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Quarterly Labour Force Survey

**Additional aspects of the labour market in South Africa:
Informal employment; Underemployment and underutilised labour;
Unemployment**

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Introduction

This report focuses in detail on four new labour market indicators that are included in the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) as follows:

	Indicator	Section
1	Informal employment	1
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The analysis of these indicators is divided into three sections.

Section 1 analyses the situation of persons in informal employment.

Section 2 provides an in-depth analysis of time-related underemployment and underutilised labour – given that time-related underemployment is a component of underutilised labour.

Section 3 discusses in detail various characteristics of the unemployed.

Section 1: Informal employment

Informal employment

The distinction between the formal and informal sector on the one hand and formal and informal employment on the other has become increasingly important in recent years. It is widely recognised, internationally, that growing numbers of employed persons who work in formal sector establishments do not have access to basic benefits. The focus on informal employment is therefore to identify persons who work in precarious employment situations, irrespective of whether or not the entity for which they work is in the formal or informal sector. Against this background, Figure 1 shows that in the South African context, persons in informal employment consist of those in the informal sector, plus employees in the formal sector, and persons working in private households who do not have a written contract of employment, and whose employers do not contribute to a medical aid plan or a pension on their behalf. In effect, persons identified as being in informal employment are not entitled to all of these benefits.

Figure 1: Deriving informal employment in the QLFS

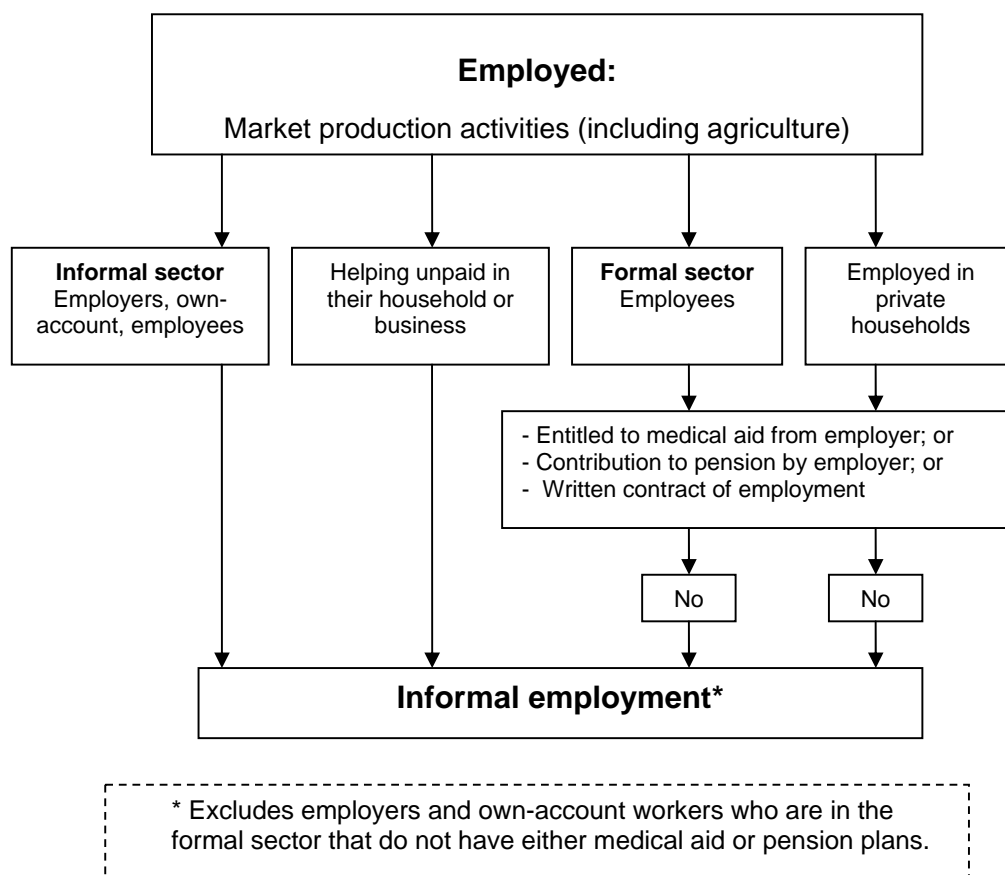


Table A: Formal and informal employment by sex

Employment type and sex	Jan–Mar 2008	Apr–Jun 2008	Qrt to Qrt change	Qrt to Qrt change	Jan–Mar 2008	Apr–Jun 2008
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	% share	% share
Both sexes						
Formal employment	8 054	8 157	103	1,3	59,1	59,4
Informal employment	4 914	4 915	1	0,0	36,1	35,8
Other employment*	655	657	2	0,3	4,8	4,8
Total	13 623	13 729	106	0,8	100,0	100,0
Women						
Formal employment	3 310	3 352	42	1,3	55,2	55,6
Informal employment	2 493	2 484	-9	-0,4	41,6	41,2
Other employment*	191	197	6	3,1	3,2	3,3
Total	5 994	6 033	39	0,7	100,0	100,0
Men						
Formal employment	4 744	4 805	61	1,3	62,2	62,4
Informal employment	2 421	2 432	11	0,5	31,7	31,6
Other employment*	464	459	-5	-1,1	6,1	6,0
Total	7 629	7 696	67	0,9	100,0	100,0

Note: Other employment refers to employers and own-account workers who are not in the informal sector. For this group, the notion of their employer contributing to medical aid or pension plans or having written contracts of employment is not relevant.

