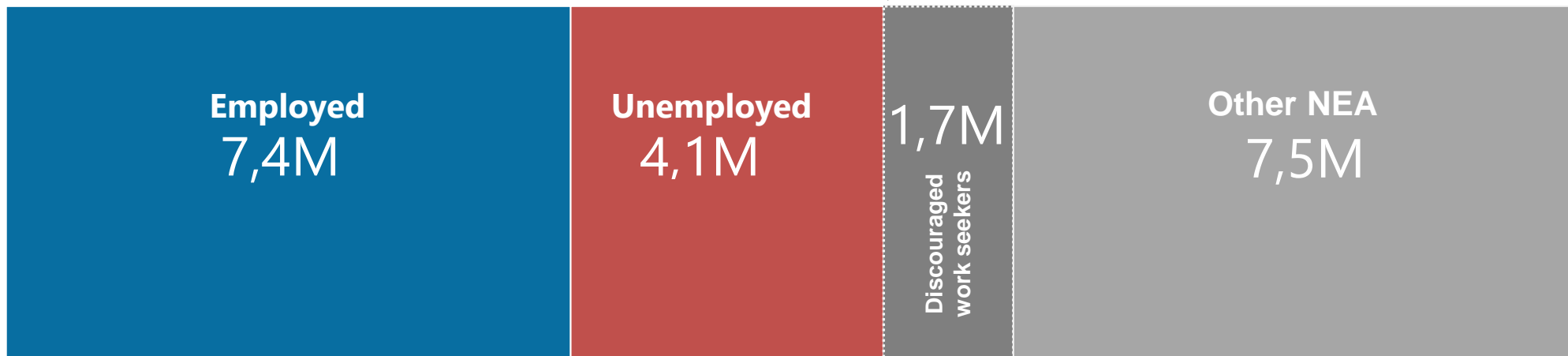
People of working age in South Africa (15 – 64-year-old)

**Labour force**

**Not Economically Active**

**11,6 million**

**9,2 million**



SA's women unemployment rate stands at **35,8%** increased by 0,6 of a percentage point between Q1:2024 and Q2:2024

