

Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) Q3:2024

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Statistician-General



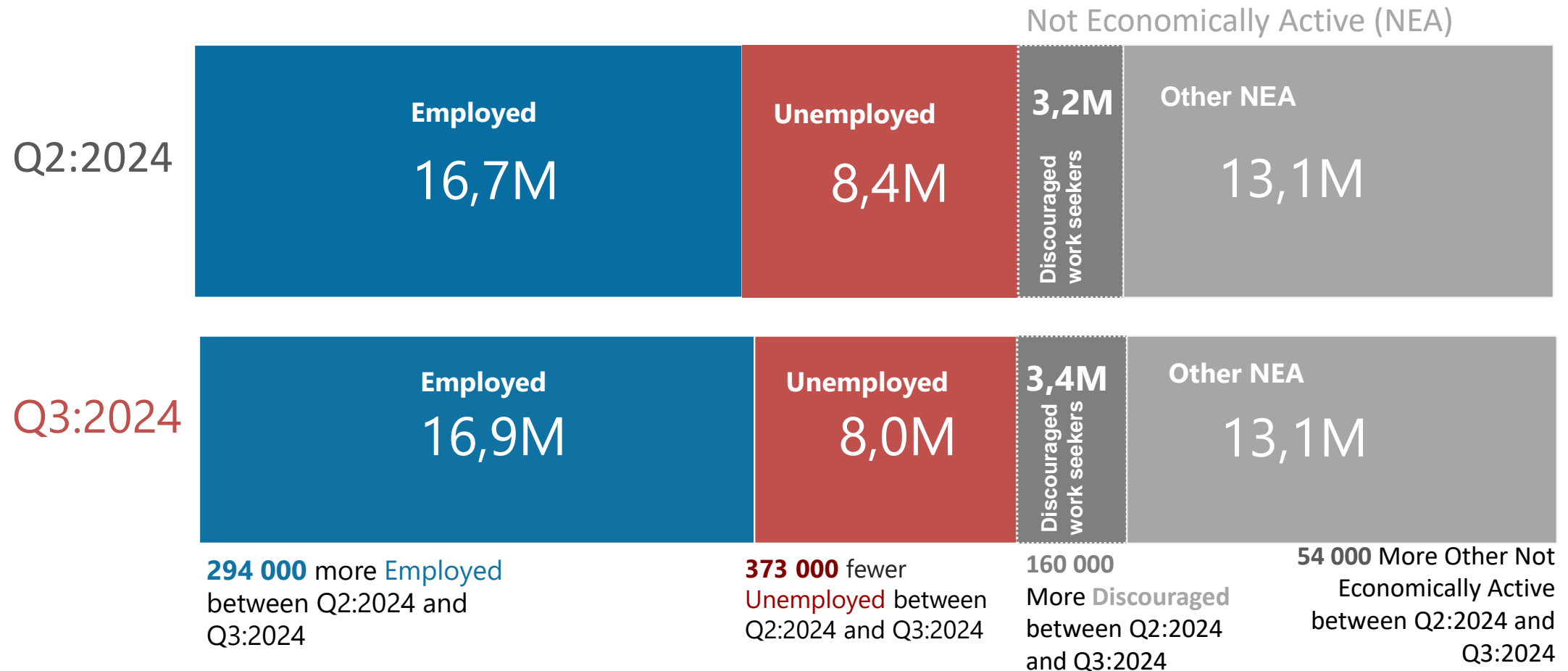
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Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS

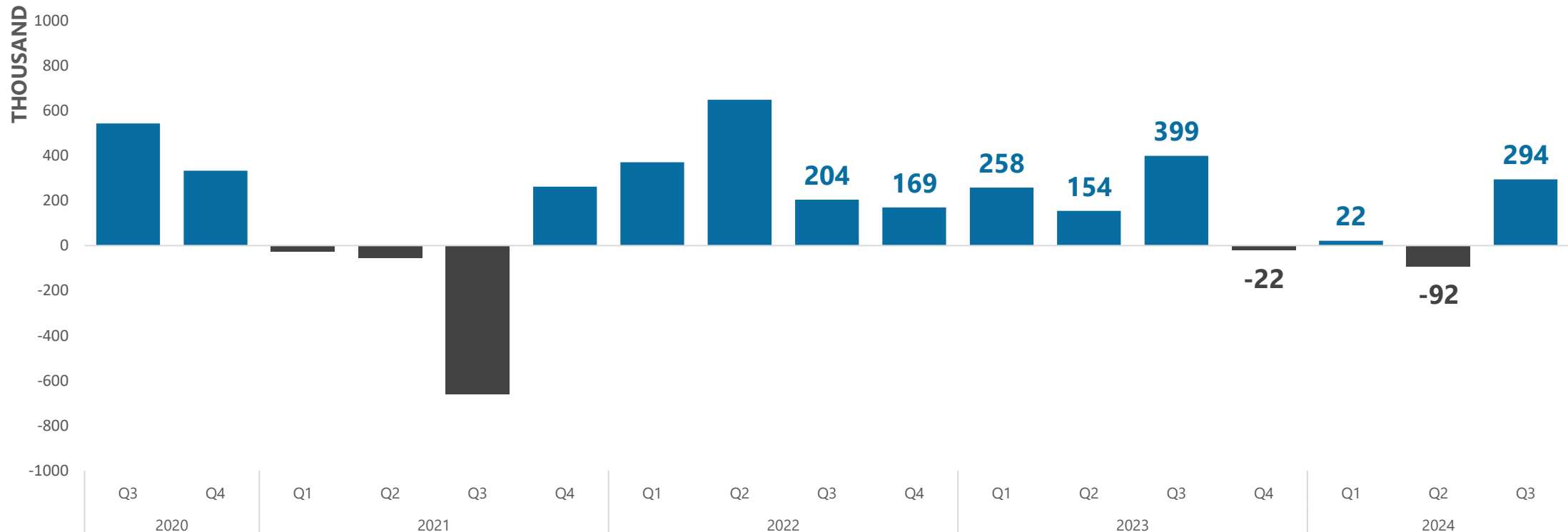


There were about 294 **thousand** more people who were employed in Q3:2024 than in Q2:2024



Employment increased by **294 000** in the third quarter of 2024, following a decrease of **92 000** in the second quarter of 2024.

Employment changes Q3:2020-Q3:2024 (Quarter-on-quarter)



The official unemployment rate decreased by 1,4 percentage points to **32,1%** in Q3:2024 compared to Q2:2024.

41,4 million

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

Labour force

Not Economically Active

25,0 million

16,5 million



SA's official unemployment rate stands at

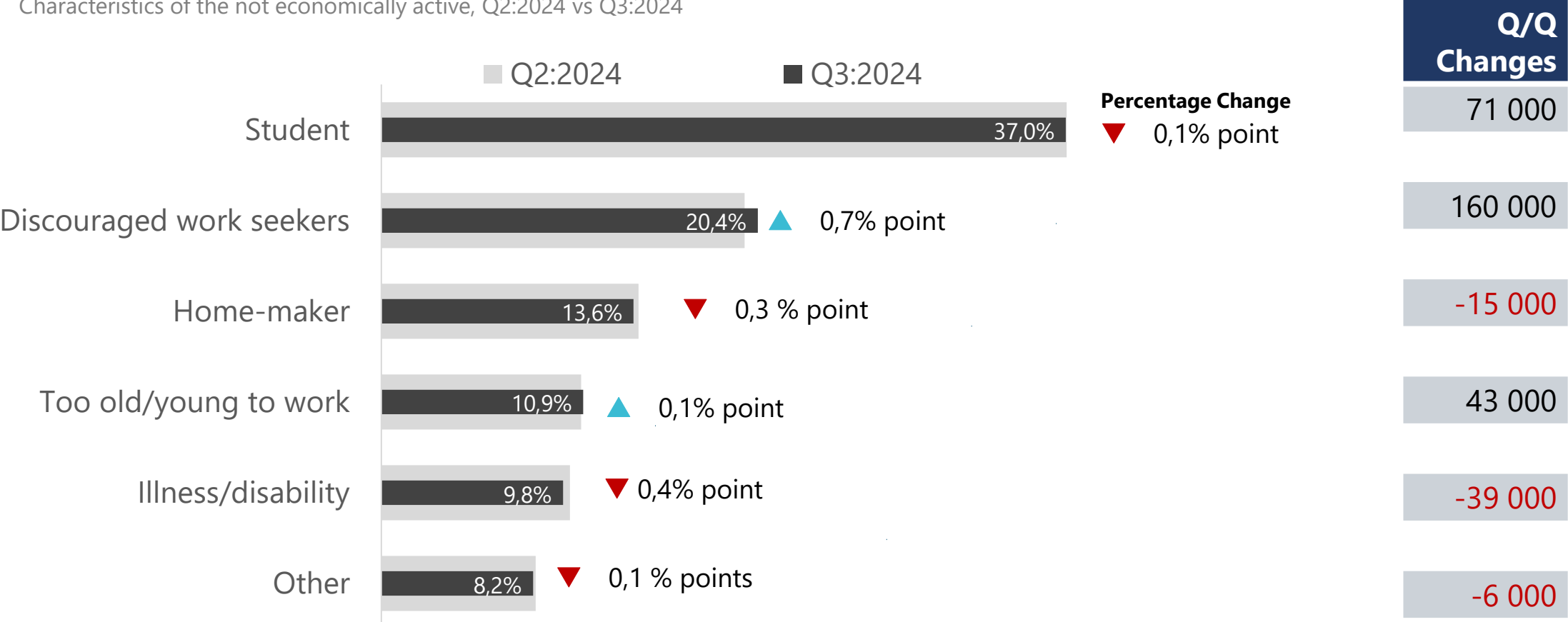
32,1%

Decreased by 1,4 percentage points between Q2:2024 and Q3:2024

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.