Table A shows that the working conditions of more than one in every three employed persons (35,8% in Q2:2008) satisfied the criteria for their inclusion in the measure of informal employment. These persons were either working in the informal sector (including those in private households) or they were employees in formal sector establishments without basic benefits such as medical aid or pension plan arrangements to which their employer contributed; and they also did not have a written contract of employment from their employer. And whereas 41,2% of employed women lacked decent employment conditions, among men, relatively fewer (31,6%) were in a similar situation.

Figure 2: The educational profile of persons in formal and informal employment, Q2:2008

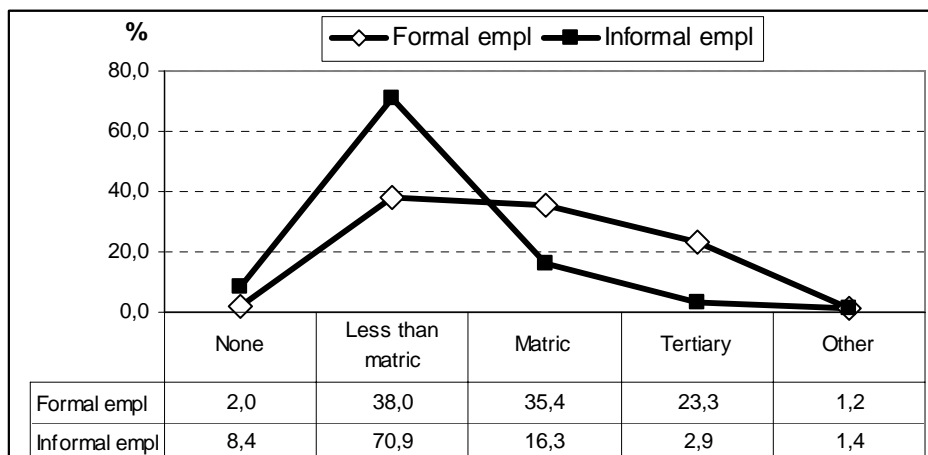


Figure 2 shows a marked difference in the educational profile of persons in informal employment compared with those in formal employment. Among those in informal employment, as many as 8,4% have no education while an additional 70,9% have qualifications below the matric level. In comparison, among persons in formal employment, only 2% have no schooling while an additional 38,0% have less than matric. And importantly, the percentage of persons in formal employment that have attained tertiary education (23,3%) is more than seven times that of persons in informal employment with a tertiary level of education (2,9%).

Figure 3: Informal employment by province

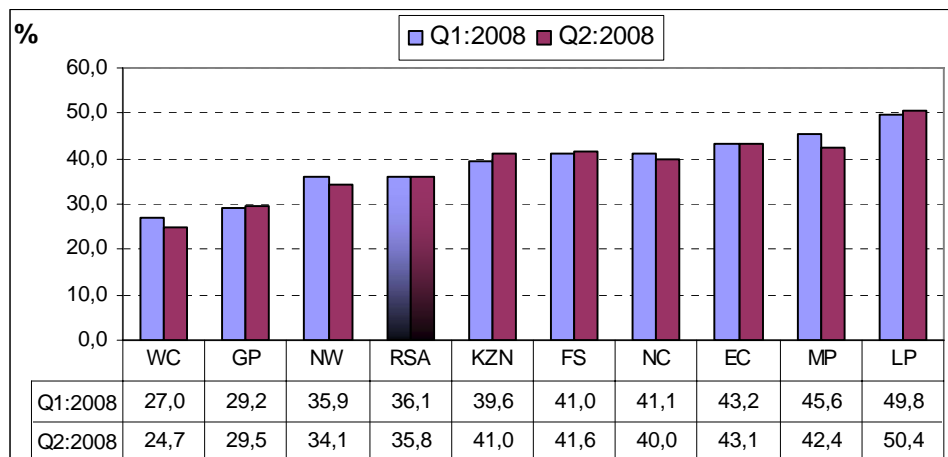


Figure 3 shows that among employed persons in each province, the percentage in informal employment is highest in Limpopo (50,4% in Q2:2008) and lowest in Western Cape (24,7% in Q2:2008).

Table B: Informal employment by industry

industry	Jan–Mar 2008			Apr–May 2008		
	Thousand		Percent of total employment	Thousand		Percent of total employment
	Informal Employment	Total Employment		Informal Employment	Total Employment	
Agriculture	429	799	53,7	396	790	50,1
Mining	12	333	3,6	8	346	2,3
Manufacturing	421	1 988	21,2	386	1 968	19,6
Utilities	8	95	8,4	3	97	3,1
Construction	604	1 112	54,3	624	1 138	54,8
Trade	1 380	3 156	43,7	1 380	3 105	44,4
Transport	270	747	36,1	282	774	36,4
Finance	258	1 667	15,5	261	1 687	15,5
Social services	375	2 564	14,6	399	2 635	15,1
Private households	1 157	1 163	99,5	1 176	1 185	99,2
Other	0	0	0,0	1	4	
Total	4 914	13 623	36,1	4 915	13 729	35,8

Table B shows that:

- Informal employment is strongly associated with the trade and private households industries. Together these two industries account for over 2,5 million of the 4,9 million employed persons who are categorised as working in informal employment.
- As expected, the industry with the highest percentage of persons that are regarded as working in informal employment is private households (99,2%). In Q2:2008, the construction industry had the second highest percentage of persons with jobs in informal employment (54,8% of all persons employed in this sector were in informal employment). During the same period, the agriculture industry had the third highest percentage of persons in informal employment, since as many as 50,1% of persons in agricultural employment had no entitlements to medical aid or pension plans from their employer, nor did they have a written contract of employment.