*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.*



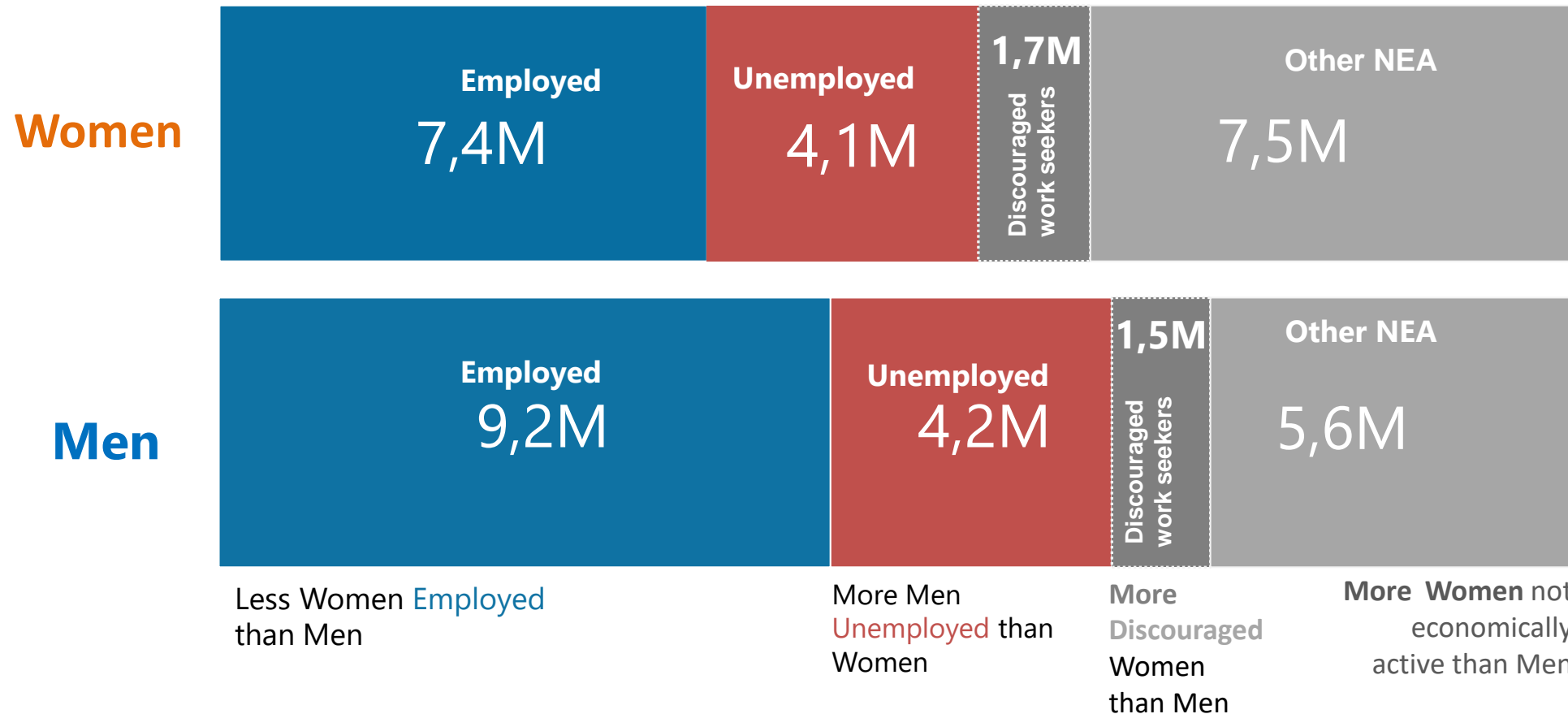
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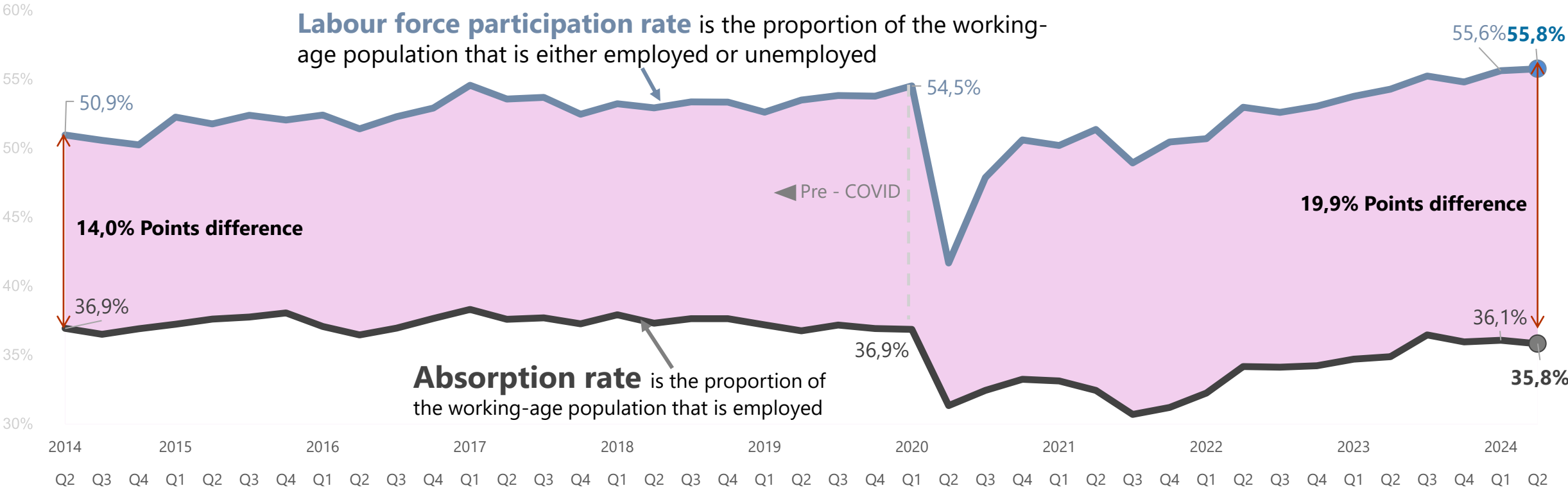
There were **7,4 million women** employed in Q2:2024 compared to 9,2 million men employed.