The number of **Not Economically Active** persons **increased by 214 000** in Q3:2024 compared to Q2:2024

Characteristics of the not economically active, Q2:2024 vs Q3:2024



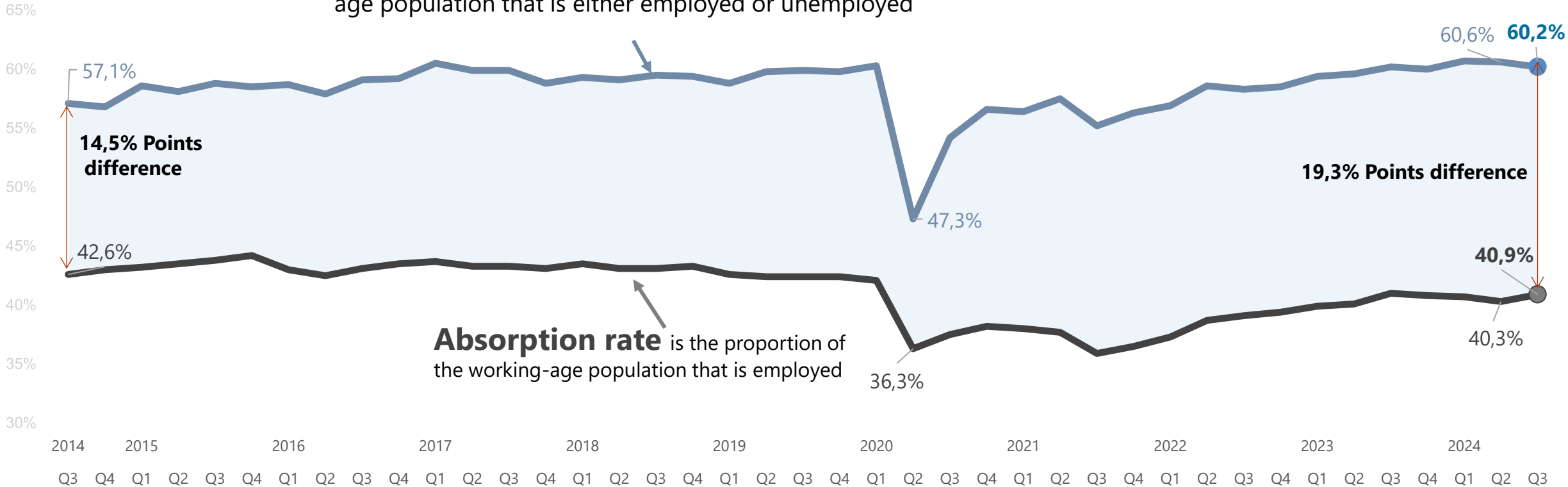
Due to rounding numbers may not add up

The **absorption rate** increased by 0,6 of a percentage point from 40,3% in Q2:2024 to 40,9% in Q3:2024.

Labour force participation and absorption rates Q3:2014-Q3:2024

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

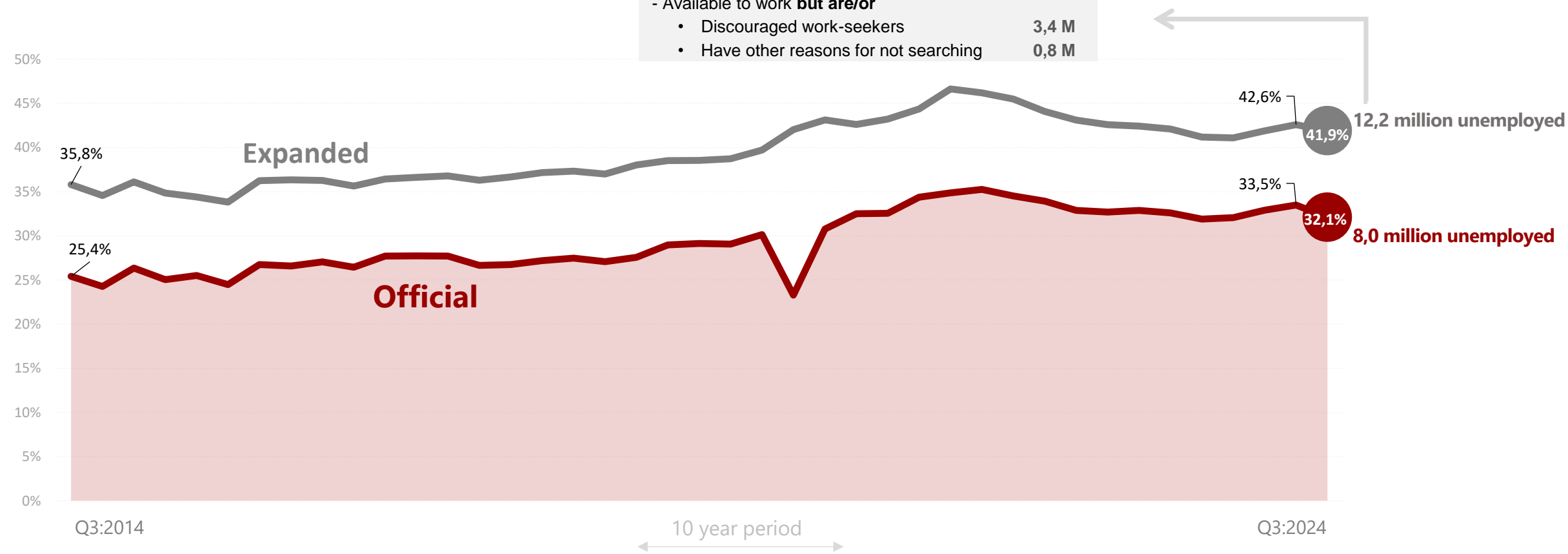
Absorption rate is the proportion of the working-age population that is employed



The expanded unemployment rate decreased by 0,7 of a percentage point to 41,9% when comparing Q3:2024 and Q2:2024.

