

Quarterly Employment Statistics

Results for Q1:2026

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QES Background

01

QES is an enterprise-based sample survey

02

QES collects information on employing businesses registered for VAT with annual turnover greater than R300 000

03

Samples are drawn from private non-agricultural businesses e.g. factories, offices, stores.
National, provincial and local government entities are enumerated

04

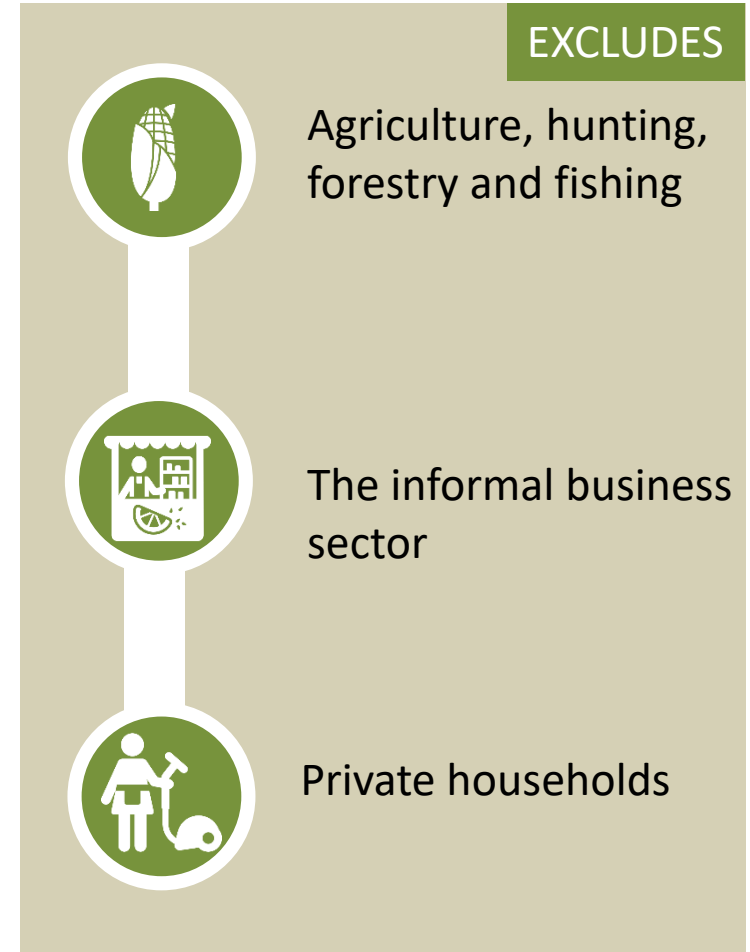
Sample size of approximately 20 000 was selected



QES Coverage



* Administrative data from DMRE



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QES Variables

Estimates are published on a quarter lag (SDDS)

Number of employees

as at the **last month** of the reference quarter



Average monthly earnings

for **the middle month** of the reference quarter

Gross earnings

for the **three months** of the reference quarter

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Employment Results Q1:2026

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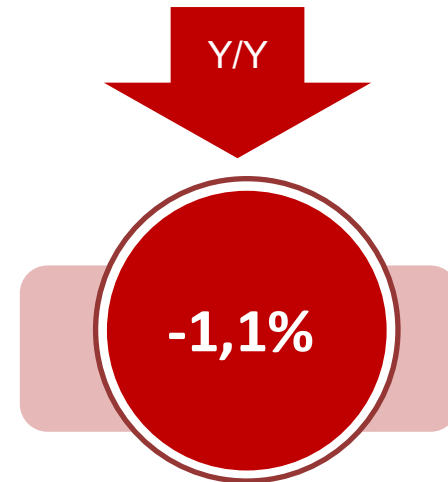
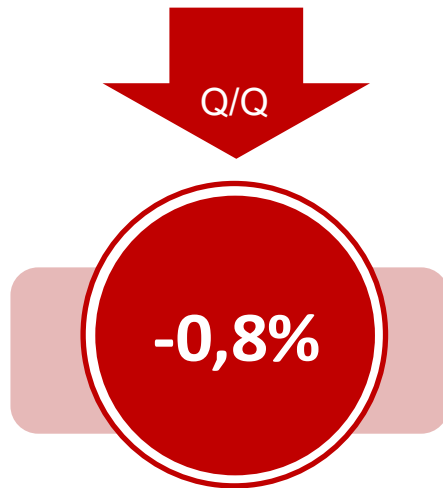
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EMPLOYMENT RESULTS

The number of employed persons **decreased** by **80 000** from **10 548 000** in Q4:2025 to **10 468 000** in Q1:2026.

There was a **decrease** of **80 000** jobs (or **-0,8%**) in Q1:2026 compared to the previous quarter.

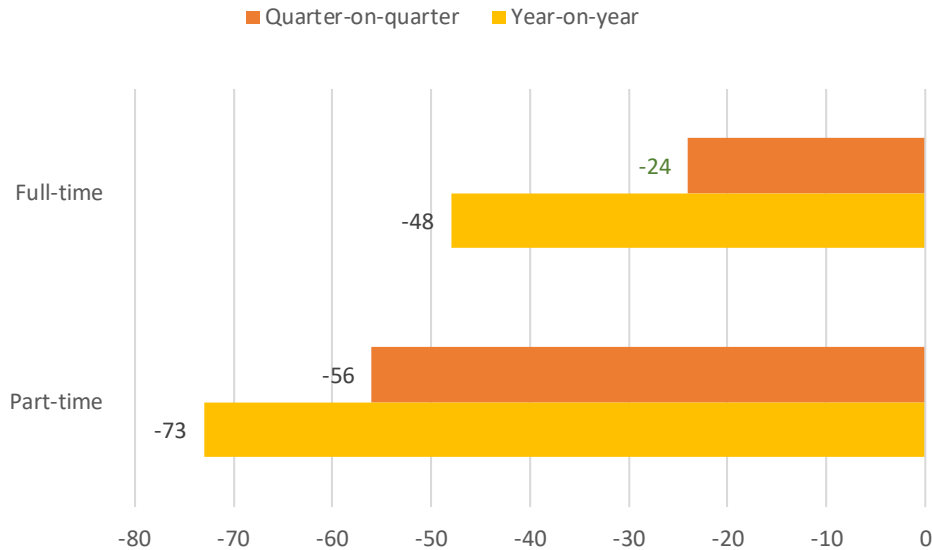


Year-on-year there was an annual **decrease** of **121 000** jobs (or **-1,1%**) in Q1:2026 compared with the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

EMPLOYMENT RESULTS

Full-time employment **decreased** from 9 433 000 in Q4:2025 to 9 409 000 in Q1:2026.

Part-time employment **decreased** from 1 115 000 in Q4:2025 to 1 059 000 in Q1:2026.



There was a quarter-on-quarter **decrease** of 24 000 full-time jobs. Year-on-year full-time jobs **decreased** by 48 000.

Part-time jobs **decreased** by 56 000 quarter-on-quarter and year-on-year there was a **decrease** of 73 000 jobs.

Quarter-on-quarter changes in employment by industry

Community services industry reported the most decrease, with 53 000 jobs, followed by trade, which lost 40 000 jobs. Transport reported a moderate decrease of 3 000 jobs, while electricity lost 1 000 jobs. Job gains were reported in other industries. Manufacturing and business services reported an increase of 7 000 jobs each. Mining and construction gained 2 000 jobs and 1 000 jobs, respectively.

Quarter-on-quarter Industry	Number of employees		
	Full-time	Part-time	All employees
Community services	-3 000	-50 000	-53 000
Trade	-27 000	-13 000	-40 000
Transport	-2 000	-1 000	-3 000
Electricity	0	-1 000	-1 000
Construction	-1 000	2 000	1 000
Mining*	2 000		2 000
Business services	8 000	-1 000	7 000
Manufacturing	-1 000	8 000	7 000
Total	-24 000	-56 000	-80 000

*Data for mining industry is not available separately for part-time

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Year-on-year changes in employment by industry

Year-on-year employment **decreased** by **121 000**, which was driven primarily by community services, business services, manufacturing, construction, and transport industries.

Gains were reported in the mining, trade and electricity industries.

Year-on-year Industry	Number of employees		
	Full-time	Part-time	All employees
Community services	-2 000	-52 000	-54 000
Business services	-7 000	-25 000	-32 000
Manufacturing	-21 000	-2 000	-23 000
Construction	-12 000	-6 000	-18 000
Transport	-10 000	0	-10 000
Electricity	1 000	0	1 000
Trade	-5 000	12 000	7 000
Mining*	8 000		8 000
Total	-48 000	-73 000	-121 000

