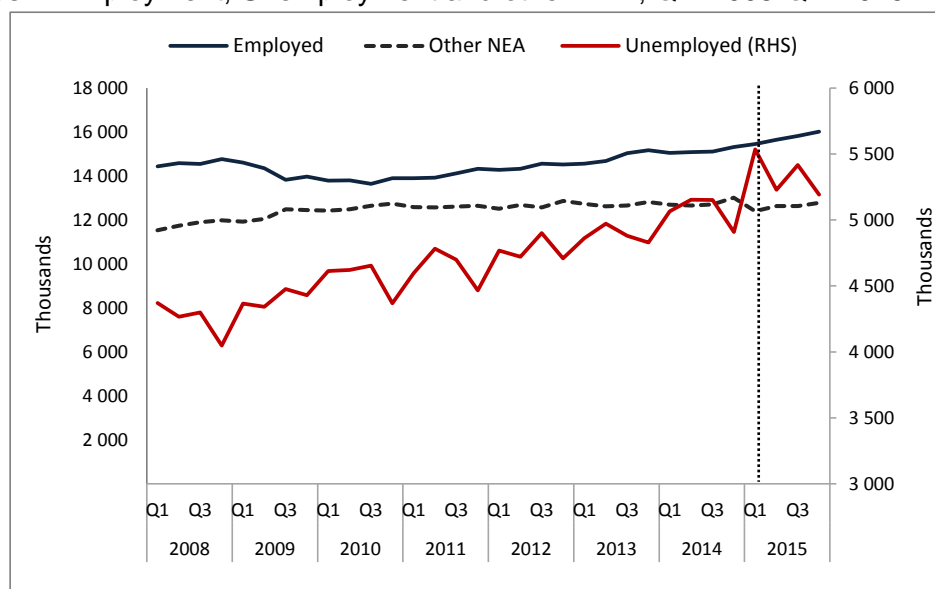


Quality statement of QLFS

The Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) of Q1:2015 using a redesigned master sample based on the 2011 Census, showed a large quarterly change in the number of unemployed persons (626 000) to approximately 5,5 million. This was accompanied by a decline of a similar magnitude in the other Not economically active (611 000), which resulted in an unemployment rate of 26,4%, 2,0 percentage points higher compared to the Q4: 2014 unemployment rate.

Figure 1: Trends in Employment, Unemployment and other NEA; Q1: 2008-Q4: 2015



Note: Dashed line indicates the introduction of the 2013 Master sample

The seasonal pattern observed was in line with previous quarter 1 trends, however the magnitude of the change in Q1:2015 was relatively larger compared to past trends.

At a provincial level, between Q4:2014 and Q1:2015, Gauteng was a major contributor to both the increase in the number of unemployed and the decline in the other not economically active population. The province contributed more than 50% to the change in both unemployment and other NEA between the two quarters.

StatsSA initiated an evaluation project which included a parallel study in September-October 2015. The data from the above project only became available close to the scheduled release date in February 2016. This required a postponement of the Q4:2015 release to allow for data analysis.

Following this data confrontation, StatsSA is confident that the results produced during 2015 is accurate and that all quarters of 2015 are comparable. However, to better understand the dynamics of the Q4:2014 and Q1:2015 change another point of Q1:2016 is required. Such a comparison will provide the basis for determining whether a rebasing of the QLFS series will be required. A technical report, detailing the findings will be made available at the time of the QLFS Q1: 2016 release.

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