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MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Quarterly Employment Statistics (QES) – Q4:2023

Statistics South Africa today released the Quarterly Employment Statistics report, according to the report total employment decreased by 194 000 or -1,8% quarter-on-quarter, from 10 899 000 in September 2023 to 10 705 000 in December 2023. This was due to decreases in the following industries: community services (-214 000 or -6,8%), construction (-19 000 or -3,1%), business services (-12 000 or -0,5%), manufacturing (-7 000 or -0,5%), and mining (-1 000 or -0,2%). However, there were increases in the following industries: trade (56 000 or 2,4%), transport (2 000 or 0,4%) and electricity (1 000 or 1,6%).

Total employment increased by 98 000 or 0,9% year-on-year between December 2022 and December 2023.

Full-time employment decreased by 5 000 or -0,1% quarter-on-quarter, from 9 498 000 in September 2023 to 9 493 000 in December 2023. This was due to decreases in the following industries: construction (-13 000 or -2,4%), manufacturing (-12 000 or -1,0%), community services (-11 000 or -0,5%), business services (-3 000 or -0,1%), and mining (-1 000 or -0,2%). However, there were increases in the following industries: trade (31 000 or 1,5%), transport (3 000 or 0,7%), and electricity (1 000 or 1,6%).

Full-time employment increased by 12 000 or 0,1% year-on-year between December 2022 and December 2023.

Part-time employment decreased by 189 000 or -13,5% quarter-on-quarter, from 1 401 000 in September 2023 to 1 212 000 in December 2023. This was due to decreases in the following industries: community services (-203 000 or -27,2%), business services (-9 000 or -3,8%), construction (-6 000 or -7,8%), transport (-1 000 or 5,3%). Electricity industry reported no change. However, there were increases in the following industries: trade (25 000 or 10,4%), and manufacturing (5 000 or 6%).

Part-time employment increased by 86 000 or 7,6% year-on-year between December 2022 and December 2023.

Gross earnings paid to employees increased by R54,5 billion or 5,8% from R941,5 billion in September 2023 to R996 billion in December 2023. This was due to increases in all industries; trade (R15,1 billion), manufacturing (R12,6 billion), construction (R7,3 billion), business services (R7,1 billion), community services (R5,8 billion), transport (R4,7 billion), electricity (R1,8 billion) and mining (R216 million).

Gross earnings increased by R42 billion or 4,4% year-on-year between December 2022 and December 2023.

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IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS



Basic salary/wages paid to employees increased by R7,9 billion or 0,9% from R849,5 billion in September 2023 to R857,4 billion in December 2023. This was due to increases in the following industries: trade, business services, manufacturing, construction, transport, mining and electricity. However, the community services industry reported a decrease.

Basic salary/wages increased by R44 billion or 5,4% year-on-year between December 2022 and December 2023.

Bonus paid to employees increased by R45 billion or 69% from R65,2 billion in September 2023 to R110,2 billion in December 2023. This was due to increases in the following industries: trade, manufacturing, community services, construction, transport, business services and electricity.

The bonus payments decreased by R5,2 billion or-4,5% year-on-year between December 2022 and December 2023.

Overtime paid to employees increased by R1,6 billion or 6,1% from R26,7 billion in September 2023 to R28,4 billion in December 2023. This was due to increases in the following industries: business services, manufacturing, community services, trade, construction, transport and electricity.

Overtime payments increased by R3,6 billion or 14,5% year-on-year between December 2022 and December 2023.

Average monthly earnings paid to employees increased by 1,6% from R26 471 in August 2023 to R26 894 in November 2023. Year-on-year, there was an increase of 2,3%.

Editors' Note

Statistics South Africa has committed to providing up-to-date and reliable statistics derived from the Quarterly Employment Statistics (QES) survey to ensure accurate information for users and policymakers. The results of the QES, Q4:2023 are derived from the 2023 sample, which was drawn in April 2023. This annual process typically impacts employment and gross earnings levels. To maintain continuity in time series and minimise revisions to historical growth rates, historical employment and gross earnings levels were adjusted, linking them to estimates based on the new 2023 sample.

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