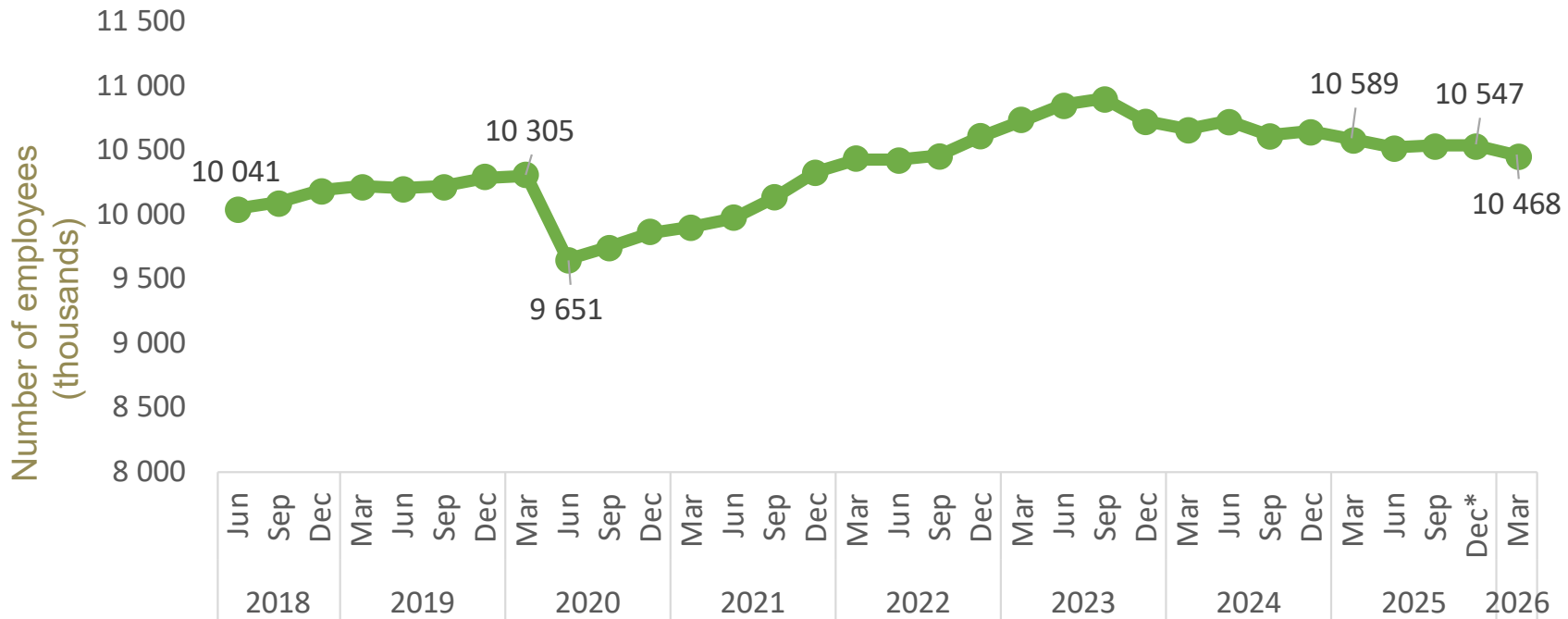
**Data for mining industry is not available separately for part-time*



All industries (Total)

The total number of employees **decreased** by **80 000** in Q1:2026 compared with Q4:2025. Year-on-year total employment for all industries **decreased** by **121 000** compared with same quarter of the previous year.

All industries



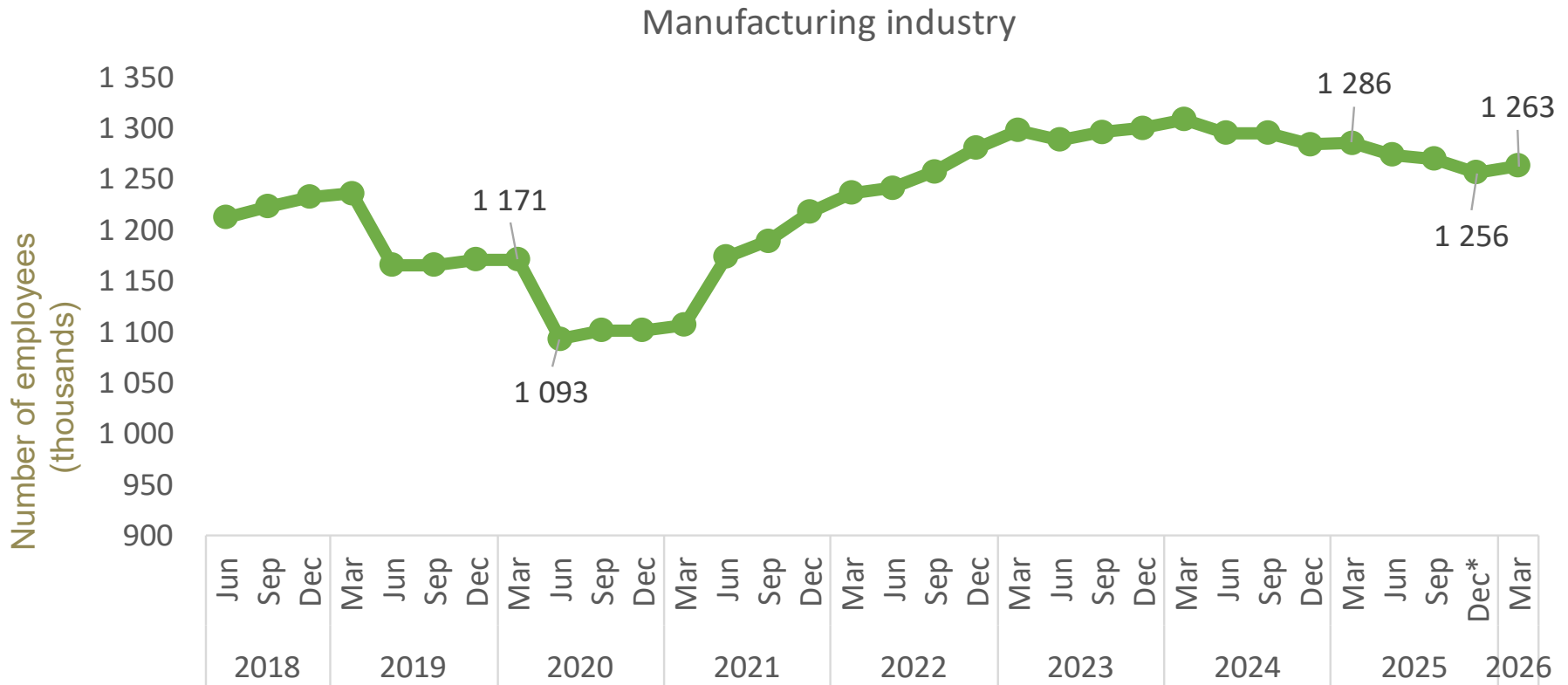
* Revised estimates



Manufacturing

Manufacturing industry **increased** by **7 000** jobs in Q1:2026.

Year-on-year, the industry saw an annual decrease of **23 000** jobs compared to same quarter of 2025.



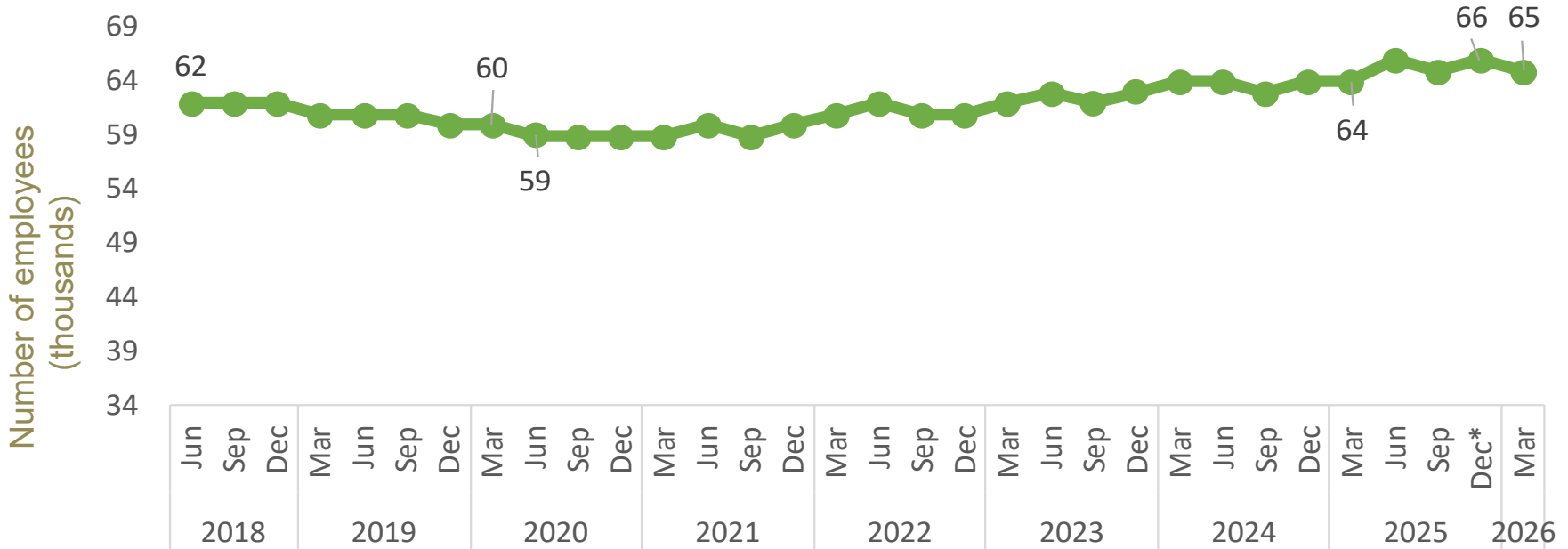
* Revised estimates



Electricity

The electricity industry reported a **decrease** of 1 000 jobs in the Q1:2026 compared to the previous quarter. Year-on-year the industry **increased** by 1 000 jobs when comparing Q1:2026 with the same quarter of the previous year.