Not Economically Active (NEA)



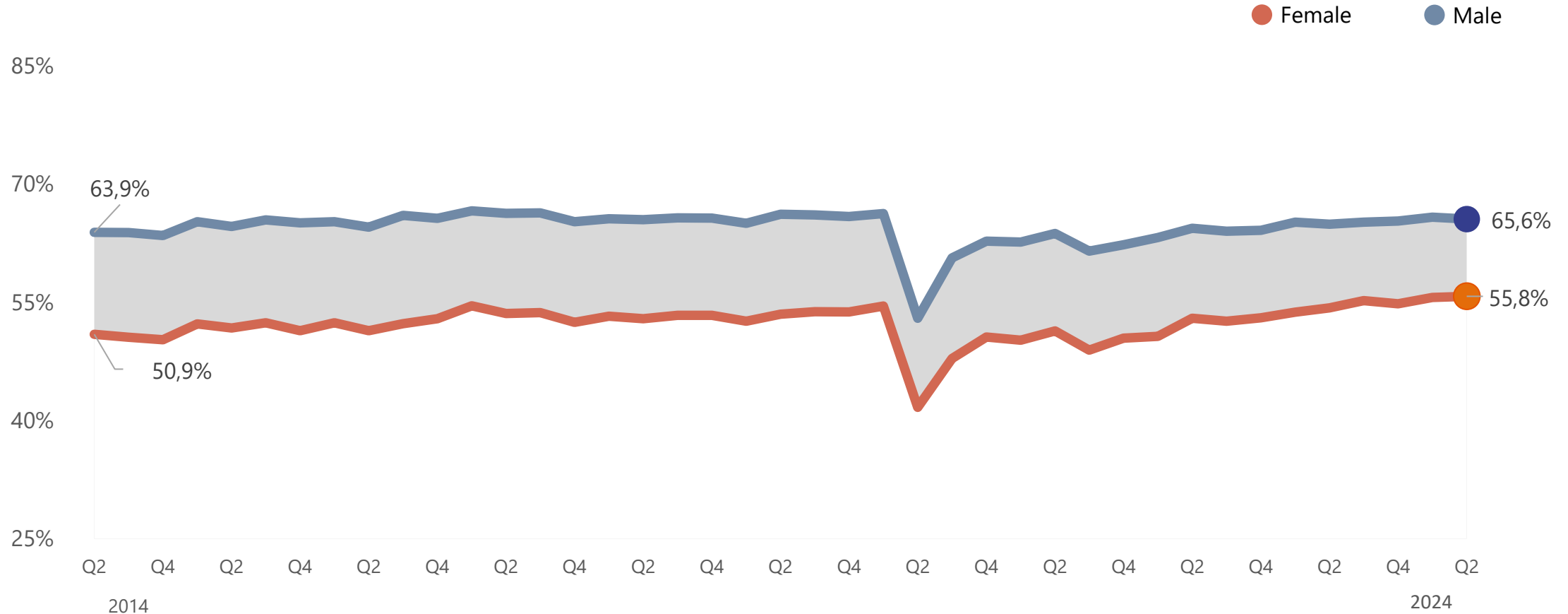
The **labour force participation rate** for women increased from 50,9% to 55,8% over a ten-year period, while the **absorption rate** decreased from 36,9% to 35,8% over the same period.