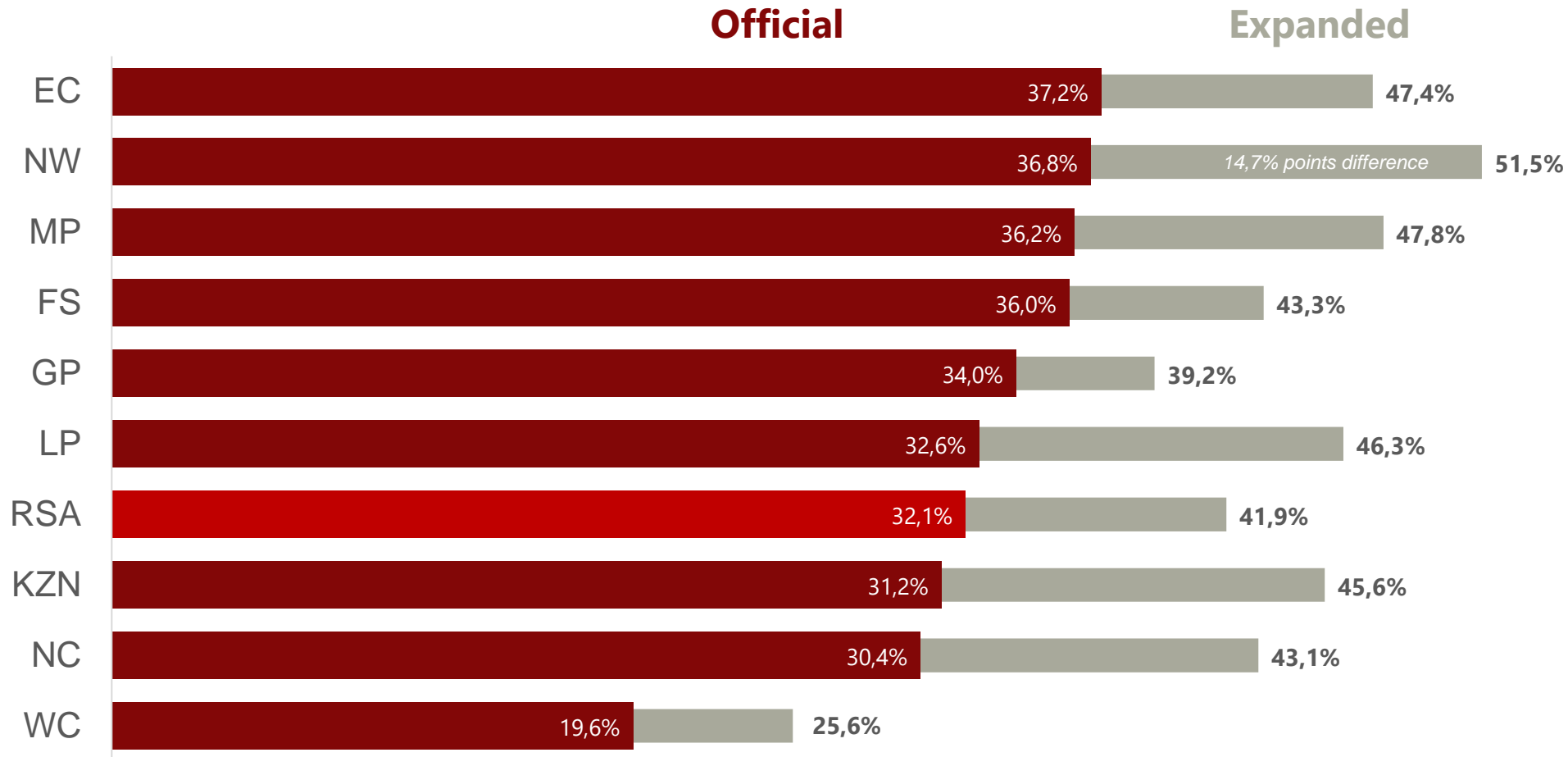
Official vs Expanded unemployment: Q3:2014-Q3:2024

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



NW (51,5%) recorded the **highest expanded unemployment rate** in Q3:2024, followed by MP (47,8%). **NW** recorded the highest difference between **expanded** and **official** unemployment rates of **14,7** percentage points.

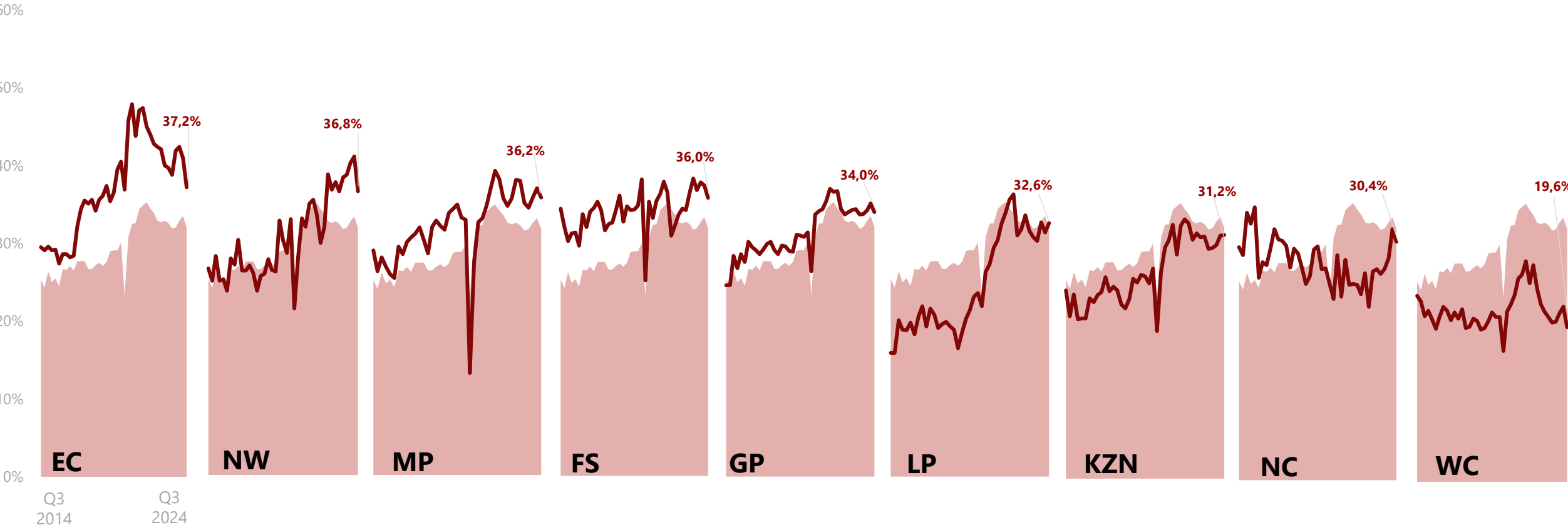
Provincial unemployment rates: **Official** vs Expanded Q3:2024



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.

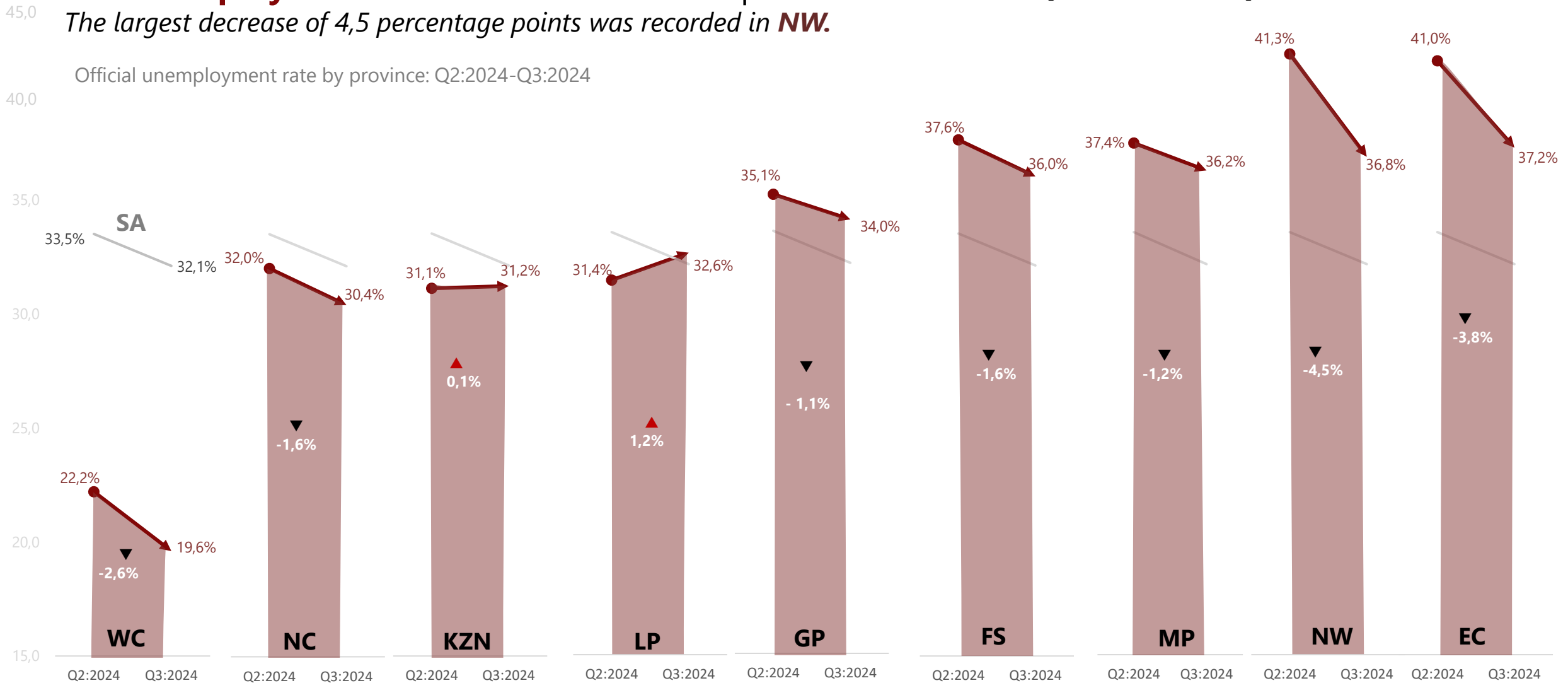
Official Unemployment rate by province, Q3:2014-Q3:2024

SA Unemployment Rate — Provincial Unemployment Rate



The **unemployment rate** decreased in seven provinces between Q2:2024 and Q3:2024.
 The largest decrease of 4,5 percentage points was recorded in **NW**.