Electricity industry



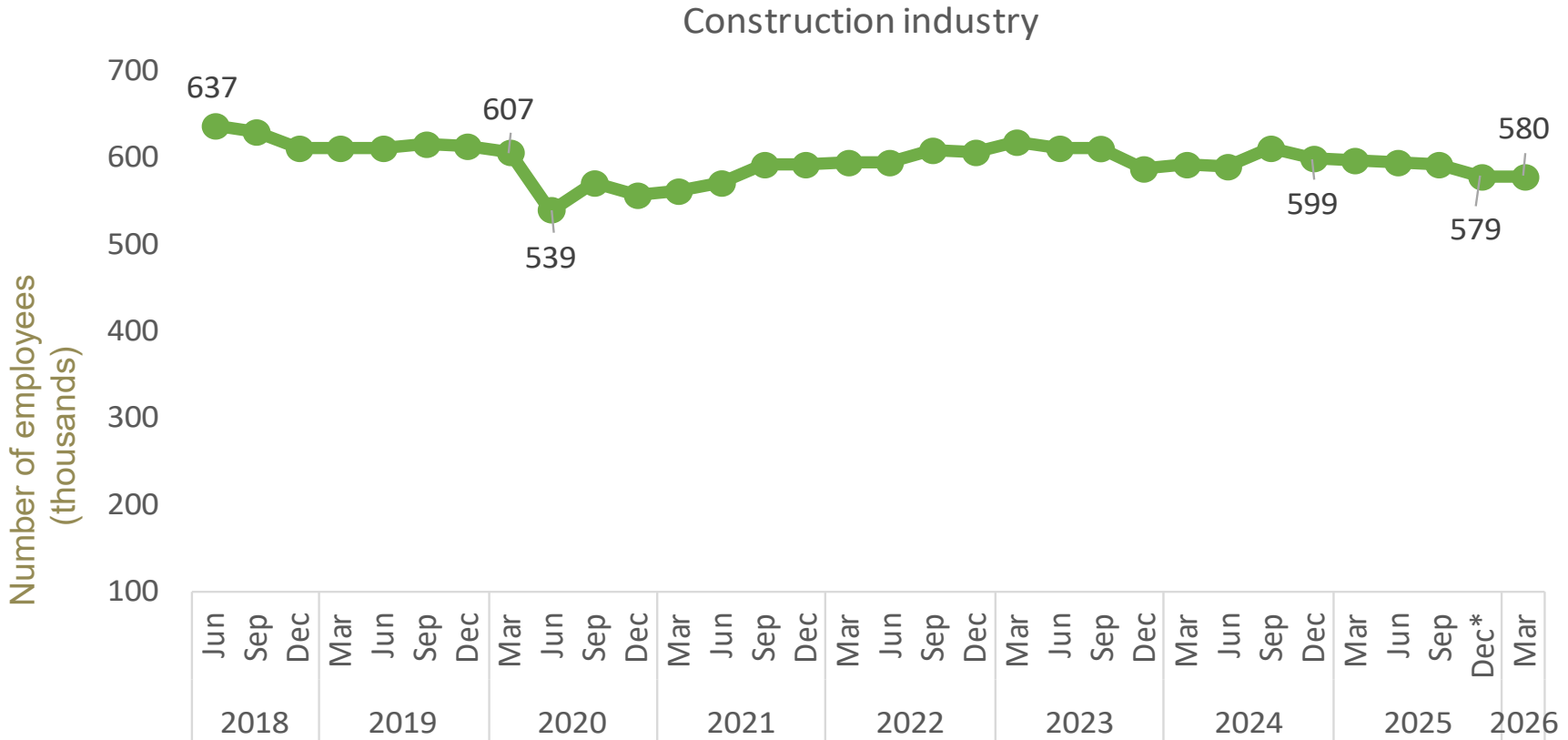
* Revised estimates



Construction

The construction industry **increased** by 1 000 jobs in Q1:2026.

The industry **lost 18 000** jobs when compared with same quarter of the previous year.



* Revised estimates

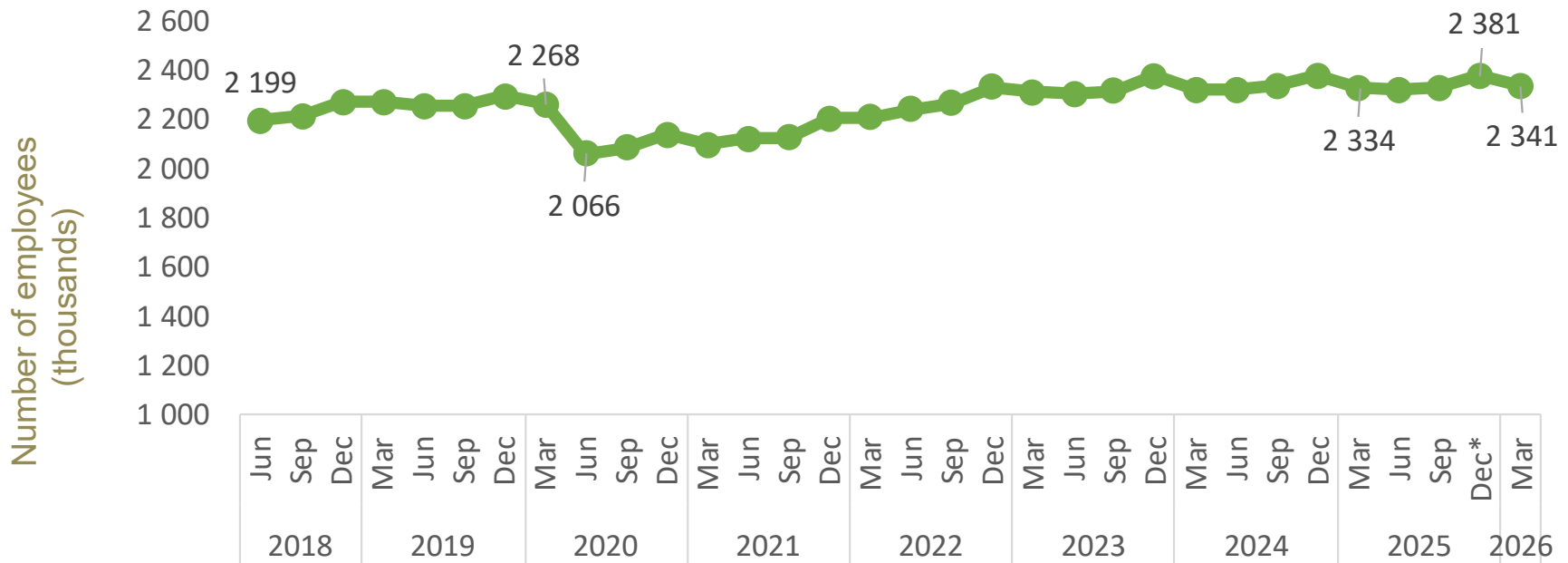


Trade

The trade industry lost 40 000 jobs in Q1:2026.

Year-on-year, the industry added 7 000 jobs compared to the same quarter of the previous year.

Trade industry



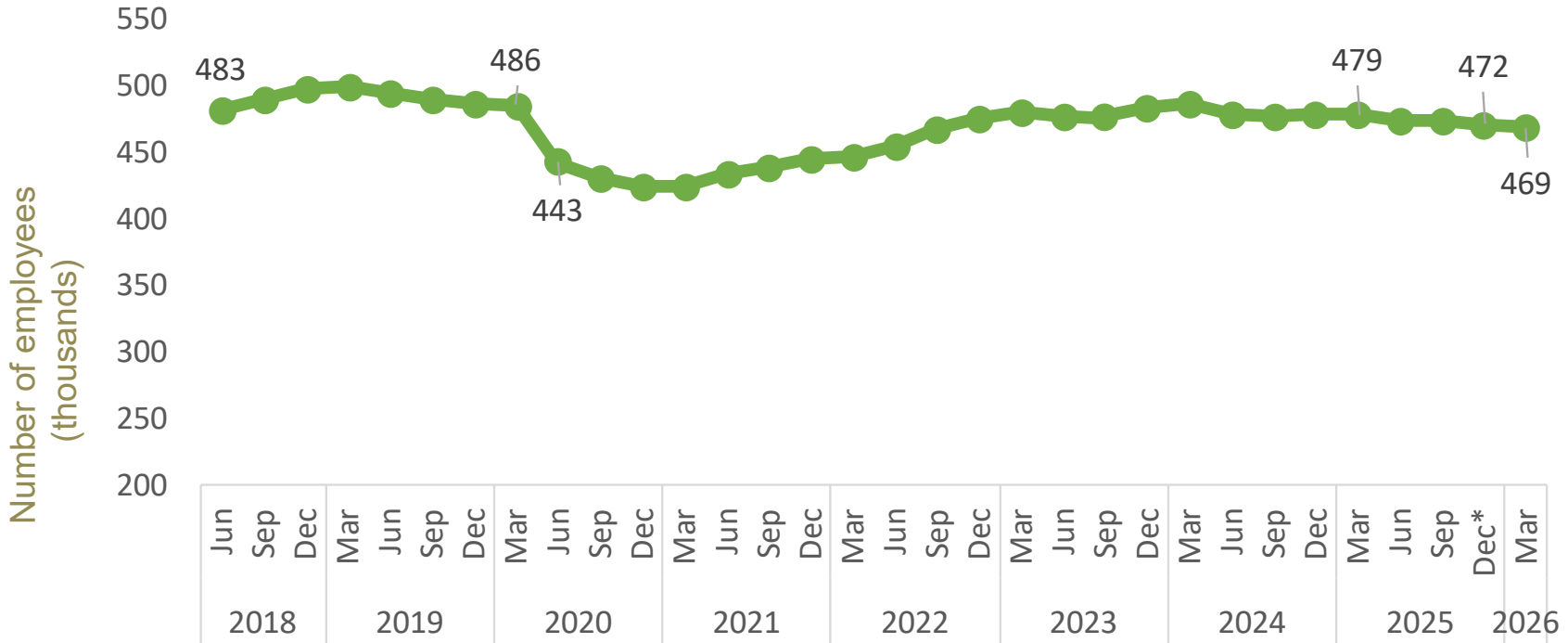
* Revised estimates



Transport

The transport industry lost 3 000 jobs in Q1:2026, compared to the previous quarter. The industry lost 10 000 jobs compared with the same quarter of the previous year.