Table C: Formal and informal employment by occupation

Occupation	Apr–Jun 2008		Apr–Jun 2008	
	Formal Thousand	Informal	Formal Percent	Informal
Manager	588	100	7,2	2,0
Professional	638	55	7,8	1,1
Technician	1 205	183	14,8	3,7
Clerks	1 275	164	15,6	3,3
Sales and service	1 074	624	13,2	12,7
Skilled agriculture	32	33	0,4	0,7
Craft	1 083	811	13,3	16,5
Machine operator	842	306	10,3	6,2
Elementary	1 419	1 686	17,4	34,3
Domestic worker	0	952	0,0	19,4
Other	2	0	0,0	0,0
Total	8 157	4 915	100,0	100,0

Table C shows that occupations are more evenly distributed among persons in formal employment than among those in informal employment. Including domestic workers, 53,7% of informal employment jobs in Q2:2008 were elementary, requiring few skills and associated with low productivity.

Conclusion

Internationally, the concept of informal employment has gained currency in recent years, in recognition that the quality of jobs is at least as important as the number. It is against this background, that informal sector indicators have been included in the new Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) to enable a better understanding of the conditions under which employed South Africans work.

Section 2: Time-related underemployment and underutilised labour

Time-related underemployment

As noted by the ILO, "Unemployment is defined in the labour force framework as an extreme situation of total lack of work. Less extreme situations of partial lack of work are all embodied within the broad concept of employment, defined as engagement in any economic activity for at least one hour during the reference period. It is for identifying such situations of partial lack of work and for complementing the statistics on employment and unemployment that the concept of underemployment has been introduced in the international standards¹".

Against this background, and consistent with the international guidelines, persons in time-related underemployment are considered to be employed persons who were willing and available to work additional hours, and whose total number of hours actually worked during the reference period was below 35 hours per week.

Table D: Time-related underemployment by sex

	Jan-Mar 2008	Apr-Jun 2008	Qrt to Qrt change	Qrt to Qrt change
People involved in market production activities	Thousand			Per cent
Both sexes	2 373	2 095	-278	-11,7
Women	1 079	982	-97	-9,0
Men	1 294	1 113	-181	-14,0
As a percentage of the labour force (Both sexes)	13,3	11,7	-1,6	.
Women	13,2	11,9	-1,3	.
Men	13,5	11,6	-1,9	.
As percentage of total employment (Both sexes)	17,4	15,3	-2,1	.
Women	18,0	16,3	-1,7	.
Men	17,0	14,5	-2,5	.

Table D shows that the number of employed persons who were in time-related underemployment fell by 11,7%, from 2,4 million in the first quarter to 2,1 million in the second quarter. This was largely due to a decline among men (down 181 thousand),

¹ Hussmanns, R (ILO Bureau of Statistics) 2007. Measurement of employment, unemployment and underemployment – Current international standards and issues in their application.

such that as a percentage of the male labour force, men in time-related underemployment fell from 13,5% in Q1:2008 to 11,6% in Q2:2008, and as a percentage of male employment from 17,0% (Q1:2008) to 14,5% (Q2:2008).

Table E: Time-related underemployment by sector, Q2:2008

	Time-related under-employment	Total employed	Time-related under-employment as a % of total employment
	Thousand		Per cent
Formal	1 117	9 415	11,9
Informal	523	2 340	22,3
Agriculture	151	790	19,2
Private households	304	1 185	25,6
Total	2 095	13 729	15,3

Table E shows that only 11,9% of persons employed in the formal sector are in time-related underemployment compared to 22,3% of persons in the informal sector.

Figure 4: Time-related underemployment by industry, Q2:2008

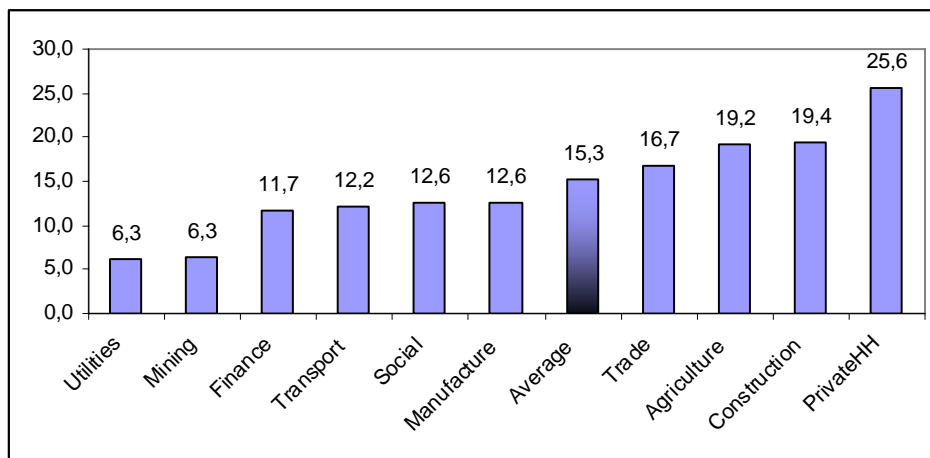


Figure 4 shows the variation in the percentage of persons that is in time-related underemployment in each industry. Among persons employed in both the utilities and mining industries, 6,3% are in time-related underemployment. In contrast, among persons employed in private households (as domestic workers, gardeners, guards etc.) 25,6% are in time-related underemployment. The construction industry has the second highest percentage of workers that are in time-related underemployment (19,4%) and agriculture is in third place with 19,2%.