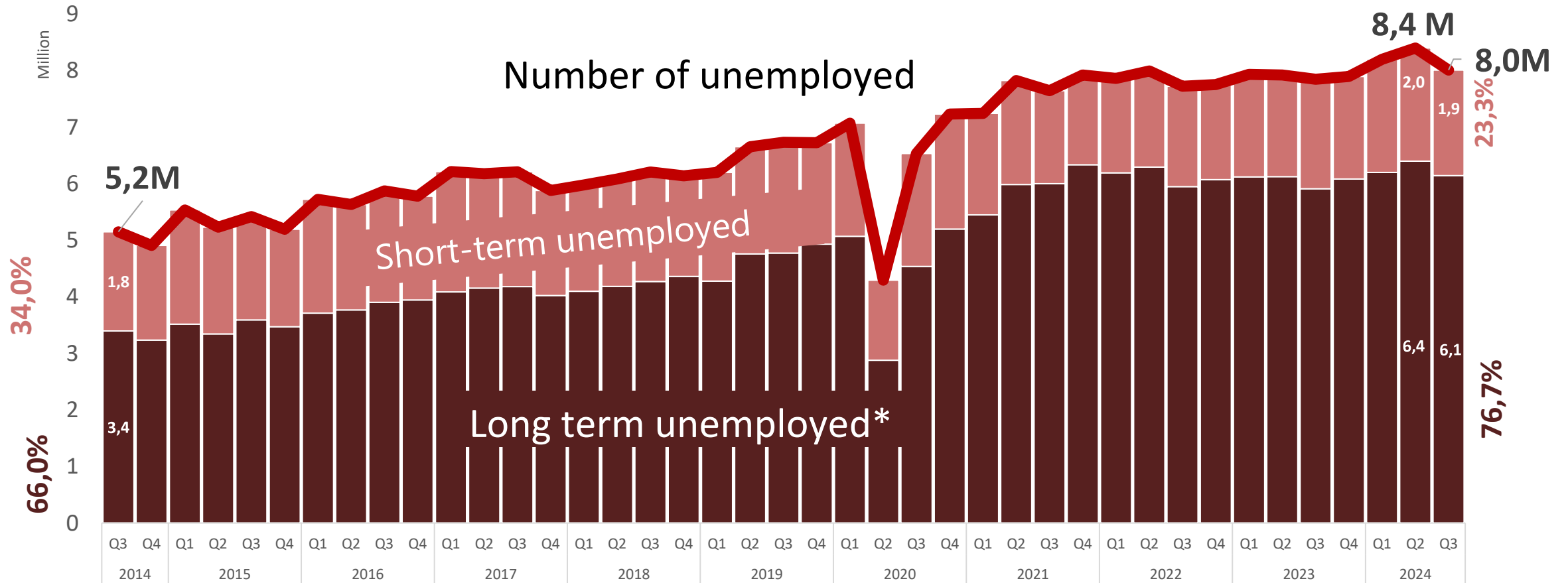
Official unemployment rate by province: Q2:2024-Q3:2024



IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS

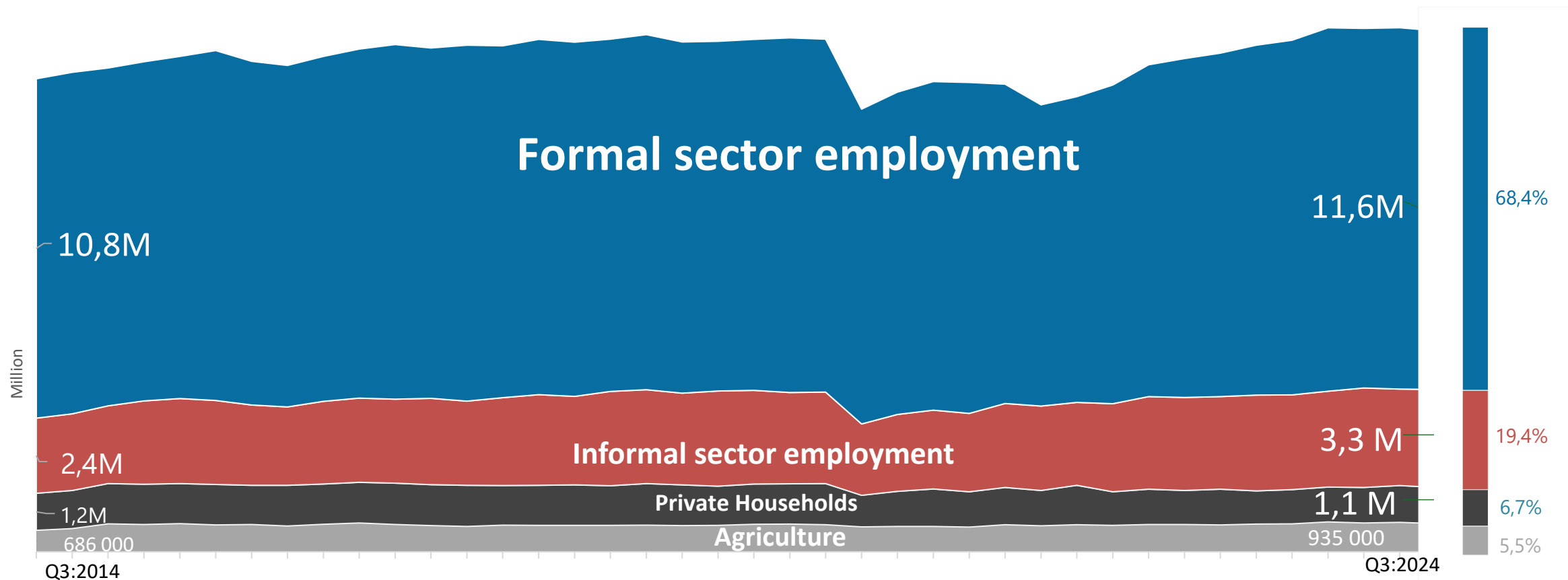
The **number of unemployed** people in South Africa **increased from 5,2 million** in Q3:2014 to **8,0 million** in Q3:2024. The proportion of those in long-term unemployment increased from 66,0% in Q3:2014 to 76,7% in Q3:2024

*Long term unemployment –unemployed for a year or longer



The **formal sector** in South Africa accounts for **68,4%** of total employment.

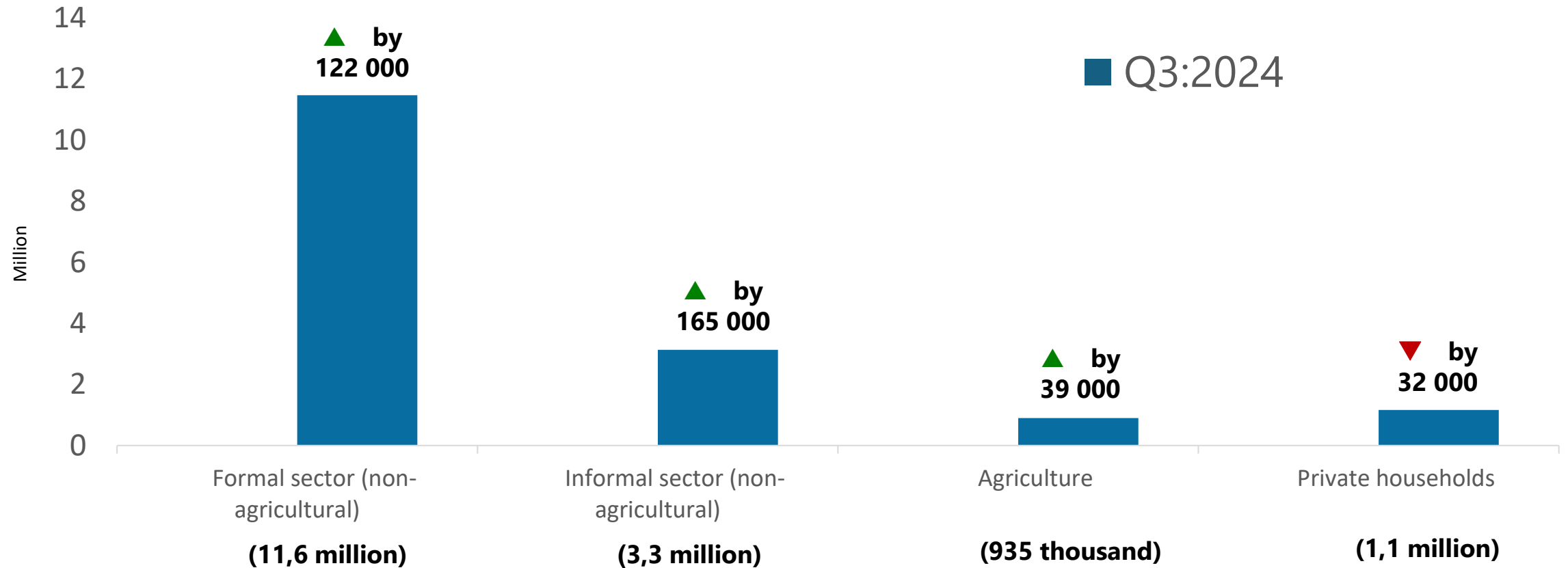
Employment share by sector, Q3:2014 to Q3:2024