Labour force participation and absorption rates Q2:2014-Q2:2024



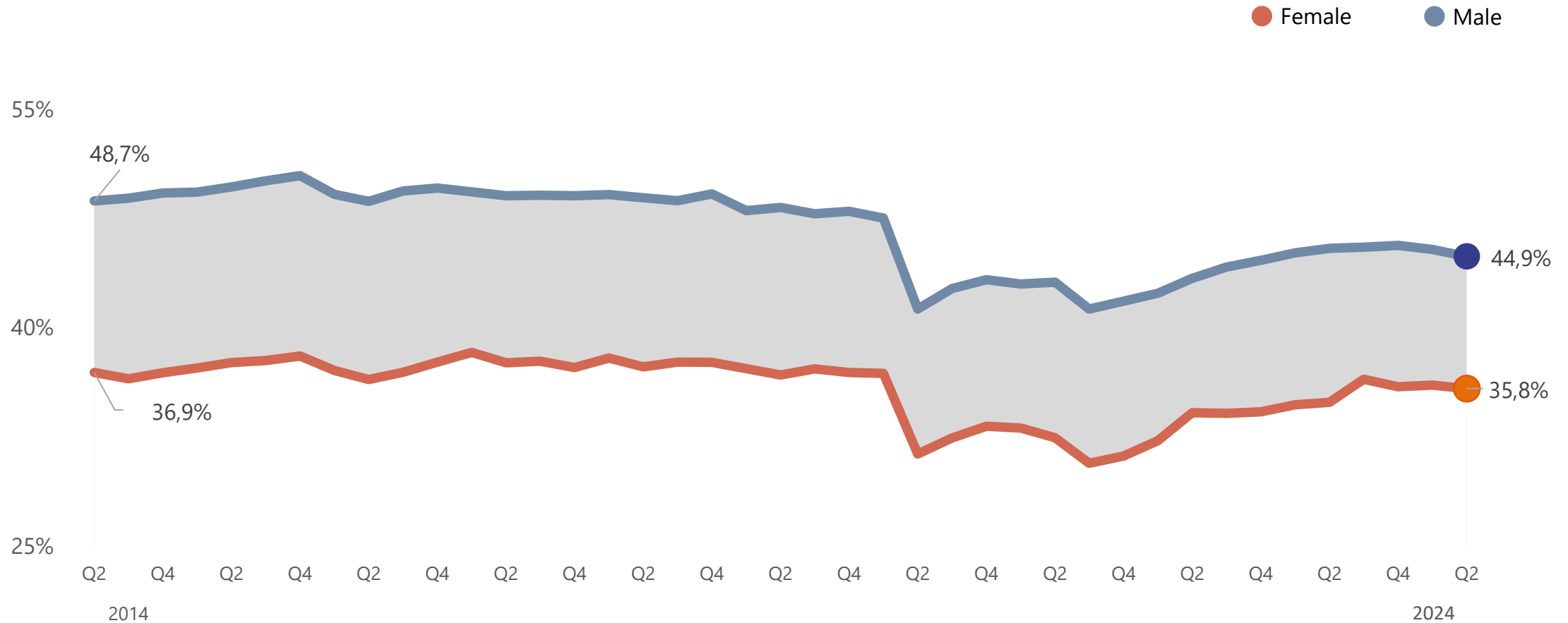
Although **women's** labour force participation rate has been increasing over time. **Men's** participation in the labour force is higher than women participation.

Labour force participation by sex Q2:2014 - Q2:2024



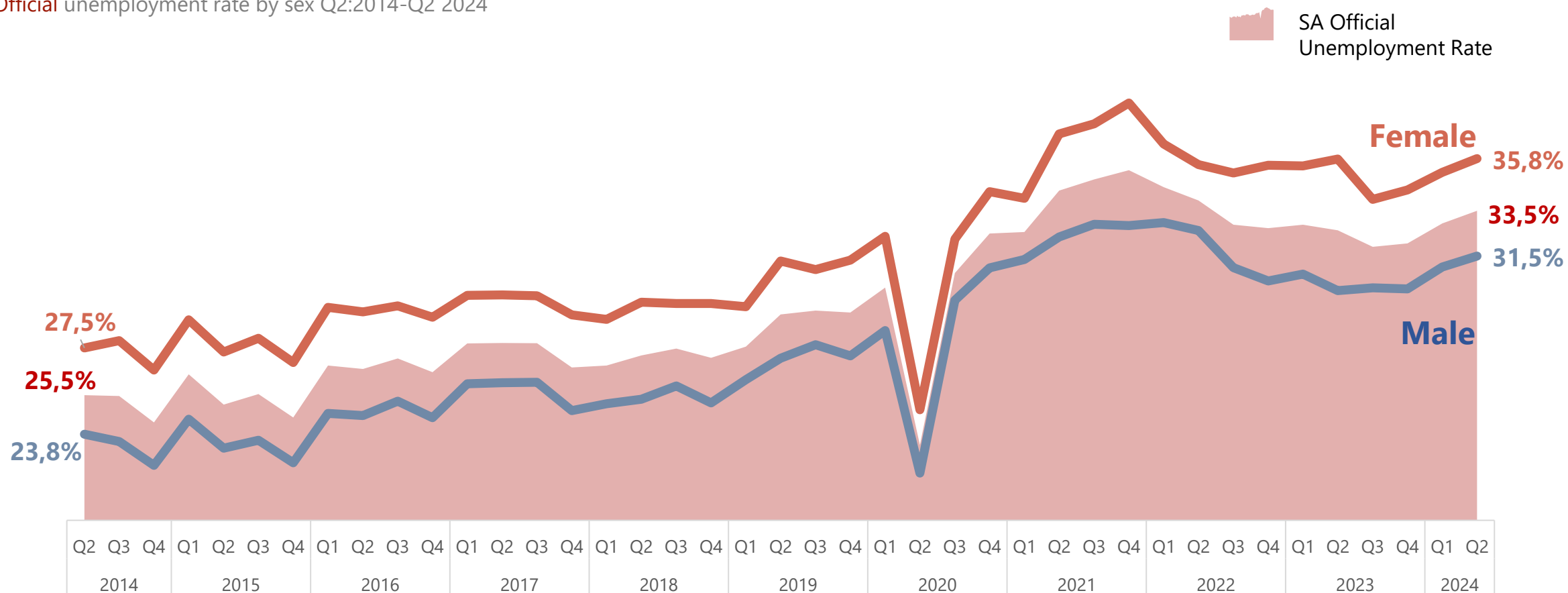
# Women's **absorption rate** has been lower than that of men, with a 9,1 percentage points difference between men and women absorption rates in Q2:2024