Table F: Time-related underemployment by occupation, Q2:2008

Occupation	Time-related under-employment	Total employed	Time-related under-employment as a % of total employment
	Thousand		Per cent
Manager	70	993	7,0
Professional	70	789	8,9
Technician	182	1 454	12,5
Clerks	161	1 450	11,1
Sales and service	256	1 749	14,6
Skilled agriculture	11	95	11,4
Craft	325	1 946	16,7
Machine operator	146	1 161	12,6
Elementary	657	3 137	20,9
Domestic worker	218	953	22,9
Total	2 095	13 729	15,3

The percentage of persons in time-related underemployment is highest in the occupation categories that require the least skills (Table F). In Q2:2008, just over one in five elementary workers (20,9%) were in time-related underemployment and 22,9% of domestic workers were also in time-related underemployment. In contrast, only 7,0% of managers and 8,9% of professionals were in time-related underemployment.

Underutilised labour

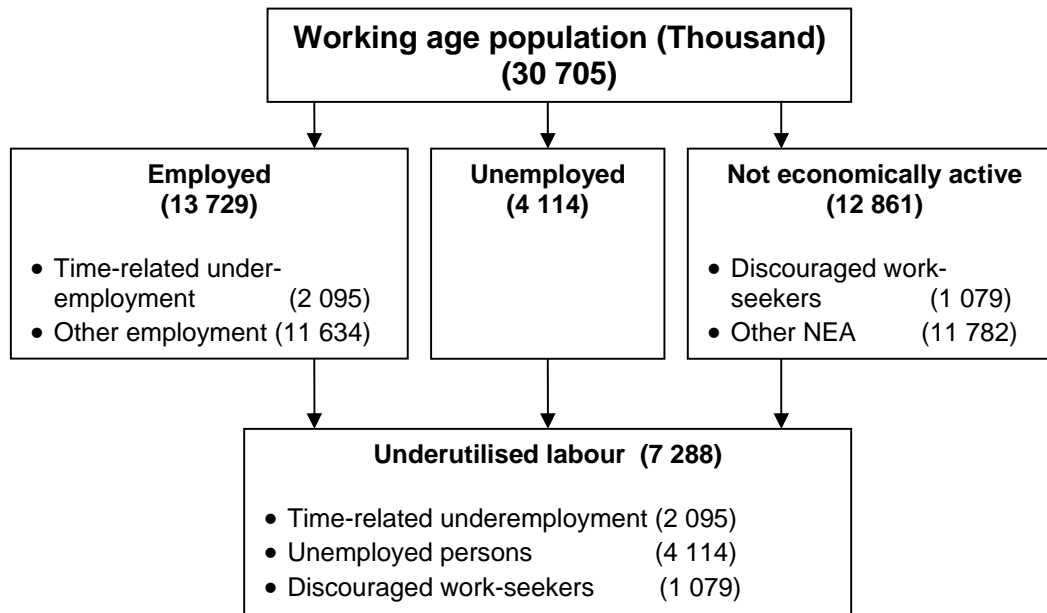
The unemployment rate is widely used to gauge the performance of the labour market and the economy as a whole. However, the ILO suggests that "...the problem in developing countries is not so much unemployment but rather the lack of decent and productive work, which results in various forms of labour underutilisation:"². In light of this, and to provide a more comprehensive picture of the employment constraints in the South African labour market, Stats SA measures underutilised labour as the sum of persons who are underemployed plus those who are unemployed plus those who are discouraged (Figure 5 and Table G).

As discussed earlier, persons in time-related underemployment are employed persons who were willing and available to work additional hours, whose total number of hours actually worked during the reference period was below 35 hours per week. However, it must be noted that at this juncture, labour underutilisation may be understated because other types of underemployment such as occupation and income underemployment are not included.

The second element of underutilised labour is the unemployed - persons who were not working but were available for work and actively sought work during the reference period, The third contributor to underutilised labour is discouraged work-seekers (persons who did not seek work or try to start a business during the reference period because they had lost hope of finding work, or they were unable to find work requiring their skills, or alternatively they felt that no jobs were available in the area).

² Key Indicators of the Labour Market www.ilo.org/kilm

Figure 5: Underutilised labour in the working age population, Q2:2008



Note: Totals may be different due to rounding

In the context of the working-age population, Figure 5 and Table G show that in Q2:2008 underutilised labour totalled 7,3 million persons consisting of: persons in time-related underemployment (2,1 million); the unemployed (4,1 million); and discouraged work-seekers (1,1 million).

In addition, Table G also shows that the number of other employed persons (i.e. those not in time-related underemployment) increased by 384 thousand to 11,6 million in Q2:2008 while other not economically active persons (i.e. the not economically active persons who are not categorised as discouraged work-seekers) increased by 165 thousand to 11,8 million in Q2:2008.

Table G: Quarterly change in underutilised labour

	Jan-Mar 2008	Apr-Jun 2008	Qrt to Qrt change
	Thousand		
a) Time-related underemployment	2 373	2 095	-278
b) Unemployed	4 191	4 114	-77
c) Discouraged work-seekers	1 177	1 079	-98
d) Underutilised labour (a+b+c)	7 741	7 288	-453
e) Other employed persons	11 250	11 634	384
f) Other not economically active	11 617	11 783	165
g) Working-age population (d+e+f)	30 608	30 705	96
	Percent		Percentage points
Underutilised labour as a % of the working-age population	25,3	23,7	-1,6

Table G also shows that underutilised labour fell by 453 thousand, from 7,7 million in Q1:2008 to 7,3 million in Q2:2008, largely on account of a decline in the number of persons in time-related underemployment (down 278 thousand). As a result labour underutilisation as a percentage of the working-age population fell from 25,3% in Q1:2008 to 23,7% in Q2:2008, a decline of 1,6 percentage points.