Transport industry



* Revised estimates

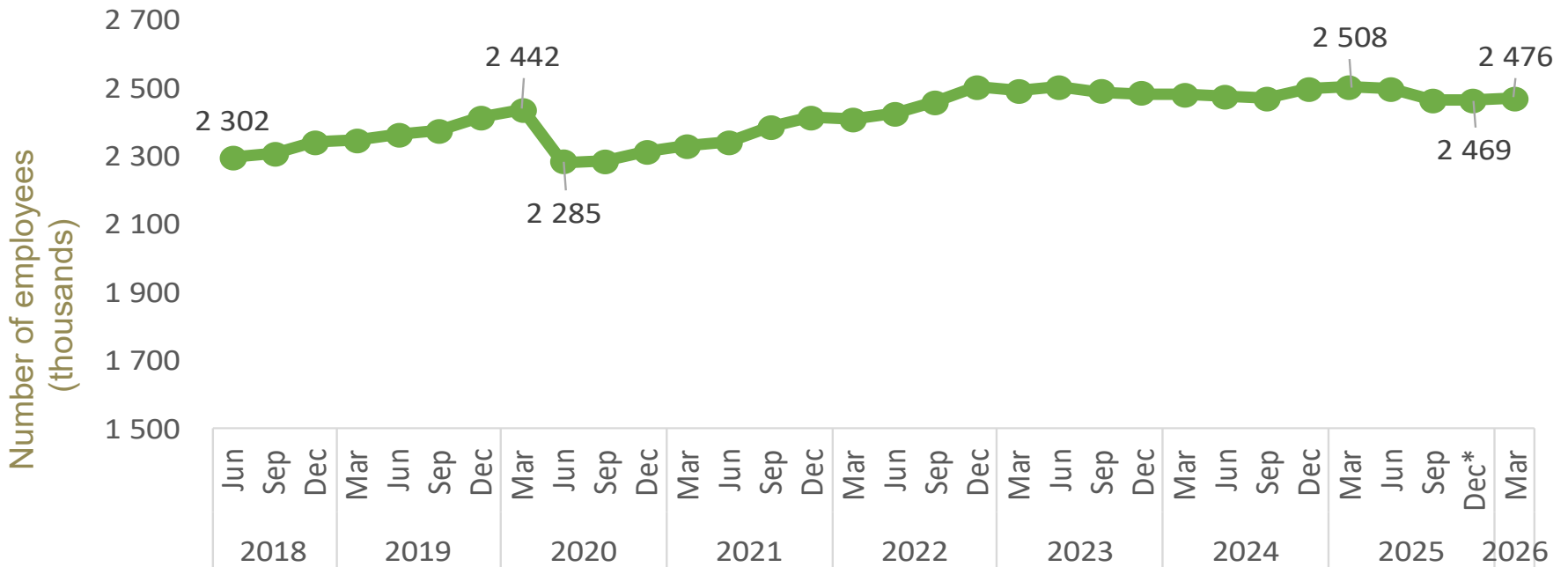


Business services

The business services industry saw an **increase** of **7 000** jobs in Q1:2026, compared to the previous quarter.

Year-on-year the industry **lost 32 000** jobs compared to same quarter of the previous year.

Business services industry



* Revised estimates

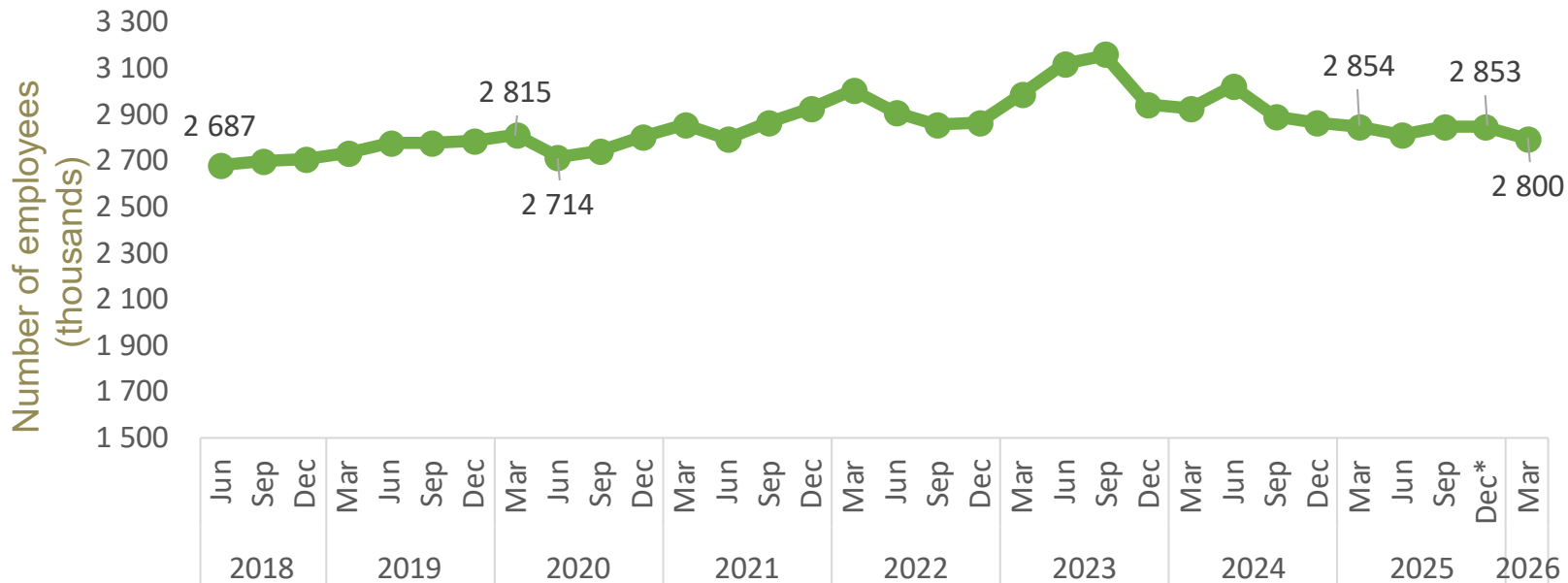


Community services

The community services industry **decreased** by **53 000** jobs in Q1:2026, compared to the previous quarter.


Year-on-year the industry saw an annual **decline** of **54 000** jobs compared to the same quarter of the previous year.

Community services industry



* Revised estimates





Gross Earnings Results Q1:2026

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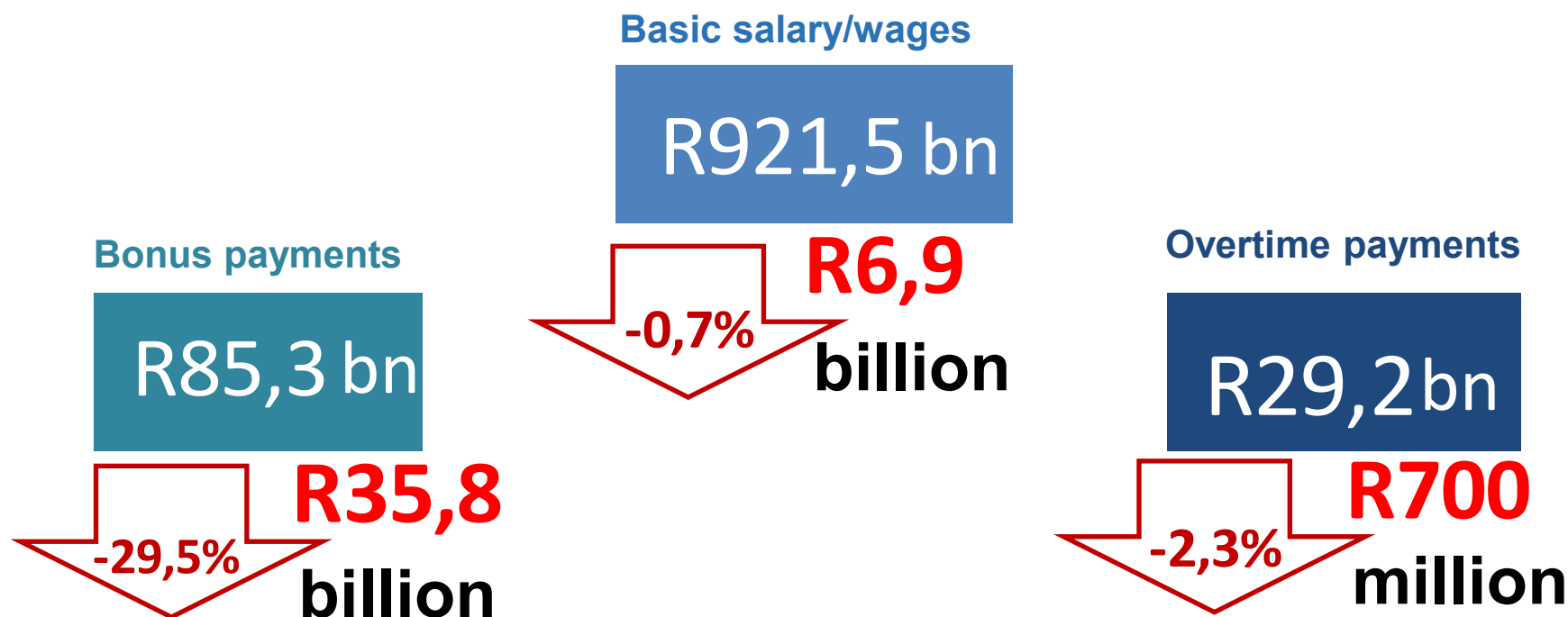
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Changes in gross earnings

Gross earnings decreased by **R43,4** billion (or **-4,0%**) reaching **R1,04** trillion compared to Q4:2025 (**R1,08** trillion). Basic salaries fell by **R6,9** billion (or **-0,7%**), and bonus payments decreased by **R35,8** billion (or **-29,5%**) and overtime payments declined by **R700** million (or **-2,3%**).



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Quarter-on-quarter changes in gross earnings by industry

Decreases in gross earnings for the quarter were due to bonus payments by **R35,8** billion, salary payment made by **R6,9** billion as well as overtime payments by **R700** million. Manufacturing reported the most decrease, followed closely by community services and trade. Mining and business services reported an increase in total earnings.