Absorption rate by sex Q2:2014 - Q2:2024



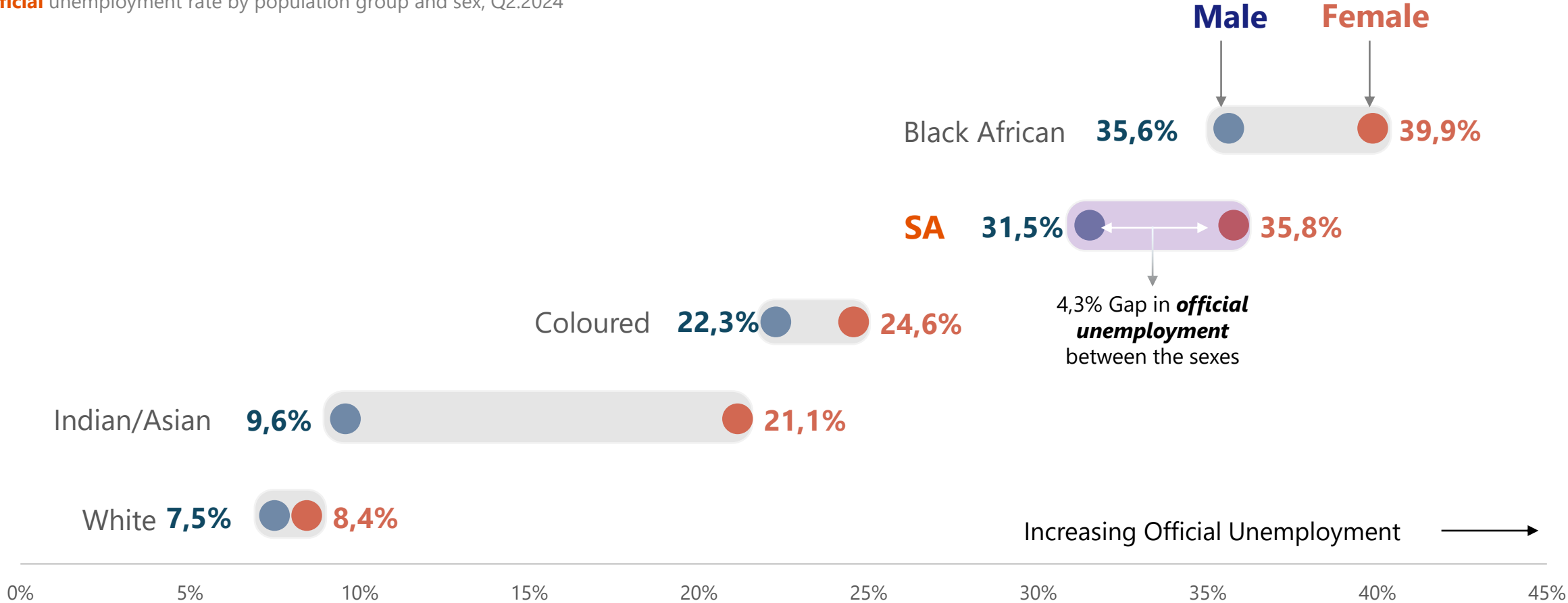
Since Q2:2014 women unemployment rate **has been higher** than the unemployment rate of men, women unemployment rate increased from 27,5% in Q2:2014 to **35,8% in Q2:2024**.