Figure 6: Age profile of the components of underutilised labour, Q2:2008

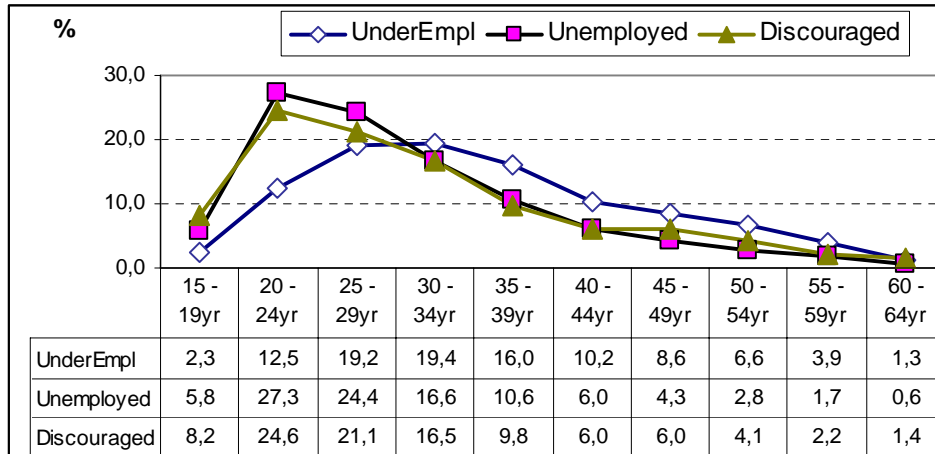
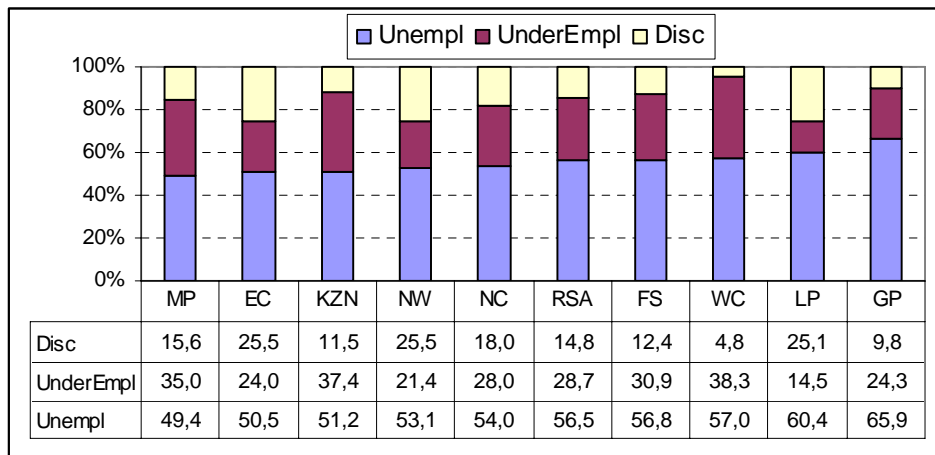


Figure 6 shows that among the three components of underutilised labour, the age distribution of underemployed persons is more even than that of either unemployed persons or discouraged work-seekers. Whereas 53,4% of underemployed persons are aged 15–34 years; as many as 74,1% of unemployed persons and 70,4% of discouraged work-seekers are within this age range. As a result, 67,4% of persons categorised as “underutilised labour” are 15–34 years old.

Figure 7: Distribution of underutilised labour by province, Q2:2008

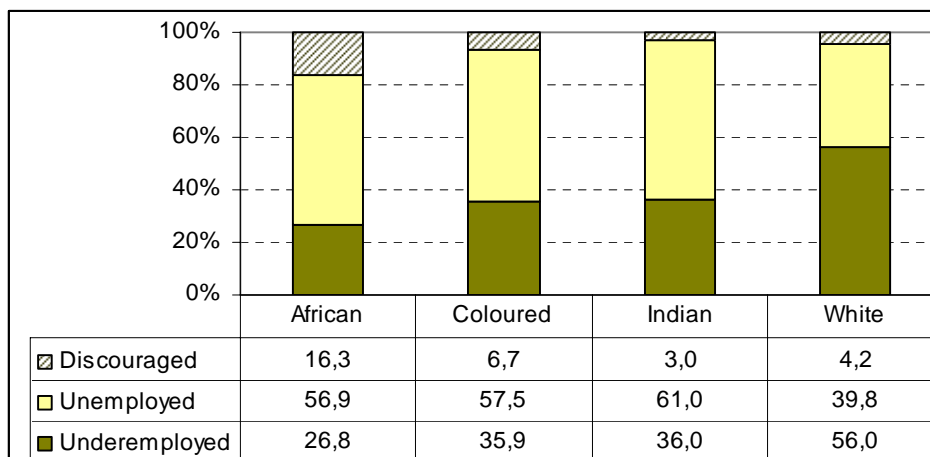


The national average masks large provincial variations in the percentage contribution of each of the three elements of underutilised labour (unemployment, time-related underemployment and discouraged work-seekers). Nationally, of the 7,3 million persons

regarded as underutilised, 56,5% were unemployed, 28,7% were in time-related underemployment and the remaining 14,8% were discouraged work-seekers (Figure 7).

- Similar to the national picture, in every province the unemployed accounted for the largest percentage of underutilised labour.
- Discouraged work-seekers accounted for the second largest share of underutilised labour in Eastern Cape (25,5%), North West (25,5%) and Limpopo (25,1%) compared with provinces such as Western Cape and Gauteng where discouraged work-seekers accounted for under 10% of labour underutilisation in those locations.