Quarter-on-quarter Industry	Gross earnings (R' 000)			
	Basic Salary/Wages	Bonus Payments	Overtime Payments	Total Gross Earnings
Manufacturing	-2 347 000	-9 807 000	-586 000	-12 740 000
Community services	-1 227 000	-10 499 000	-85 000	-11 811 000
Trade	-200 000	-9 942 000	181 000	-9 961 000
Construction	-2 157 000	-4 206 000	-480 000	-6 843 000
Electricity	49 000	-1 983 000	-52 000	-1 986 000
Transport	-263 000	-1 432 000	336 000	-1 359 000
Business services	-1 529 000	2 116 000	-14 000	573 000
Mining*	735 000			735 000
Total	-6 939 000	-35 753 000	-700 000	-43 392 000

*Data for mining industry is not available separately for bonuses & overtime payments

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Year-on-year changes in gross earnings by industry

Year-on-year gross earnings **increased** by **R51,4** billion (or **5,2%**). **Increases** were due to basic salary payments made by **R40,4** billion. Bonus payments rose by **R9,4** billion and overtime payments reported an **increase** of **R1,5** billion.

Year-on-year Industry	Gross earnings (R' 000)			
	Basic Salary/Wages	Bonus Payments	Overtime Payments	Total Gross Earnings
Community services	16 591 000	1 993 000	320 000	18 904 000
Business services	6 511 000	5 424 000	113 000	12 048 000
Trade	7 851 000	-345 000	392 000	7 898 000
Mining*	4 584 000			4 584 000
Transport	1 554 000	1 794 000	689 000	4 037 000
Electricity	1 327 000	157 000	-64 000	1 420 000
Construction	314 000	1 038 000	-49 000	1 303 000
Manufacturing	1 692 000	-626 000	131 000	1 197 000
Total	40 424 000	9 435 000	1 532 000	51 391 000

*Data for mining industry is not available separately for bonuses & overtime payments

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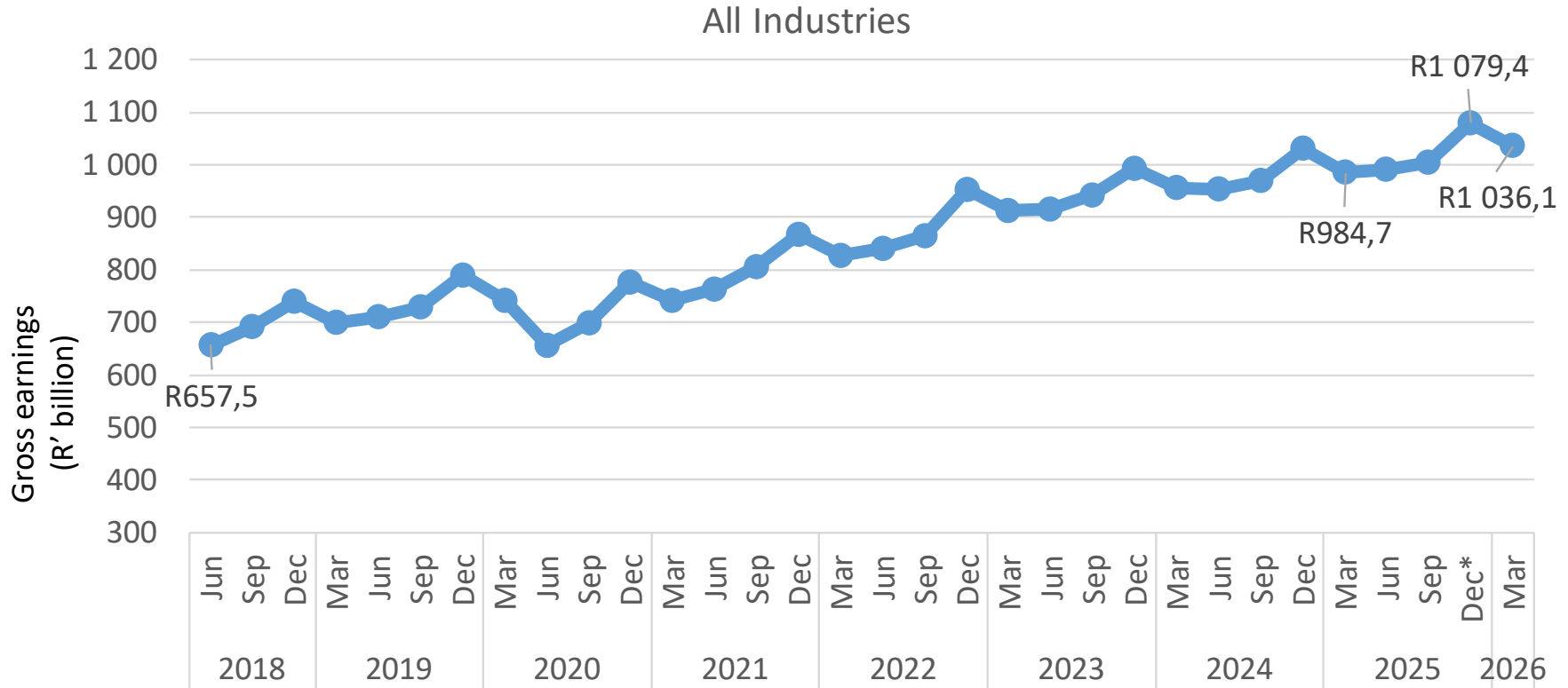
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All industries (Total)

Gross earnings for all industries **decreased** by **R43,4** billion in the Q1:2026.

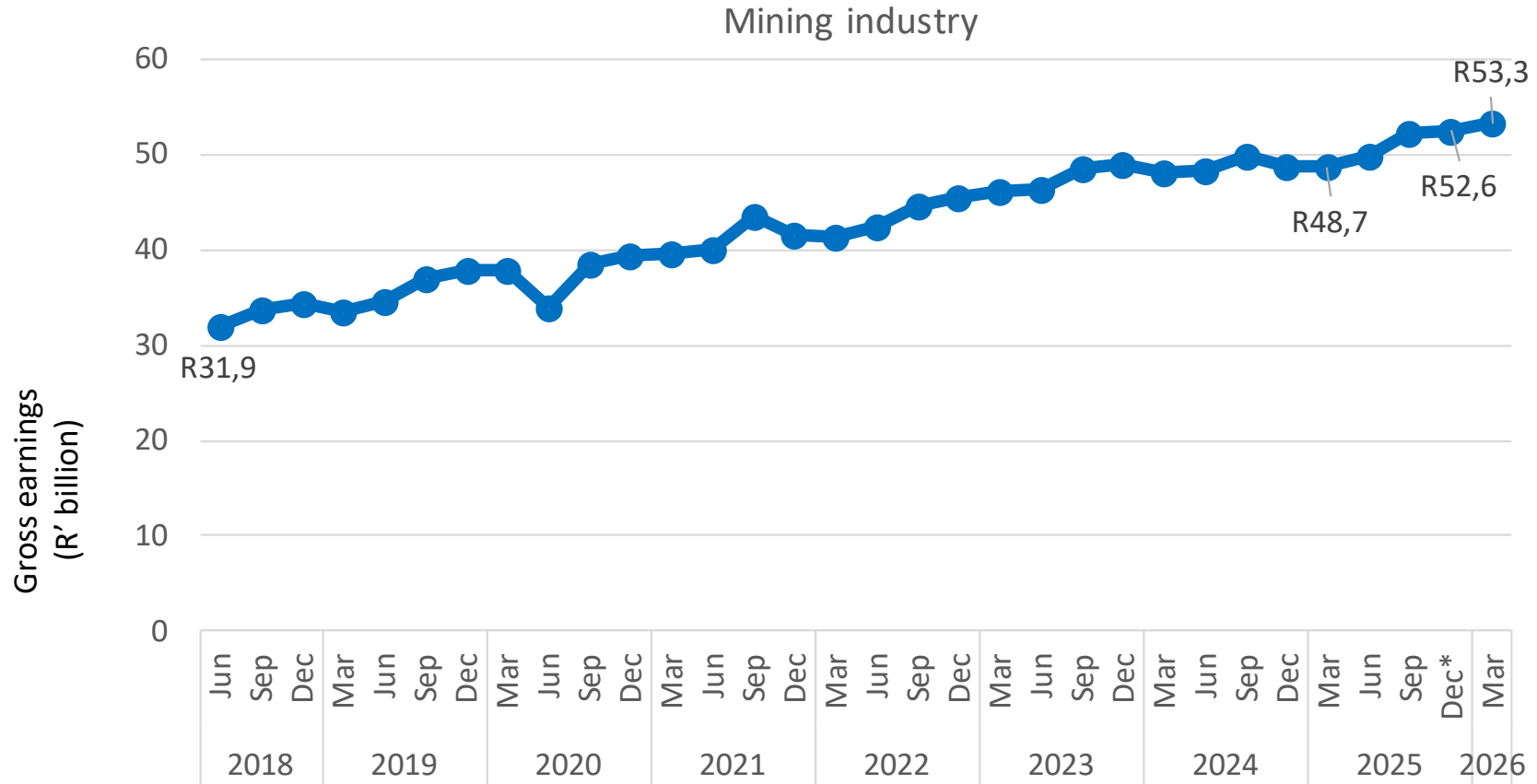


* Revised estimates



Mining

Gross earnings paid in the mining industry **increased** by **R735** million in Q1:2026.