Official unemployment rate by sex Q2:2014-Q2 2024



**Black African women** continue to be the most vulnerable with an unemployment rate of **39,9%** in Q2:2024. *This is 4,1 percentage points higher than the national average for women at 35,8%.*

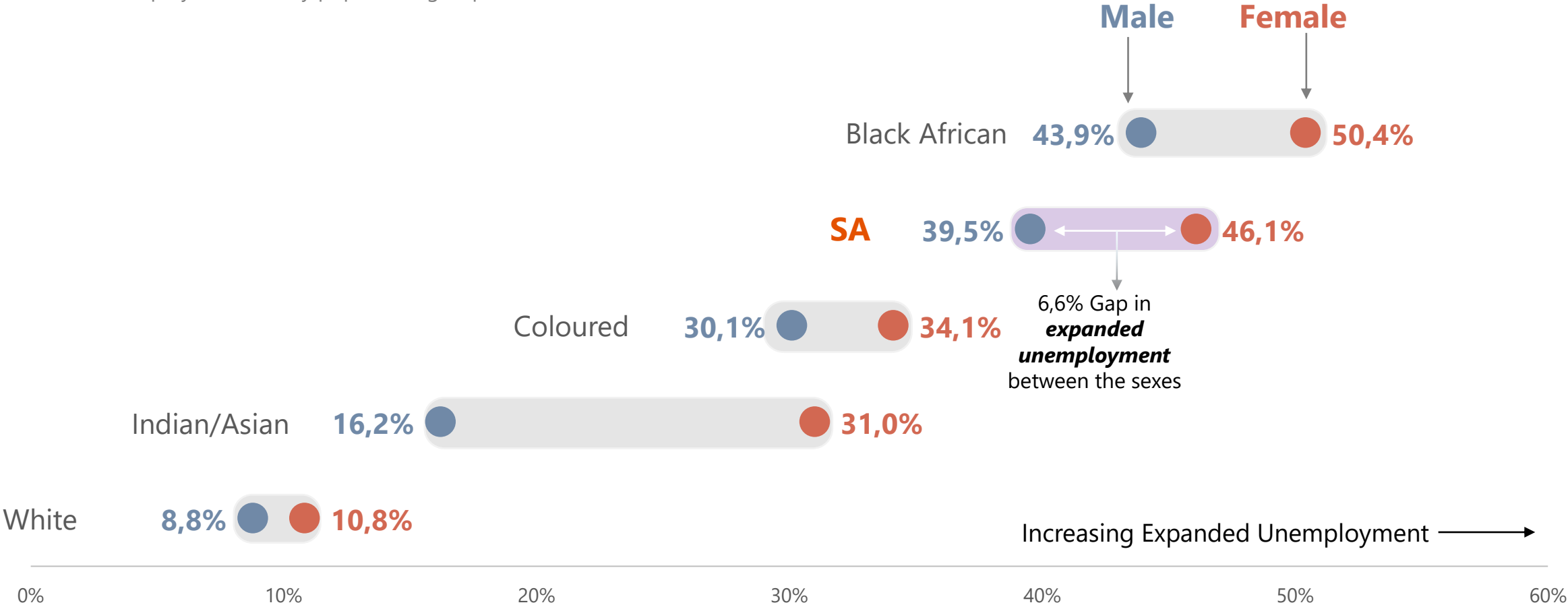
Official unemployment rate by population group and sex, Q2:2024