Figure 8: Distribution of underutilised labour by population group, Q2:2008



Among the white population group, underutilised labour is largely on account of time-related underemployment whereas among the African, coloured and Indian population groups unemployment is relatively more important. Figure 8 shows that among working-age white people that are categorised as underutilised, 56,0% are in time-related underemployment, while among the other population groups unemployment contributes over 55,0% to underutilised labour.

Conclusion

Time-related underemployment and underutilised labour are important additions to the suite of labour market indicators available in the QLFS. In the absence of an expanded definition of unemployment, the new underutilised labour indicator together with the conventional unemployment rate allows for more comprehensive analysis of the current state of the South African labour market.

Section 3: Characteristics of the unemployed

Introduction

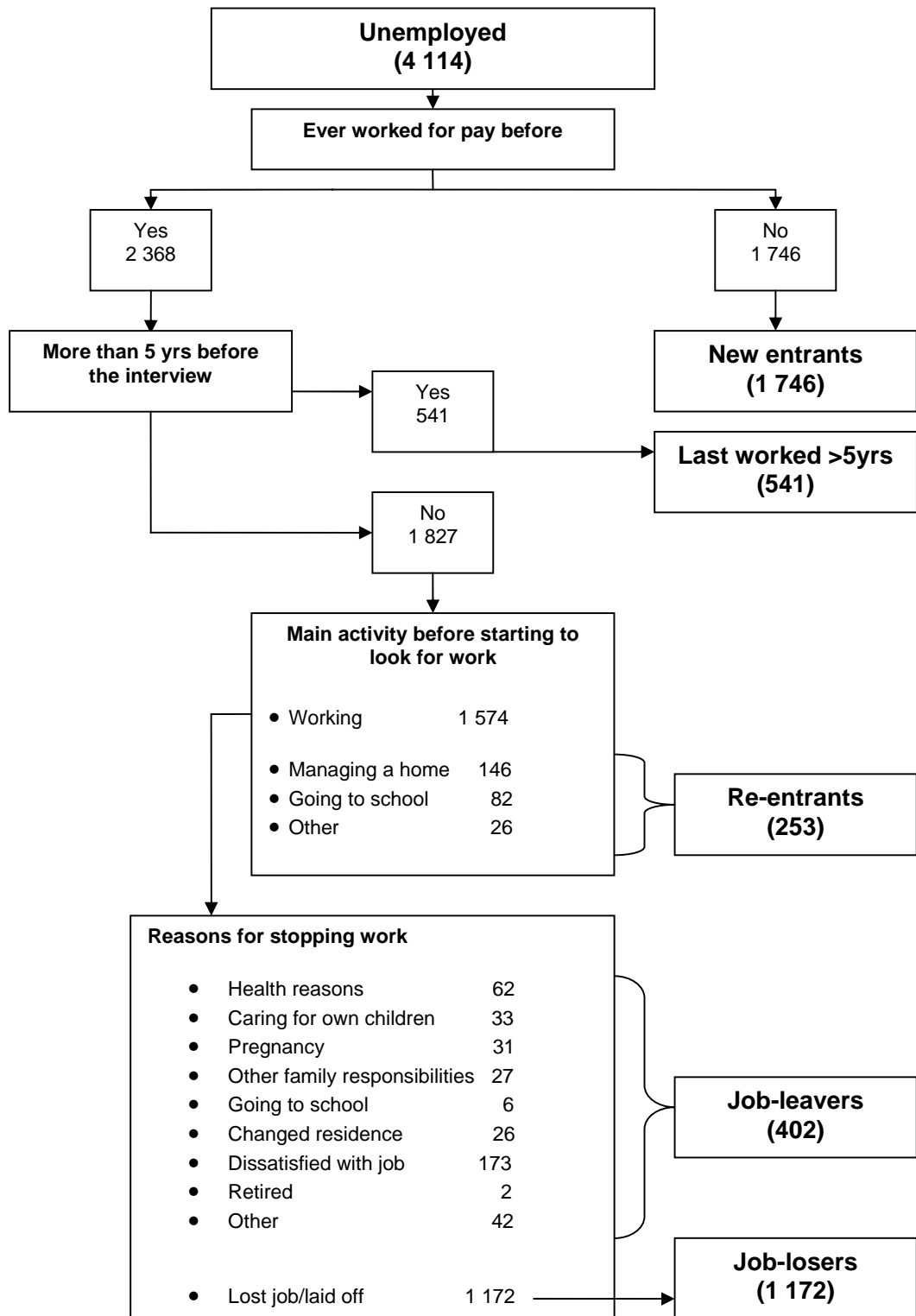
A useful dimension to the unemployment picture combines the reasons given by unemployed persons for not working during the reference week with their circumstances prior to becoming unemployed. In this regard, the QLFS includes five additional indicators that have been derived as follows:

- **New entrants** into unemployment are persons who were unemployed during the reference period that had never worked before.
- **Job losers** are unemployed persons who had been working during the 5 years prior to becoming unemployed and: they had lost their job; or they had been laid off; or the business in which they had previously worked had been sold or had closed down.
- **Unemployed job leavers** are those among the unemployed who had been working during the 5 years prior to becoming unemployed and had stopped working at their last job for any of the following reasons:
 - Caring for own children/relatives;
 - Pregnancy;
 - Other family/community responsibilities;
 - Going to school;
 - Changed residence;
 - Retired; or
 - Other reasons
- **Unemployed re-entrants to the labour force** are unemployed persons who worked before whose main activity before looking for work was either managing a home or going to school.
- **Last worked more than five years prior to the interview.** A recall period of five years was set to ensure greater reliability of the information collected from respondents.