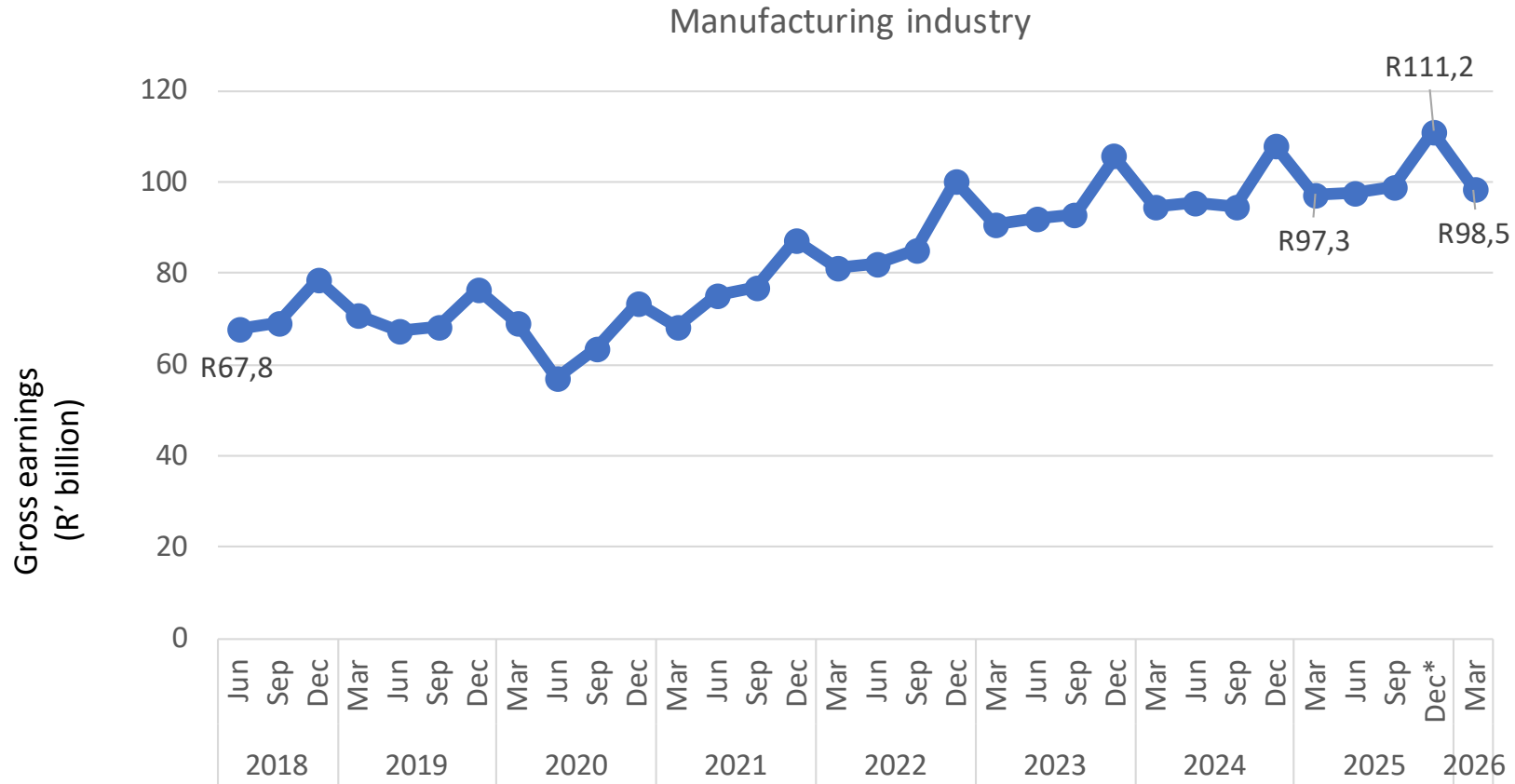


* Revised estimates



Manufacturing

Gross earnings paid in the manufacturing industry **decreased** by **R12,7 billion** in Q1:2026.

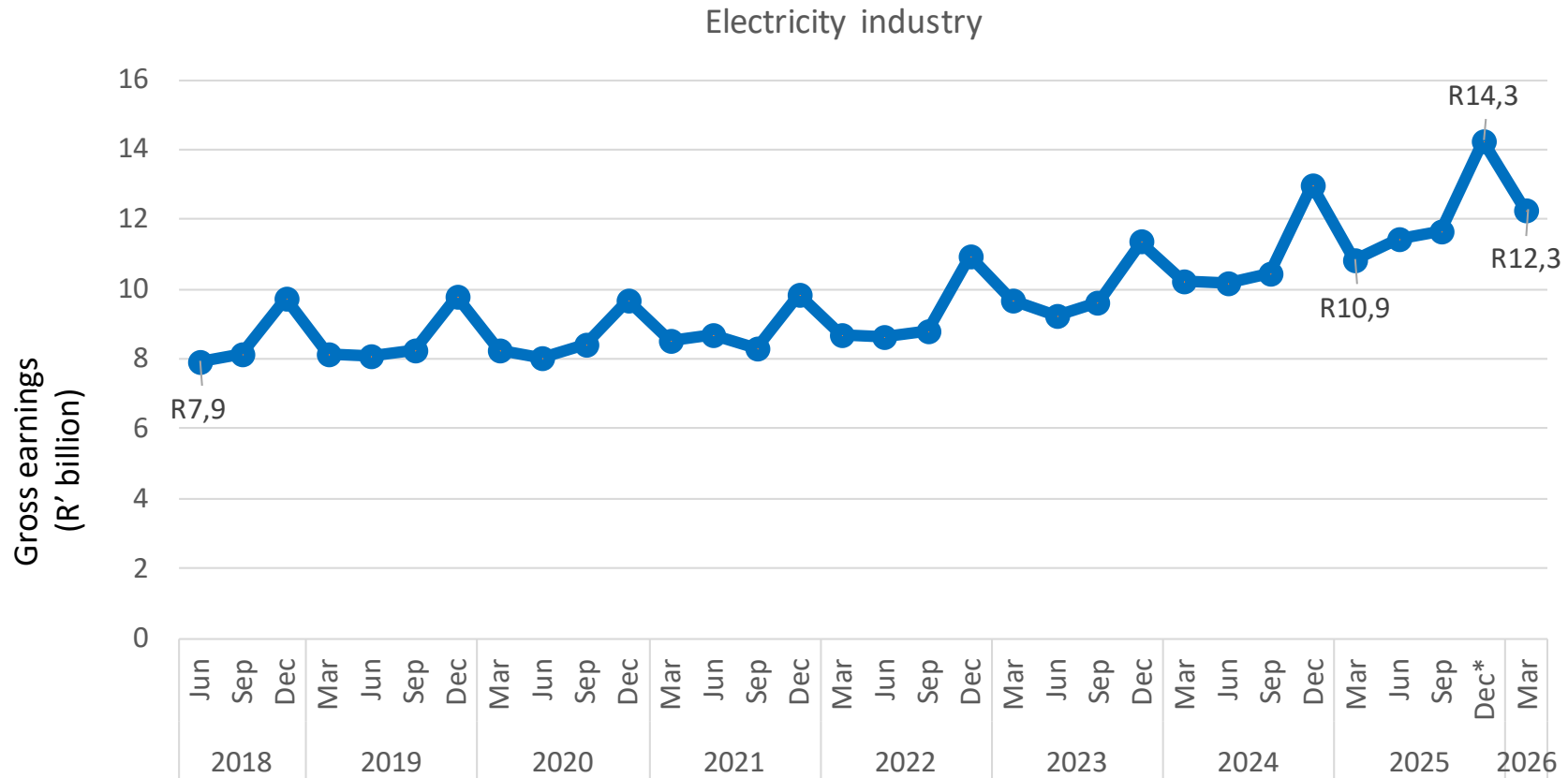


* Revised estimates



Electricity

Gross earnings paid in the electricity industry **decreased** by **R2** billion in Q1:2026.

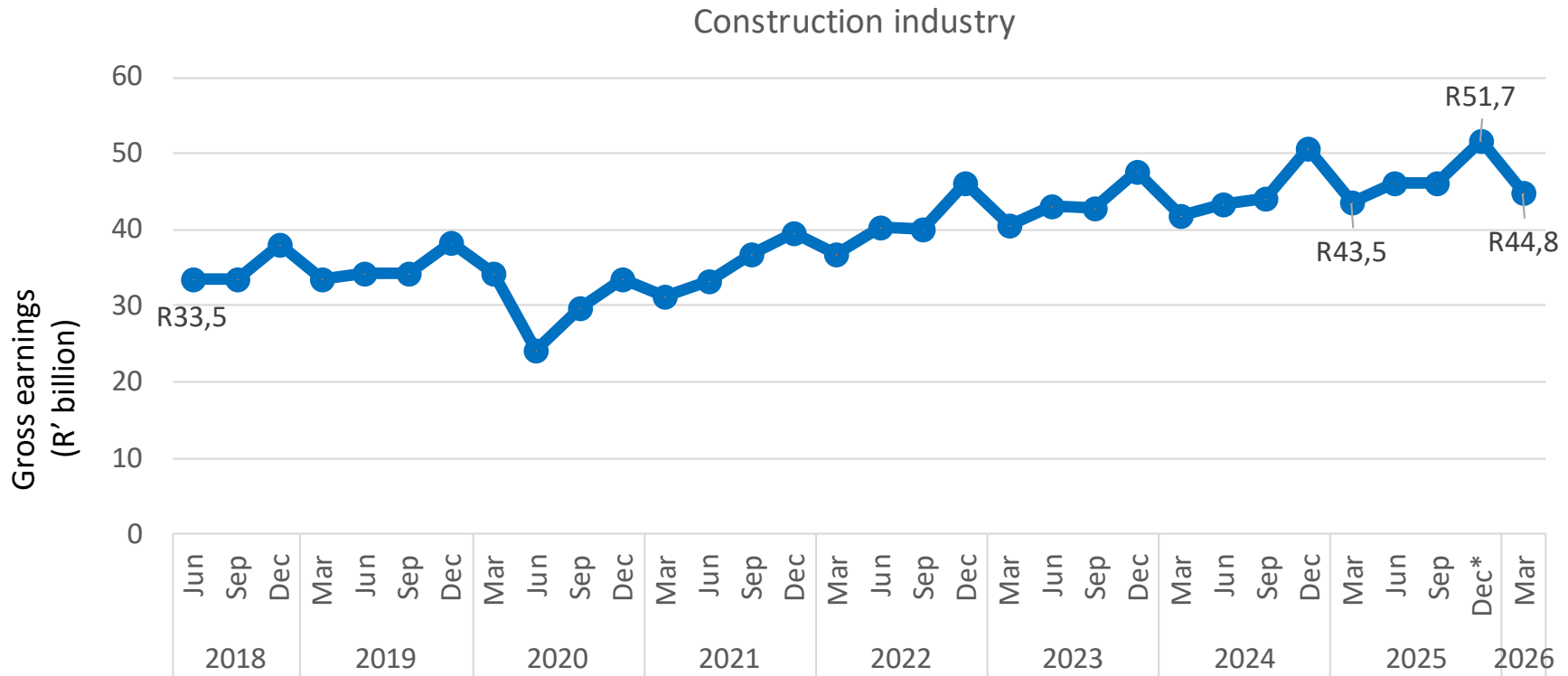


* Revised estimates



Construction

Gross earnings paid in the construction industry **decreased** by **R6,8** billion in Q1:2026.