Due to rounding numbers may not add up

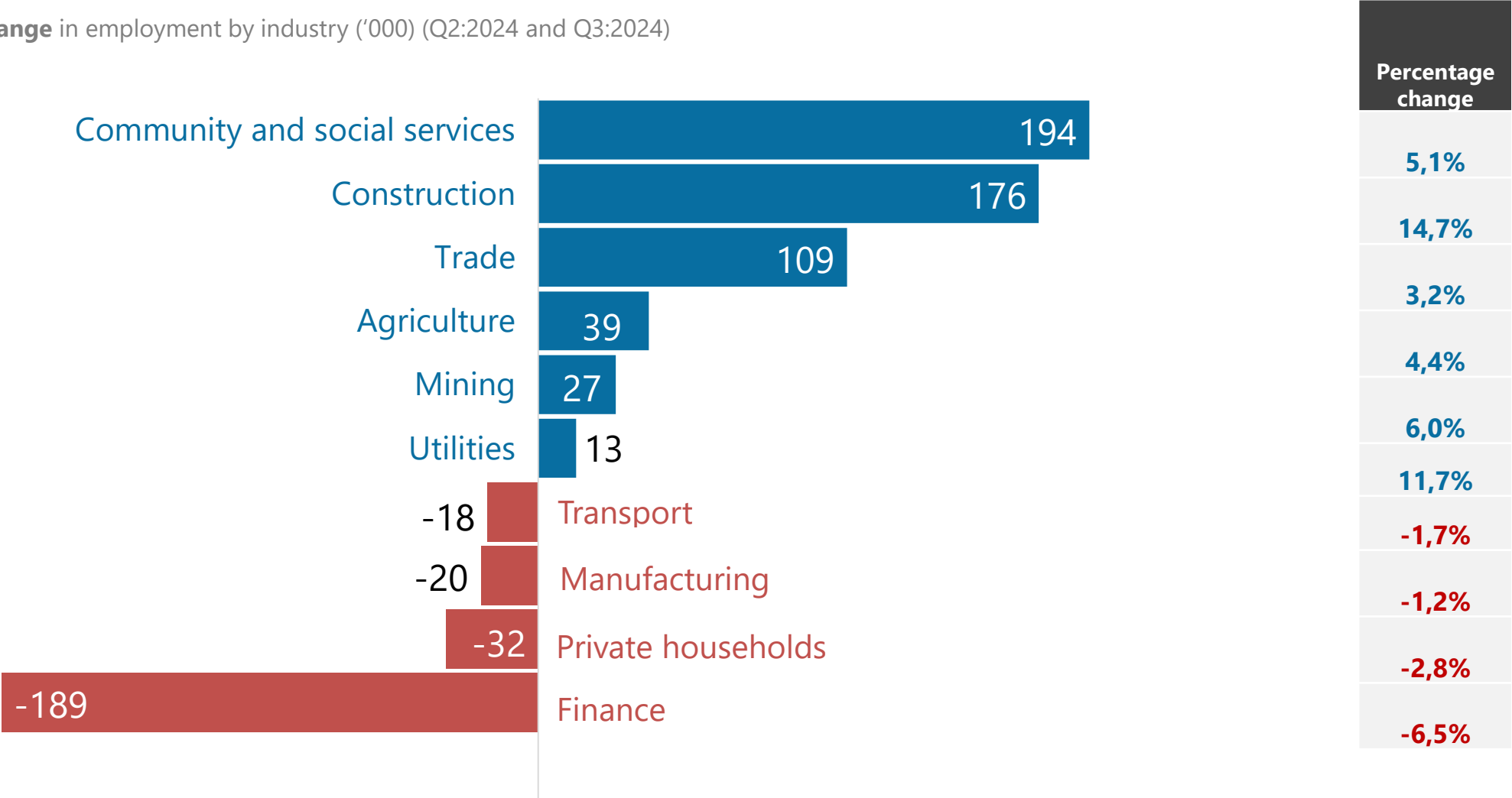
Employment increased in all sectors between Q2:2024 and Q3:2024, except in the private households which decreased by **32 000 jobs**.

Employment by sector, (Quarter-on-quarter)



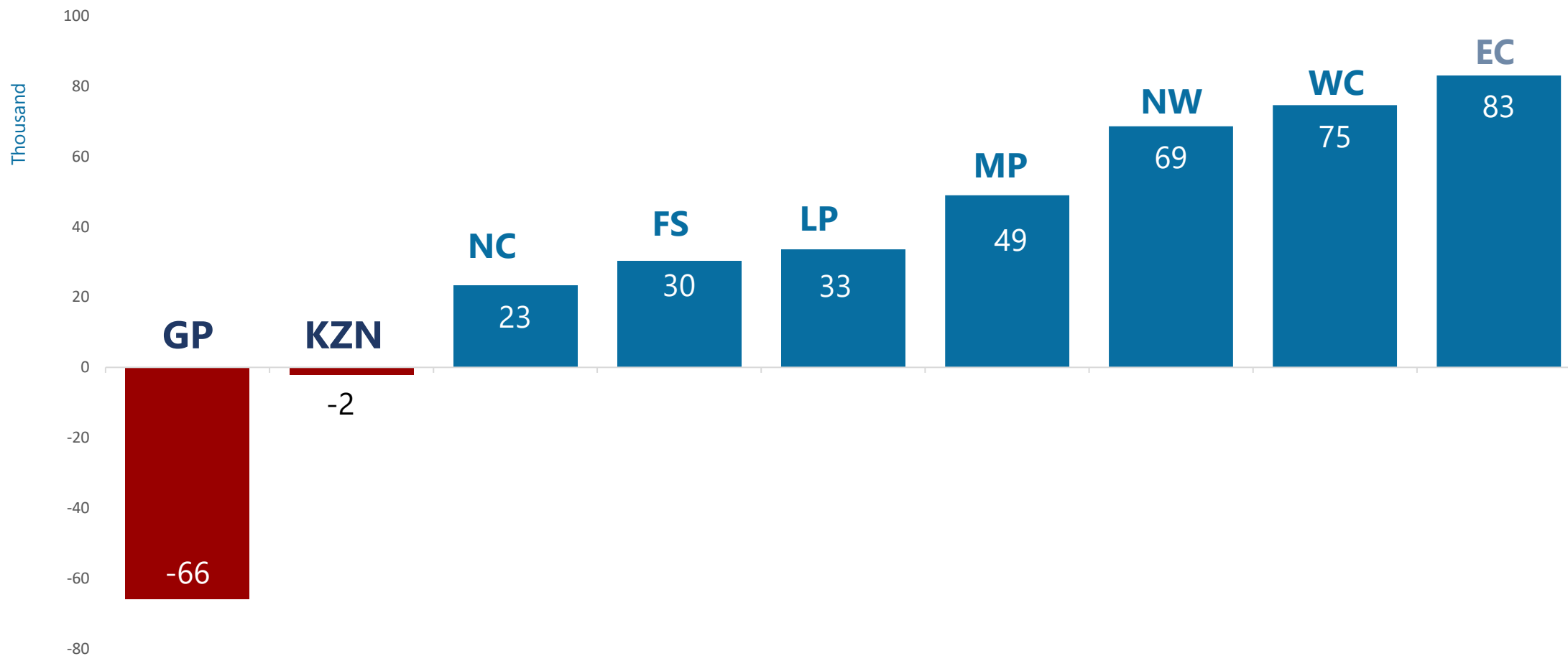
Employment increases were mainly in the Community and social services, Construction, and Trade industries. However, the largest decrease in employment was recorded in Finance.