Figure 9 (which includes the results from Q2:2008) shows that the new QLFS indicators are based on the following questions from the QLFS questionnaire:

- *Have you ever worked for pay or profit or help unpaid in a household business?*
- *How long ago was it since you last worked?*
- *What was the main reason you stopped working in your last job/business?*
- *What was your main activity before you started looking for work?*

Figure 9: Profile of the unemployed using Q2:2008 results



Characteristics of the unemployed

Table H: Characteristics of the unemployed, Q1:2008 and Q2:2008

	Jan-Mar 2008	Apr-Jun 2008	Qrt to Qrt change	Jan-Mar 2008	Apr-Jun 2008
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	% share	% share
Job loser	1 232	1 172	-59	29,4	28,5
Job leaver	383	402	18	9,1	9,7
New entrant	1 732	1 746	13	41,3	42,4
Re-entrant	286	253	-32	6,8	6,1
Last worked >5 years ago	556	541	-15	13,3	13,2
Total Unemployed	4 191	4 114	-76	100,0	100,0

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table H shows that the total number of the unemployed persons in South Africa was 4,2 million in Q1:2008 falling to 4,1 million in Q2:2008 - a decline of 76 thousand due largely to a fall of 59 thousand among job-losers and 32 thousand among re-entrants.

Among the unemployed in Q2:2008, new entrants (1,7 million) accounted for the largest percentage (42,4%) followed by job losers who accounted for an additional 28,5% of all unemployed persons.

Demographic characteristics of the unemployed

The analysis that follows is based on the QLFS results for Q2:2008 only.

Table I: The unemployed by sex, Q2:2008

	Men	Women	Total
	Thousand		
Job loser	646	527	1 172
Job leaver	149	252	402
New entrant	754	992	1 746
Re-entrant	99	154	253
Last worked >5 years ago	261	280	541
Total	1 910	2 204	4 114

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table J: The unemployed by sex, percentage share, Q2:2008

	Men	Women	Total
	% share		
Job loser	33,8	23,9	28,5
Job leaver	7,8	11,4	9,8
New entrant	39,5	45,0	42,4
Re-entrant	5,2	7,0	6,2
Last worked >5 years ago	13,7	12,7	13,1
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table I and Table J show the variation by sex in the distribution of the unemployed by the new indicators as follows:

- In Q2:2008, women accounted for a larger number (2,2 million) of the unemployed than men (1,9 million).
- Among unemployed women, 45,0% were new entrants into the labour force whereas among unemployed men 39,5% fell into this category.
- Job-losers were the second largest category among both men and women but 33,8% of men were in this category as against only 23,9% of women.

Table K: The unemployed by population group, Q2:2008

	Black/African	Coloured	Indian/Asian	White	Total
Thousand					
Job loser	950	171	26	25	1 172
Job leaver	317	52	6	27	402
New entrant	1 608	91	22	25	1 746
Re-entrant	225	17	5	7	253
Last worked >5 years ago	476	41	8	15	541
Total	3 576	372	68	99	4 114

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table L: The unemployed by population group, percentage share, Q2:2008

	Black/African	Coloured	Indian/Asian	White	Total
% share					
Job loser	26,6	46,0	38,8	25,5	28,5
Job leaver	8,9	13,9	9,1	27,0	9,8
New entrant	45,0	24,4	32,7	25,2	42,4
Re-entrant	6,3	4,6	6,9	7,1	6,2
Last worked >5 years ago	13,3	11,1	12,5	15,3	13,1
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table K and Table L show the variation by population group in the distribution of the unemployed by the new indicators as follows:

- Among unemployed Black/Africans, 45% were unemployed new entrants in the labour market in Q2:2008.
- In comparison, among the Coloured and Indian population groups, the majority of the unemployed were job losers (46,0% and 38,8%, respectively).

Table M: The unemployed by age group, Q2:2008

	15-34 yrs	35-54 yrs	55-64 yrs	Total
	Thousand			
Job loser	795	349	28	1 172
Job leaver	277	116	9	402
New entrant	1 599	138	9	1 746
Re-entrant	189	57	7	253
Last worked >5 years ago	188	312	41	541
Total	3 048	972	94	4 114

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table N: The unemployed by age group, percentage share Q2:2008

	15-34 yrs	35-54 yrs	55-64 yrs	Total
	Thousand			
Job loser	26,1	35,9	30,0	28,5
Job leaver	9,1	11,9	9,6	9,8
New entrant	52,5	14,2	9,5	42,4
Re-entrant	6,2	5,9	7,2	6,2
Last worked >5 years ago	6,2	32,1	43,7	13,1
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table M and Table N show the age variation in the distribution of the unemployed by the new indicators as follows:

- In Q2:2008, the 15-34 year old age-group accounted for the largest number (3,0 million) of all unemployed persons (4,1 million).
- Table 6 and Table 7 also show that among 15-34 year old unemployed persons, the majority (1,6 million) were new entrants and an additional 795 thousand were job-losers.
- In the age group 55-64 years, the majority (43,7% or 41 thousand) were persons who had last worked more than 5 years prior to the interview.