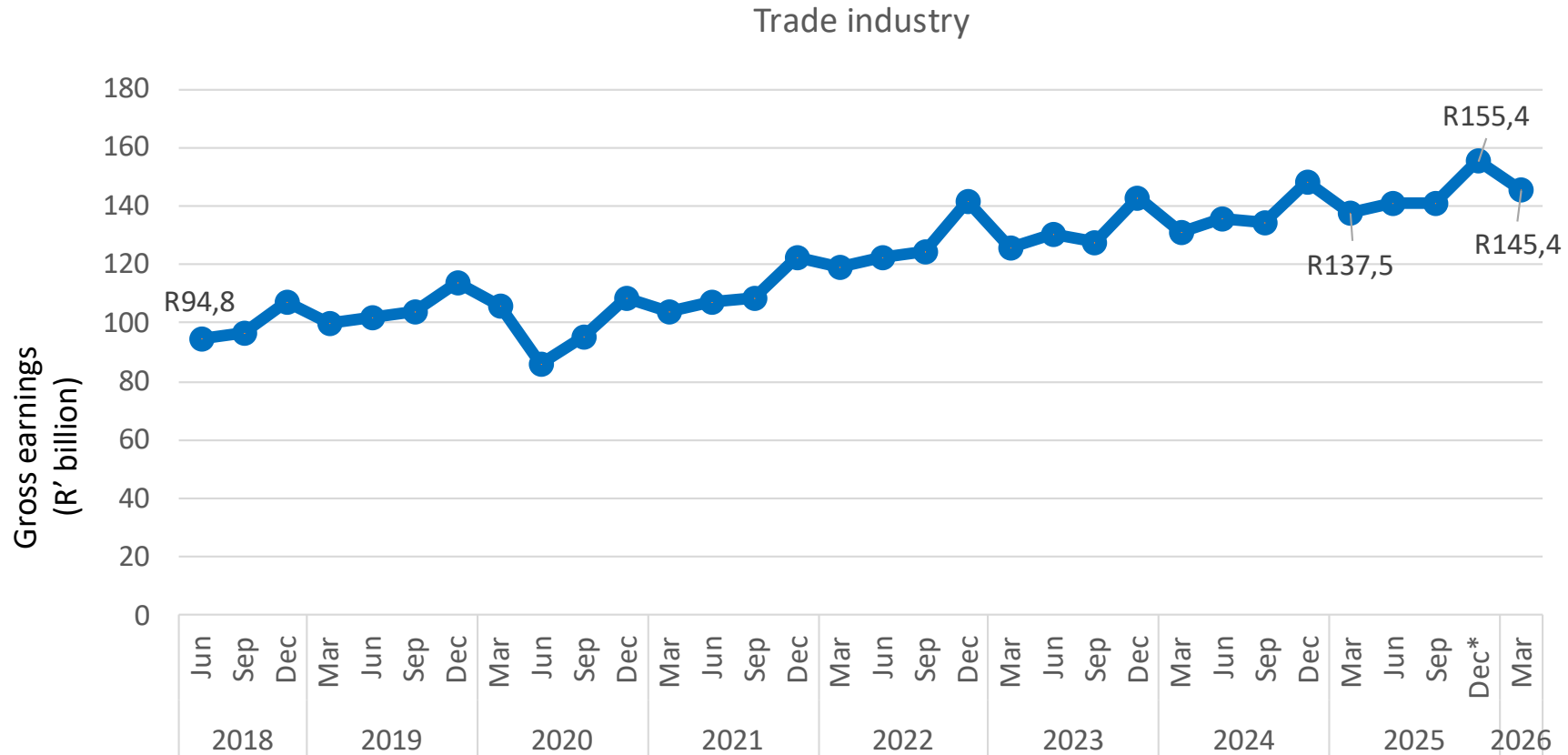


* Revised estimates



Trade

Gross earnings paid in the trade industry **decreased** by R10 billion in Q1:2026.

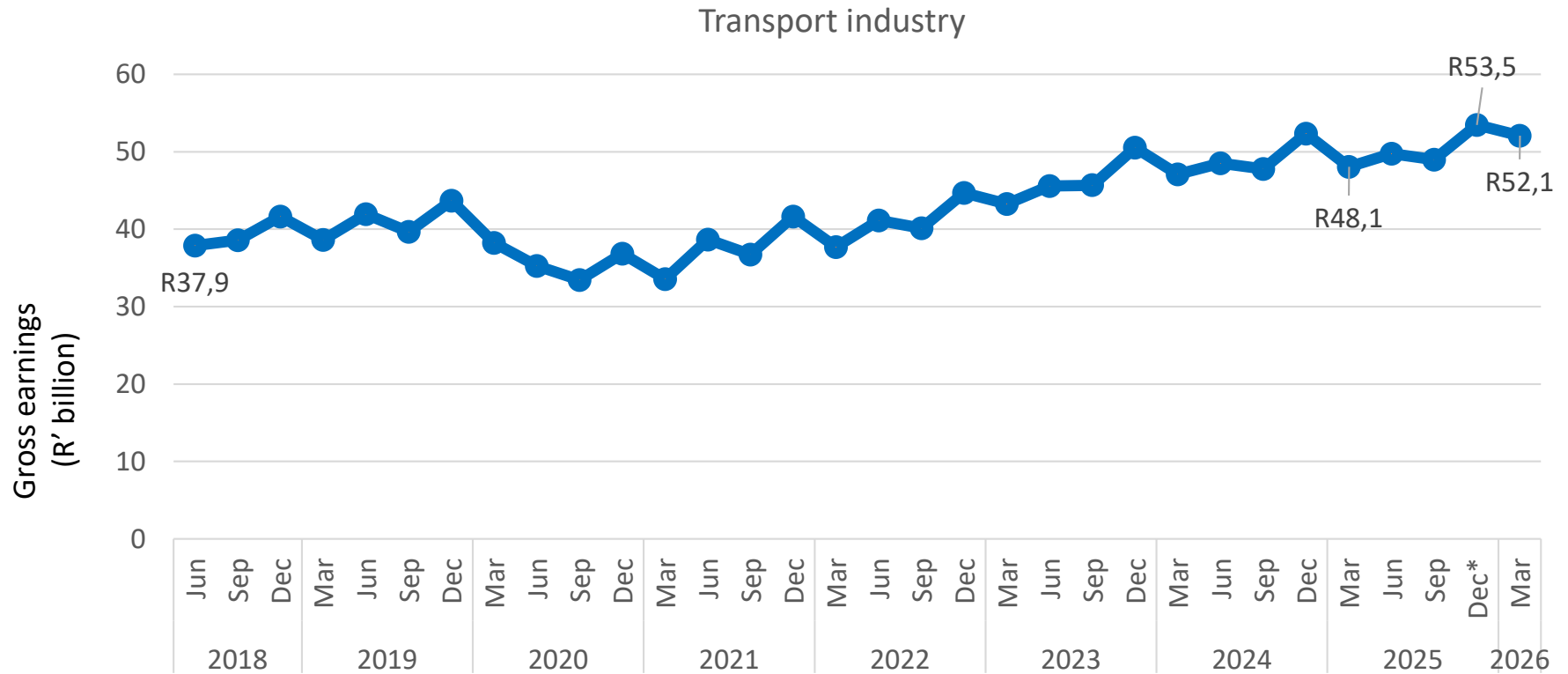


* Revised estimates



Transport

Gross earnings paid in the transport industry **decreased** by R1,4 billion in Q1:2026.