Quarter-on-quarter change in employment by industry ('000) (Q2:2024 and Q3:2024)



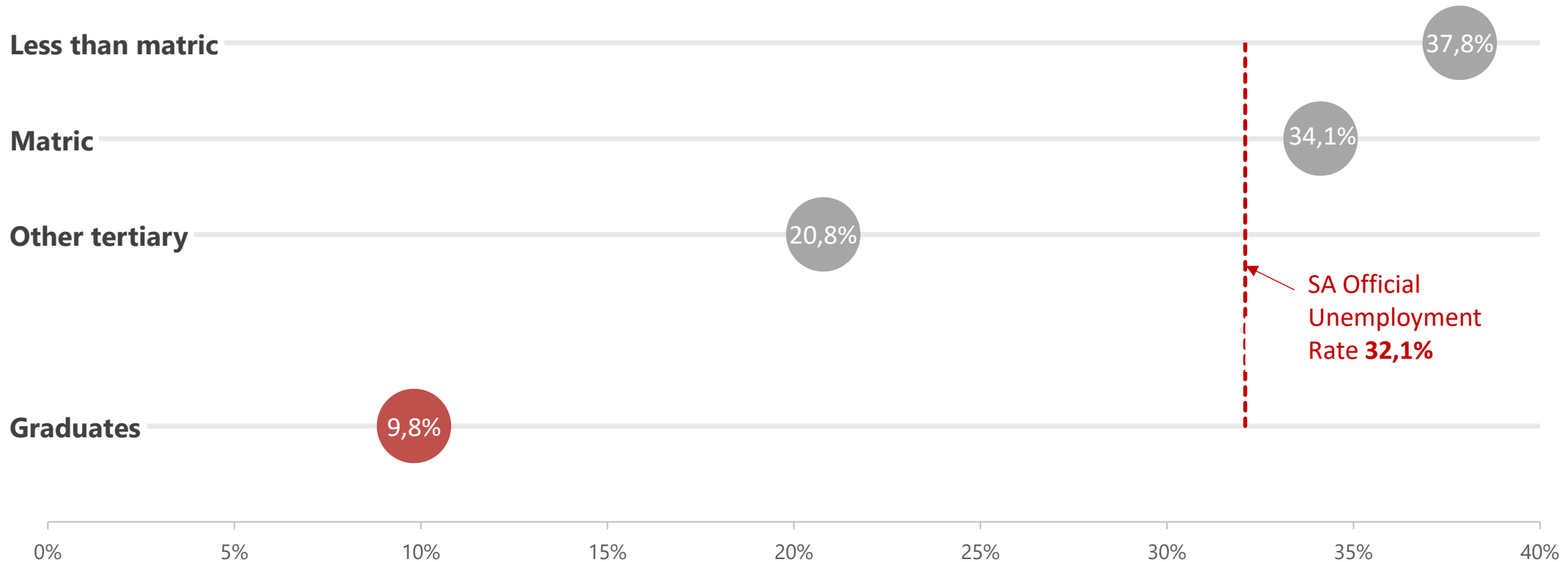
EC, WC and NW recorded the largest increases in employment in Q3:2024, while **GP and KZN** recorded decreases.

Quarter-on-quarter change in employment by province (Q2:2024 and Q3:2024)

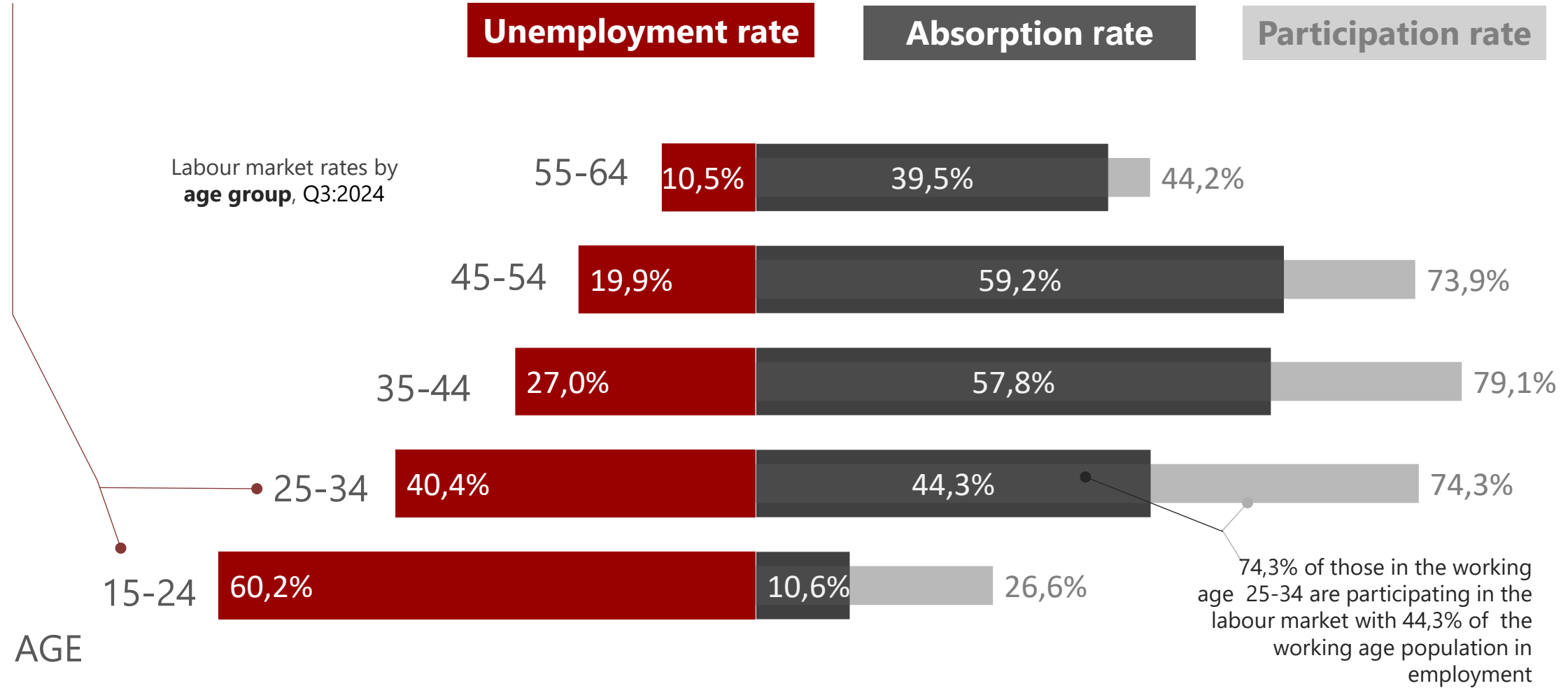


Graduate unemployment rate increased by 0,1 of a percentage point from 9,7% in Q2:2024 compared to **9,8%** in Q3:2024. Those with **matric** and **less than matric** remain vulnerable with unemployment rates of 34,1% and 37,8% respectively.

Official Unemployment rate by level of education, Q3:2024

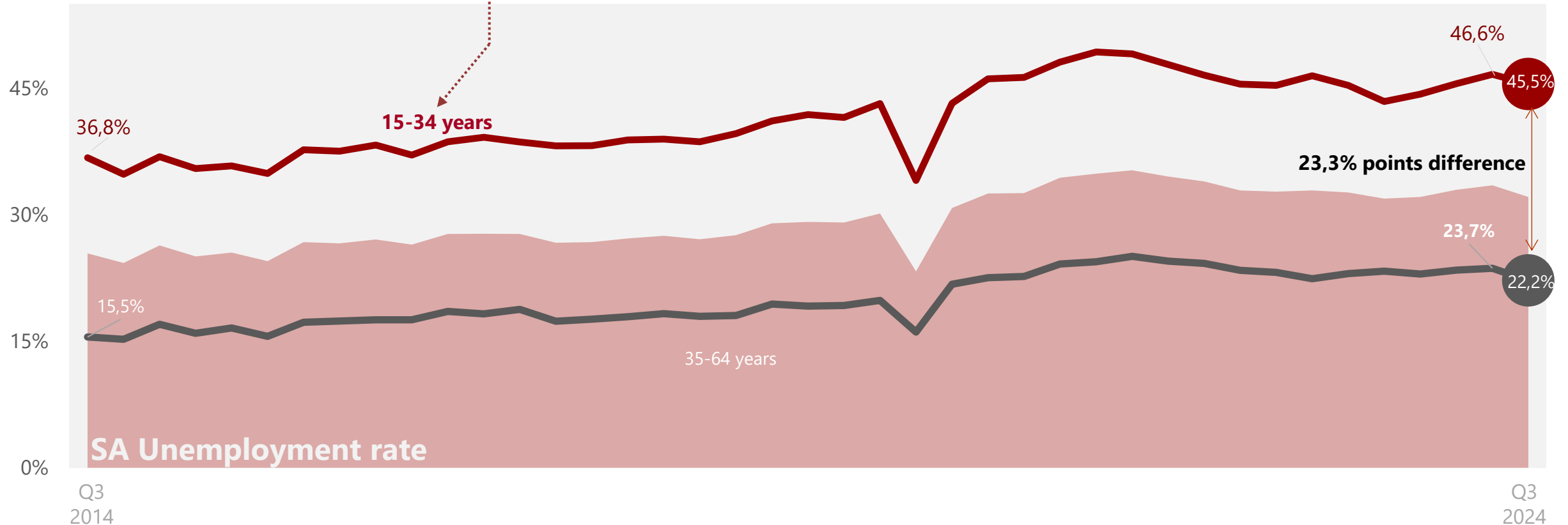


Youth aged 15-24 years and 25-34 years continue to have the highest unemployment rates at **60,2%** and **40,4%** respectively.

