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Department:
Statistics South Africa
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MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Quarterly Employment Statistics (QES) – Q2:2026

Total employment decreased by 14 000 or -0,1% quarter-on-quarter, from 10 439 000 in March 2026 to 10 425 000 in June 2026. This was due to decreases in the following industries: manufacturing (-20 000 or -1,6%), business services (-13 000 or -0,5%), trade (-8 000 or -0,3%), transport (-5 000 or -1,1%). However, there were increases reported by the following industries: community services (29 000 or 1,0%), electricity (1 000 or 1,5%), mining (1 000 or 0,2%) and construction (1 000 or 0,2%).

Total employment decreased by 95 000 or -0,9% year-on-year between June 2025 and June 2026.

Full-time employment decreased by 40 000 or -0,4% quarter-on-quarter, from 9 370 000 in March 2026 to 9 330 000 in June 2026. This was due to decreases in the following industries: business services (-17 000 or -0,8%), manufacturing (-10 000 or -0,8%), trade (-7 000 or -0,3%), transport (-6 000 or -1,3%) and community services (-3 000 or -0,1%), and electricity (-1 000 or -1,6%). However, there were increases reported by the following industries: construction (3 000 or 0,6%) and mining (1 000 or 0,2%).

Full-time employment decreased by 96 000 or -1,0% year-on-year between June 2025 and June 2026.

Part-time employment increased by 26 000 or 2,4% quarter-on-quarter, from 1 069 000 in March 2026 to 1 095 000 in June 2026. This was due to increases in the following industries: community services (32 000 or 7,4%), business services (4 000 or 1,9%), electricity (2 000 or 200,0%), and transport (1 000 or 6,3%). However, there were decreases reported by the following industries: manufacturing (-10 000 or -12,2%), construction (-2 000 or -3,3%), and trade (-1 000 or -0,4%).

Part-time employment increased by 1 000 or 0,1% year-on-year between June 2025 and June 2026.

Gross earnings paid to employees decreased by R4,8 billion or -0,5% from R1,029 trilion in March 2025 to R1,025 trillion in June 2026. This was due to decreases in the following industries: business services, mining, and transport. However, the following industries reported an increase: community services, trade, construction, manufacturing, and electricity.

Year-on-year gross earnings increased by R35,1 billion or 3,5% between June 2025 and June 2026.

Basic salary/wages paid to employees increased by R15,5 billion or 1,7% from R914,6 billion in March 2026 to R930,1 billion in June 2026. This was due to increases in the following industries: community services, business services, construction, trade, manufacturing. However, mining, electricity and transport, reported decrease.

Year-on-year basic salary/wages increased by R26,7 billion or 3,0% between June 2025 and June 2026.

Bonuses paid to employees decreased by R23 billion or -26,9% from R85,8 billion in March 2025 to R62,8 billion in June 2026. This was due to decreases in the following industries: business services, community services, transport, manufacturing, and electricity. However, trade and construction industries, reported an increase.

Year-on-year bonus payments increased by R6,1 billion or 10,8% between June 2025 and June 2026.

Overtime paid to employees increased by R2,7 billion or 9,3% from R29,4 billion in March 2025 to R32,1 billion in June 2026. This was due to increases in the following industries: community services, business services, manufacturing, transport, trade, electricity and construction.

Year-on-year overtime payments increased by R2,3 billion or 7,6% between June 2025 and June 2026.

Average monthly earnings paid to employees increased by 2,6% from R29 825 in February 2026 to R30 611 in May 2026.

Year-on-year average monthly earnings paid to employees increased by 4,1% between May 2025 and May 2026.

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