Figure 10: Percentage of unemployed in each category that have completed tertiary education, Q2:2008

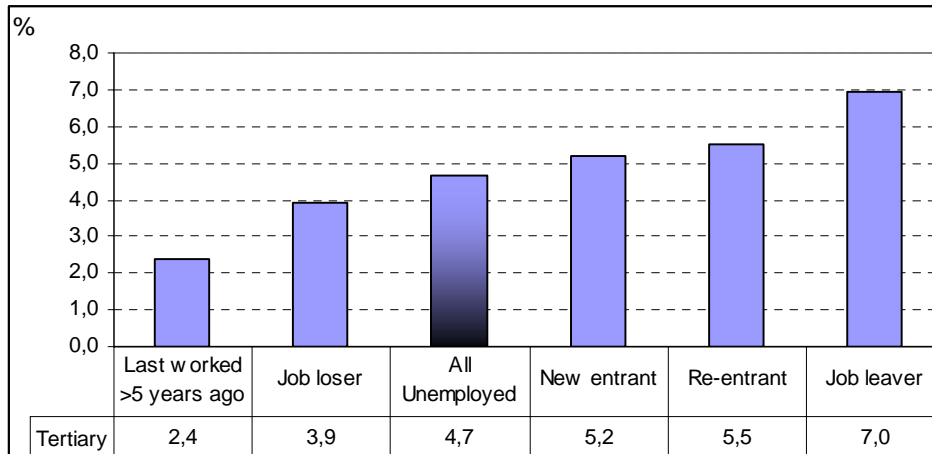


Figure 10 shows that 4,7% of unemployed persons had attained a tertiary education. Figure 10 also shows that the percentage of unemployed persons in this education category is highest among job-leavers (7,0%) and lowest among those who last worked more than five years prior to the interview (2,4%).

Table O: The unemployed by educational level, Q2:2008

	No schooling	Less than matric	Matric	Tertiary	Other	Total
Thousand						
Job loser	36	777	302	46	12	1 172
Job leaver	12	239	118	28	4	402
New entrant	24	938	680	91	14	1 746
Re-entrant	6	161	70	14	2	253
Last worked >5 years ago	33	398	90	13	6	541
Total	112	2 513	1 261	192	37	4 114

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table P: The unemployed by educational level, percentage share, Q2:2008

	No schooling	Less than matric	Matric	Tertiary	Other	Total
% share						
Job loser	31,9	30,9	24,0	24,1	31,6	28,5
Job leaver	11,1	9,5	9,4	14,3	10,0	9,8
New entrant	21,7	37,3	53,9	47,4	37,0	42,4
Re-entrant	5,2	6,4	5,6	7,2	6,0	6,2
Last worked >5 years ago	30,0	15,8	7,2	6,9	15,4	13,1
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Among the unemployed who have no schooling, the majority (31,9%) were job-losers, followed by those who last worked more than five years prior to the interview (30,0%). And among those that have matric, the majority (53,9%) were unemployed new entrants, followed by those that were job-losers (24,0%). A similar pattern is reflected among those that have tertiary education where the bulk (47,4%) were new entrants, followed by job-losers (24,1%) (Table O and Table P).

The unemployed by previous industry and occupation

The analysis that follows discusses the characteristics of the unemployed based on the results of Q1:2008 and Q2:2008.

Table Q: The unemployed by previous industry, Q1:2008 and Q2:2008

Previous industry	Job-loser			Job-leaver		
	Jan-Mar 2008	Apr-Jun 2008	Qrt to Qrt change	Jan-Mar 2008	Apr-Jun 2008	Qrt to Qrt change
	Thousand			Thousand		
Agriculture	66	87	22	25	17	-9
Mining	22	20	-1	5	4	0
Manufacturing	182	163	-19	39	35	-5
Utilities	10	7	-4	1	1	0
Construction	221	225	4	32	35	3
Trade	287	260	-26	125	121	-4
Transport	56	59	3	16	19	4
Finance	122	133	11	47	50	3
Social services	121	93	-28	41	45	3
Private households	146	124	-21	51	75	23
Total	1 232	1 172	-60	383	402	18

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table Q shows the distribution of unemployed job-losers and unemployed job-leavers by previous industry as follows:

- Among unemployed job-losers, the majority were previously employed in the: trade industry (260 thousand in Q2:2008 equivalent to 22,2% of all job-losers)..
- Among unemployed job-leavers, the majority were also previously employed in the trade industry (121 thousand in Q2:2008 equivalent to 30,1% of all job-leavers).

Table R: The unemployed by previous occupation, Q1:2008 and Q2:2008

Previous occupation	Job-loser			Job-leaver		
	Jan-Mar 2008	Apr-Jun 2008	Qrt to Qrt change	Jan-Mar 2008	Apr-Jun 2008	Qrt to Qrt change
	Thousand			Thousand		
Manager	20	16	-4	9	10	1
Professional	23	13	-10	14	9	-6
Technician	60	58	-2	20	25	5
Clerk	117	106	-11	48	47	0
Sales and services	155	150	-5	68	85	17
Skilled agriculture	8	3	-4	2	2	0
Craft and related trade	250	224	-26	57	45	-11
Plant/machine operator	100	93	-7	21	21	0
Elementary	384	416	32	100	94	-6
Domestic worker	117	94	-23	45	64	19
Total	1 232	1 172	-60	383	402	18

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table R shows the distribution of unemployed job-losers and unemployed job-leavers by previous occupation as follows:

- In both quarters, the majority of job-losers had been previously employed as elementary workers (384 thousand in the first quarter increasing to 416 thousand in the second quarter).
- In Q2:2008, the second largest number of job-losers had been previously employed as craft workers (224 thousand) followed by sales and service workers (150 thousand).
- A somewhat similar pattern occurred among job-leavers. The majority (94 thousand) were previously employed as elementary workers, but the second largest number of job-leavers were previously employed as sales and service workers (85 thousand).

Conclusion

The new unemployment indicators included in the QLFS are an attempt to provide greater insight into the circumstances of unemployed persons in the South African labour force. The disaggregation of unemployed persons into the five groups enables a more comprehensive analysis of important patterns within the unemployed.