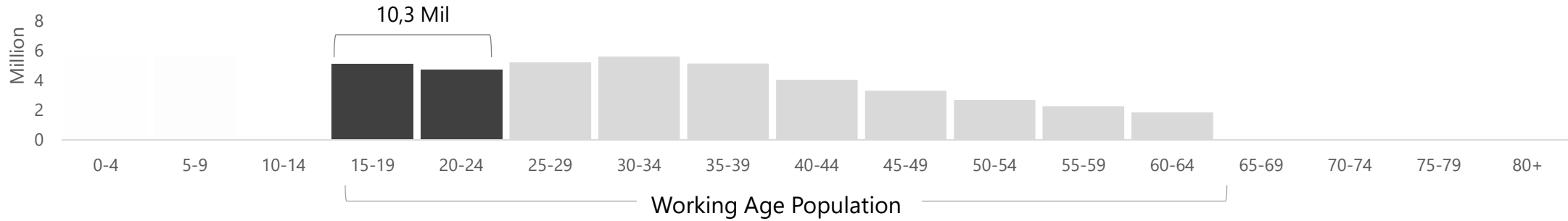


Youth aged **15-34 years** unemployment rate is higher as compared to older age groups

Official Unemployment rates by age group,
Q3:2014-Q3:2024



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



Number of NEET for ages 15-24
Q3:2024

3,5 Million
NEET

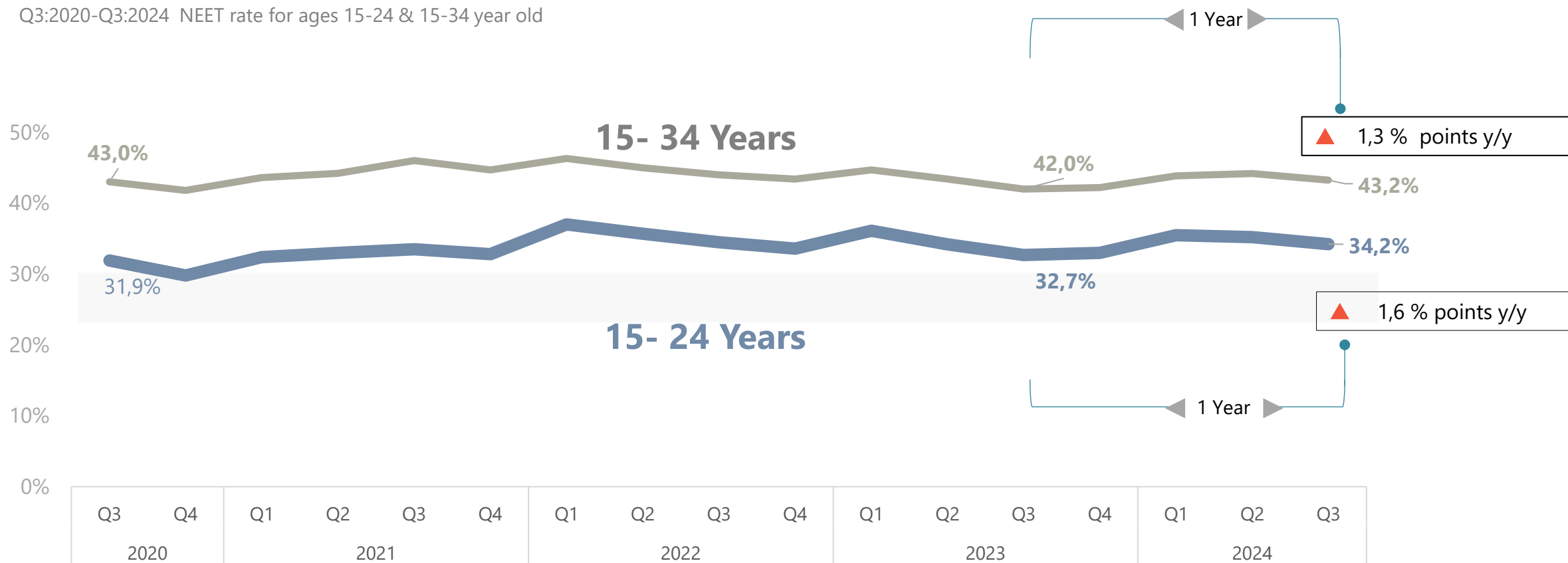
6,8 Million

**Employed or in
Education or Training**

Due to rounding numbers may not add up

The overall NEET rate (15 – 24yrs) increased by 1,6 percentage points in Q3:2024 compared to Q3:2023.

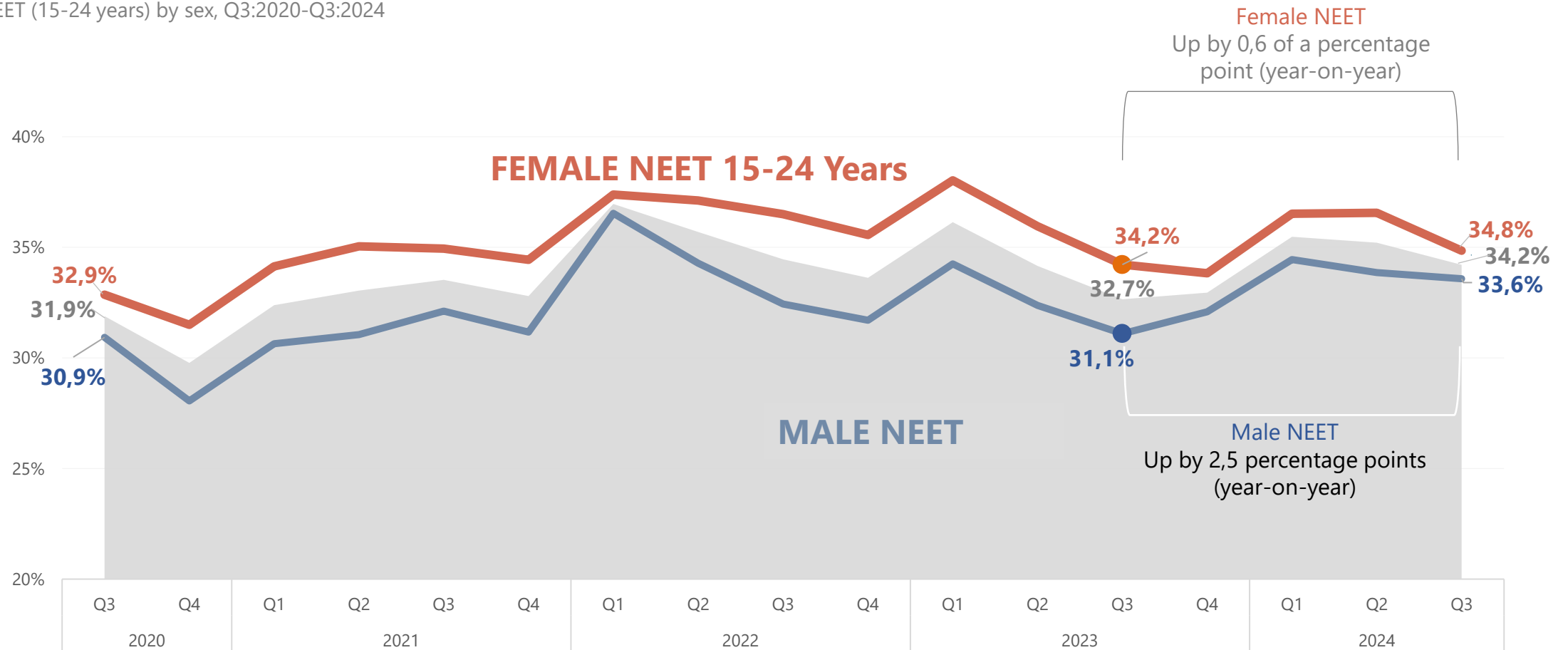
Q3:2020-Q3:2024 NEET rate for ages 15-24 & 15-34 year old