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

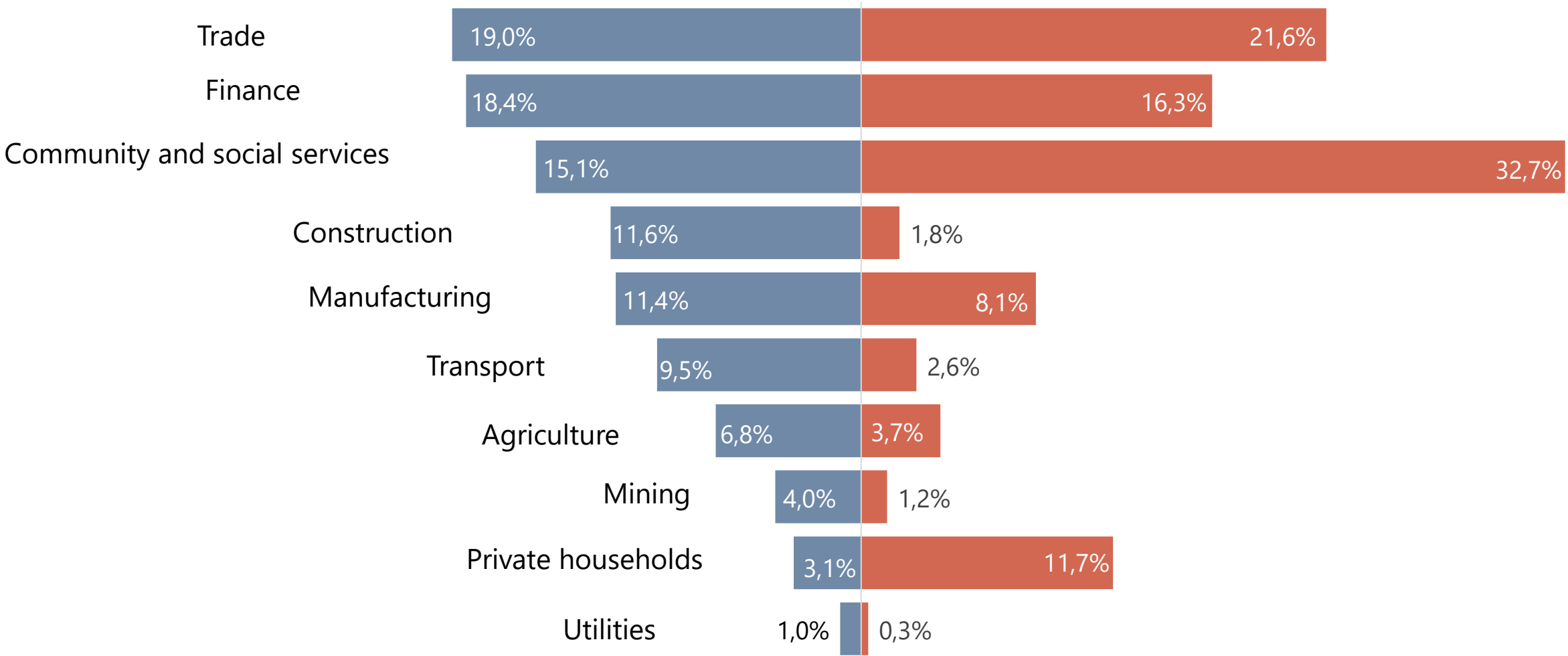
**EXPANDED** unemployment rate by population group and sex, Q2:2024



**Women** were more likely to be employed in **Community & Social services, Trade and Private households** as compared to men.

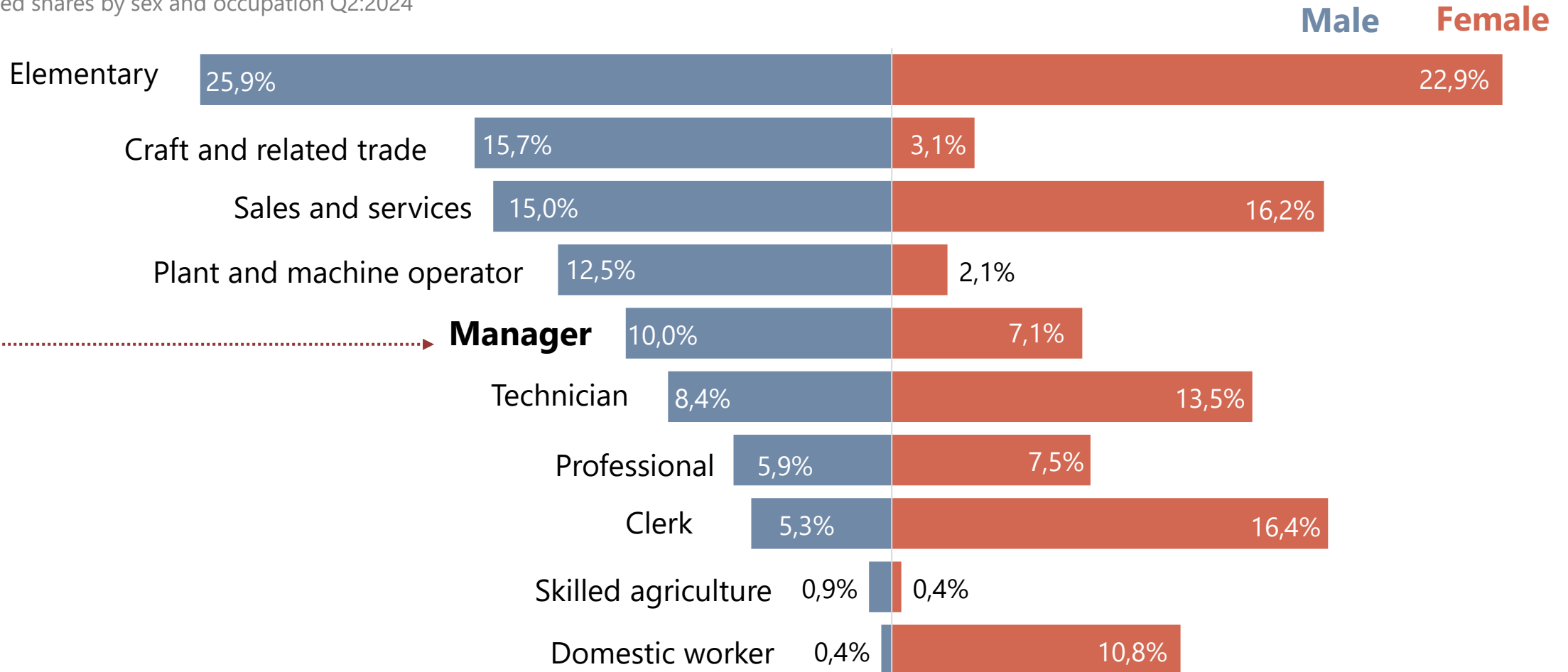
(Employed shares by sex and industry Q2:2024)

**Male**      **Female**



**Women** occupying managerial positions account for 7,1% compared to 10,0% for men. Women were more likely to be employed in clerical, technical and domestic work occupations than men.

Employed shares by sex and occupation Q2:2024



# RECAP (QLFS, Q2:2024)

- ❖ Unemployment rate **increased** by 0,6 of a percentage point to 33,5% in Q2:2024. The absorption rate **decreased** by 0,4 of a percentage point to 40,3% and the labour force participation rate decreased by 0,1 of a percentage point to 60,6% in Q2:2024 compared to Q1:2024.
- ❖ The number of unemployed persons **increased** by 158 000 in Q2:2024 compared to Q1:2024. The number of those who were employed **decreased** by 92 000 in the same quarter.
- ❖ The largest industry **employment losses** were recorded in Trade (111 000), Agriculture (45 000), and Private households (18 000), while the largest industry **employment gains** were recorded in Manufacturing (49 000) and Community and social services (36 000).
- ❖ Women are more likely to be employed in **community and social services, Trade and Private households** industries and in clerical, technical and domestic work occupations compared to men.



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# NOW IN THE FIELD

**Geospatial Information Frame**

**Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (April 2024-March 2025)**

**Quarterly Labour Force Survey (Collected quarterly)**

**General Household Survey (January-December)**

**Domestic Tourism Survey (January-December)**

**Consumer Price Index (Collected monthly)**

**Volunteer Activity Survey (July-September)**



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# Ndzi hela kwala!



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