Due to rounding numbers may not add up

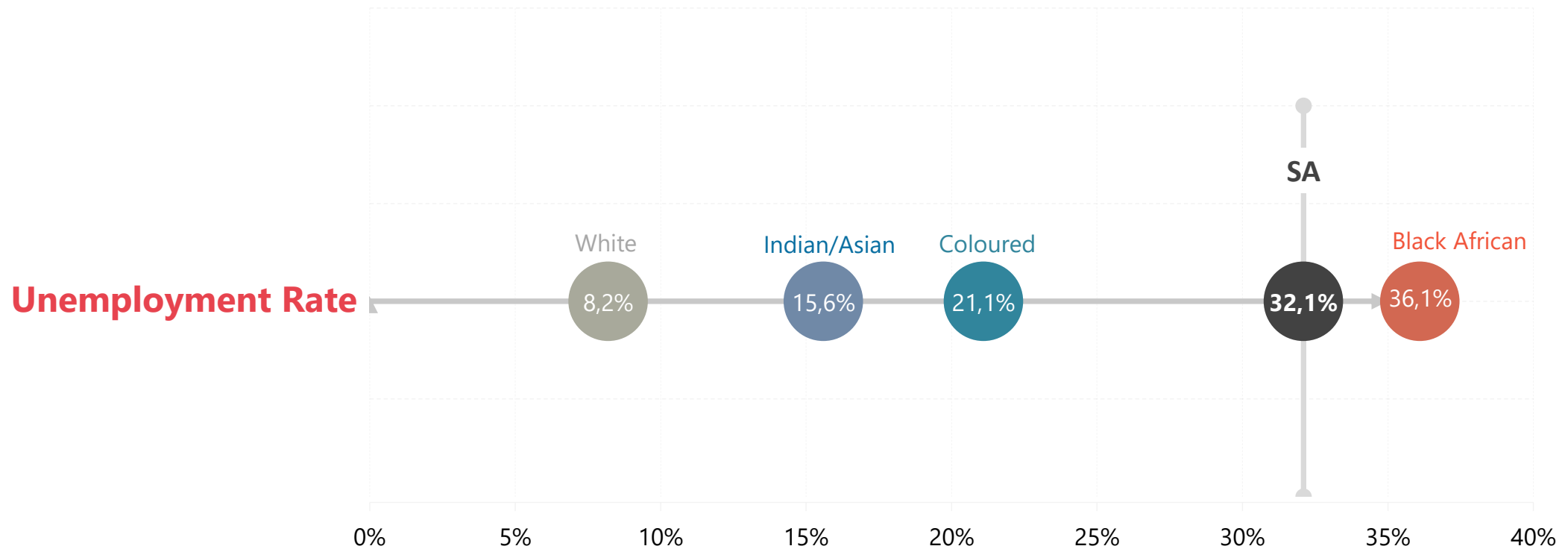
34,8% of young females aged 15-24 years were not in employment, education or training (NEET) in Q3: 2024. This is a 0,6 of a percentage point increase compared to Q3: 2023.

NEET (15-24 years) by sex, Q3:2020-Q3:2024



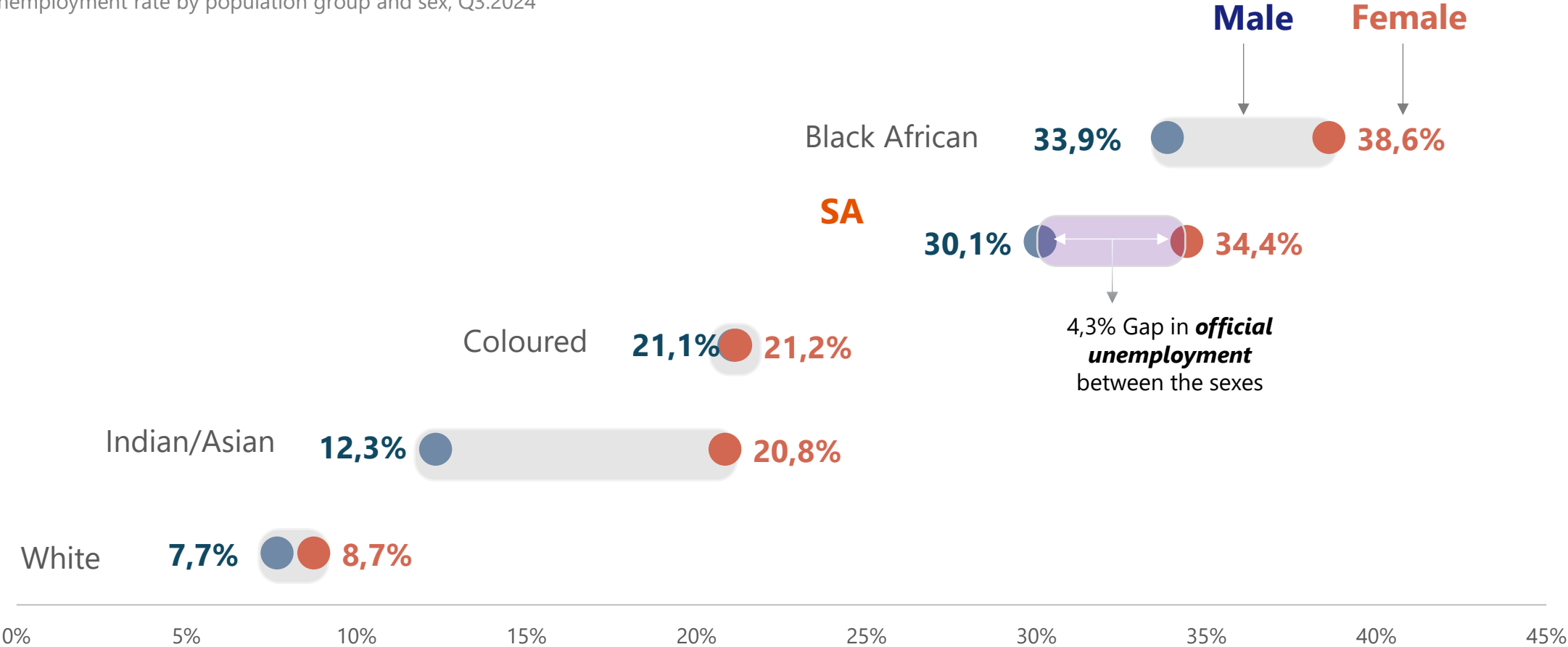
The unemployment rate among the **Black African (36,1%)** population group remains higher than the national average and other population groups.

OFFICIAL unemployment rate by population group, Q3:2024



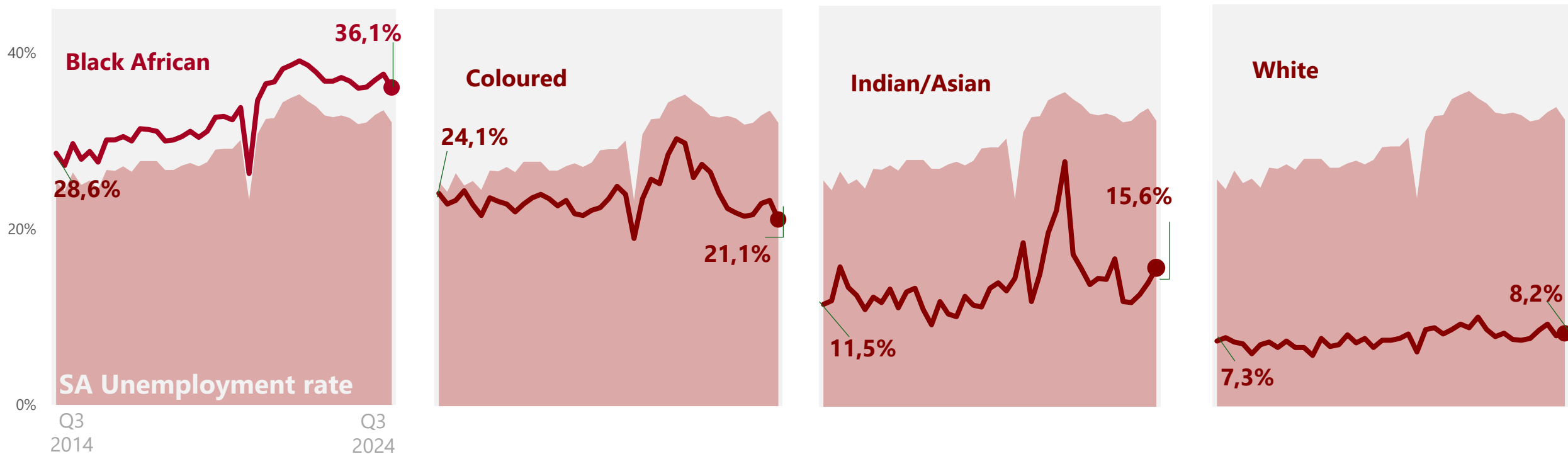
Black African women continue to be the most vulnerable with an unemployment rate of **38,6%** in Q3:2024. *This is 4,3 percentage points higher than the national average for women at 34,4%.*

Official unemployment rate by population group and sex, Q3:2024



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,
Q3:2014-Q3:2024



RECAP (QLFS, Q3:2024)

- ❖ Unemployment rate **decreased** by 1,4 percentage points to 32,1% in Q3:2024. The absorption rate **increased** by 0,6 of a percentage point to 40,9% and the labour force participation rate decreased by 0,4 of a percentage point to 60,2% in Q3:2024 compared to Q2:2024.
- ❖ The number of unemployed persons **decreased** by 373 000 in Q3:2024 compared to Q2:2024. The number of those who were employed **increased** by 294 000 in the same quarter.
- ❖ The largest **employment gains** were recorded in Community and social services (194 000), Construction (176 000) and Trade (109 000), while the largest **employment losses** were recorded in Finance (189 000) and Private households (32 000).



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
PARTICIPATION**

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)



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QLFS
Q3:2024

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