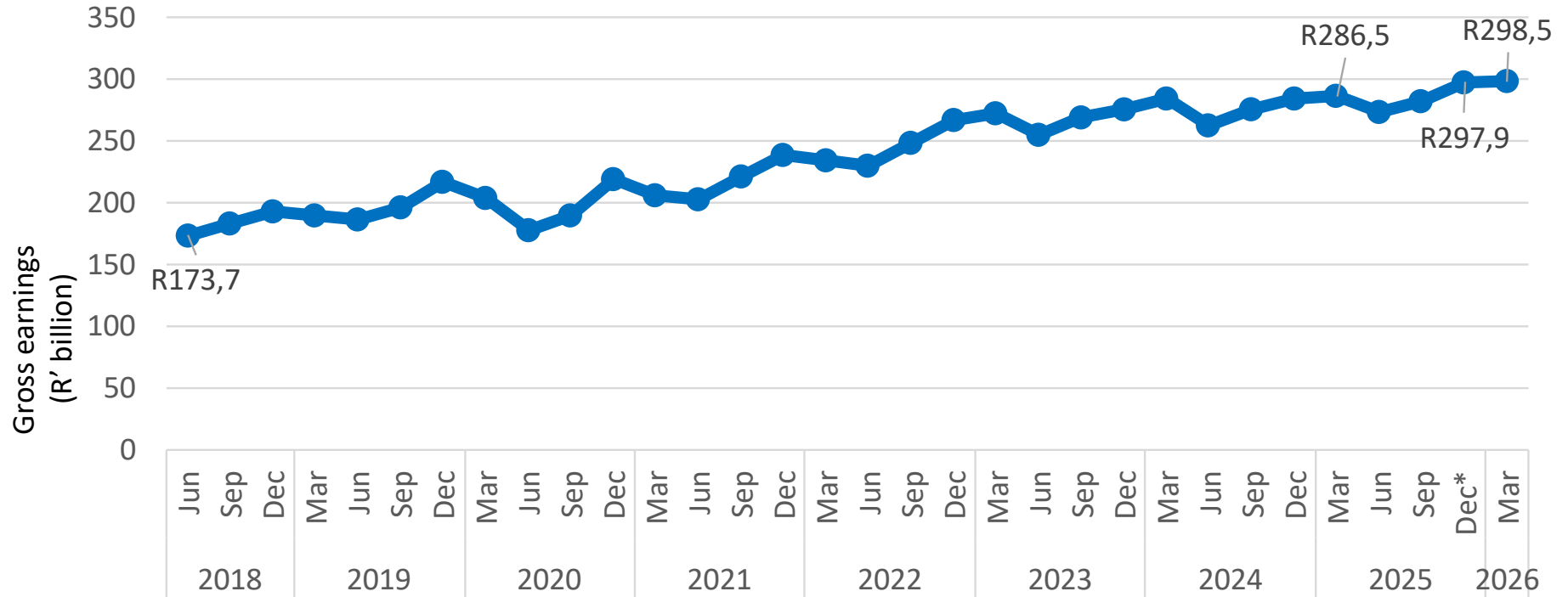
* Revised estimates



Business services

Gross earnings paid in the business services industry rose by R573 million in Q1:2026.

Business services industry



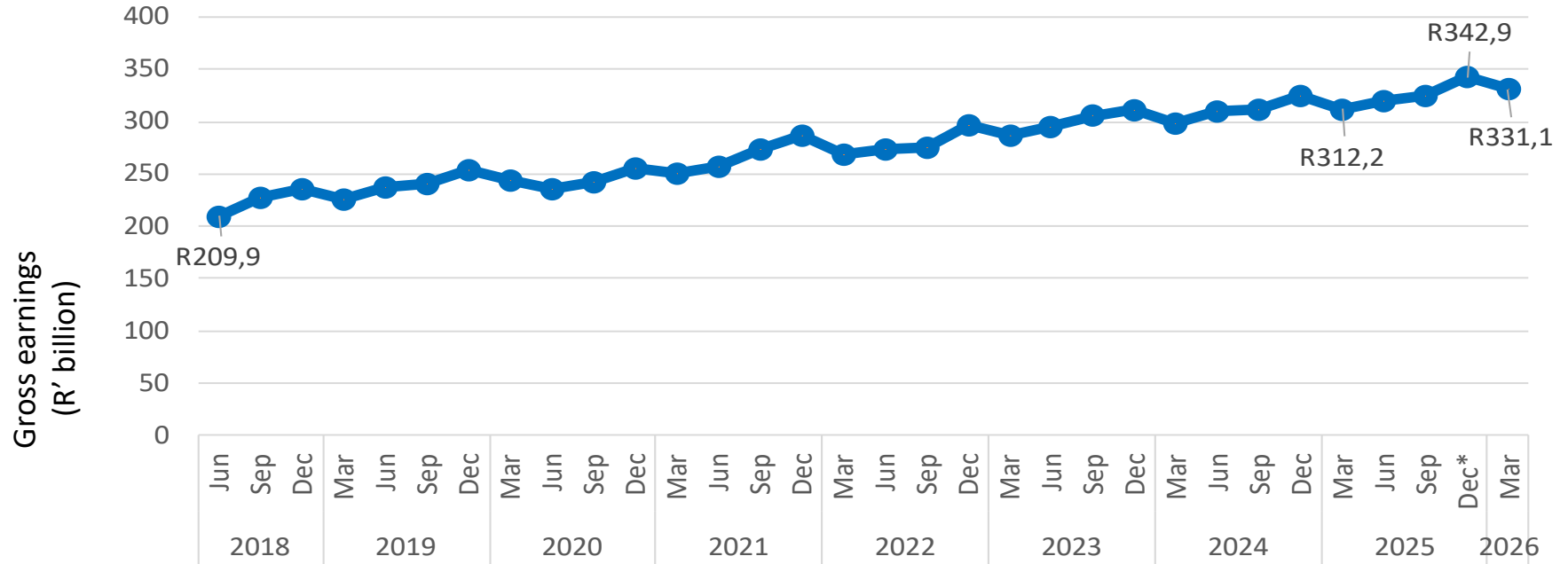
* Revised estimates



Community services

Gross earnings paid in the community services industry **decreased** by R11,8 billion in Q1:2026.

Community services industry



* Revised estimates





Average monthly earnings (AME) February 2026

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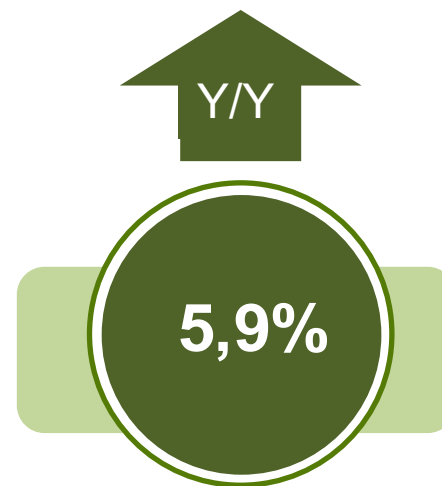
AME RESULTS

AME including bonuses and overtime payments **increased** by **0,9%** from **R29 738** in November 2025 to **R29 997** in February 2026.

Year-on-year AME **increased** by **5,9%**.

Average monthly earnings (AME)

R29 997



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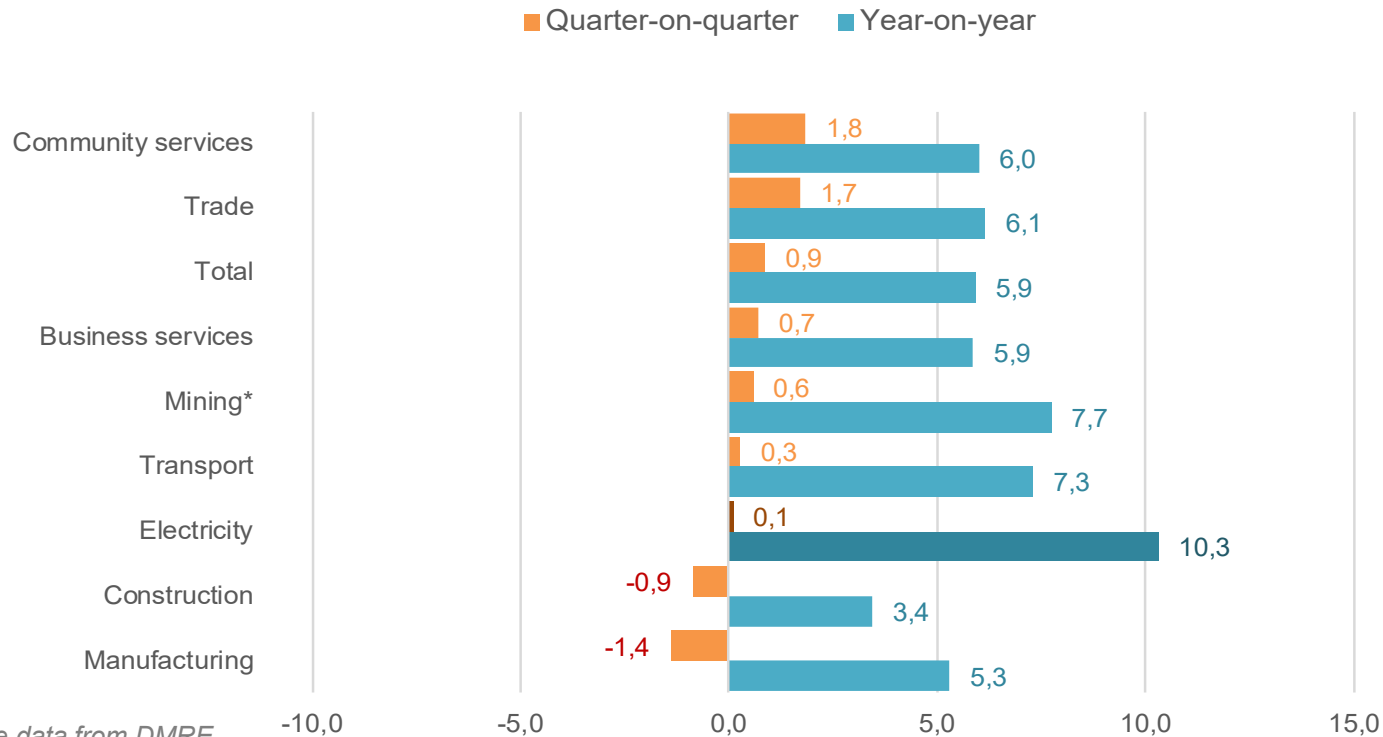
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AME by industry

In February 2026, the Average Monthly Earnings (AME) increased across most industries. The community services and trade industries recorded the highest quarterly growth, followed by business services, mining, and transport. In contrast, manufacturing and construction showed declines.

Year-on-year, the electricity industry posted the strongest annual growth, while construction reported the lowest growth.



* Administrative data from DMRE

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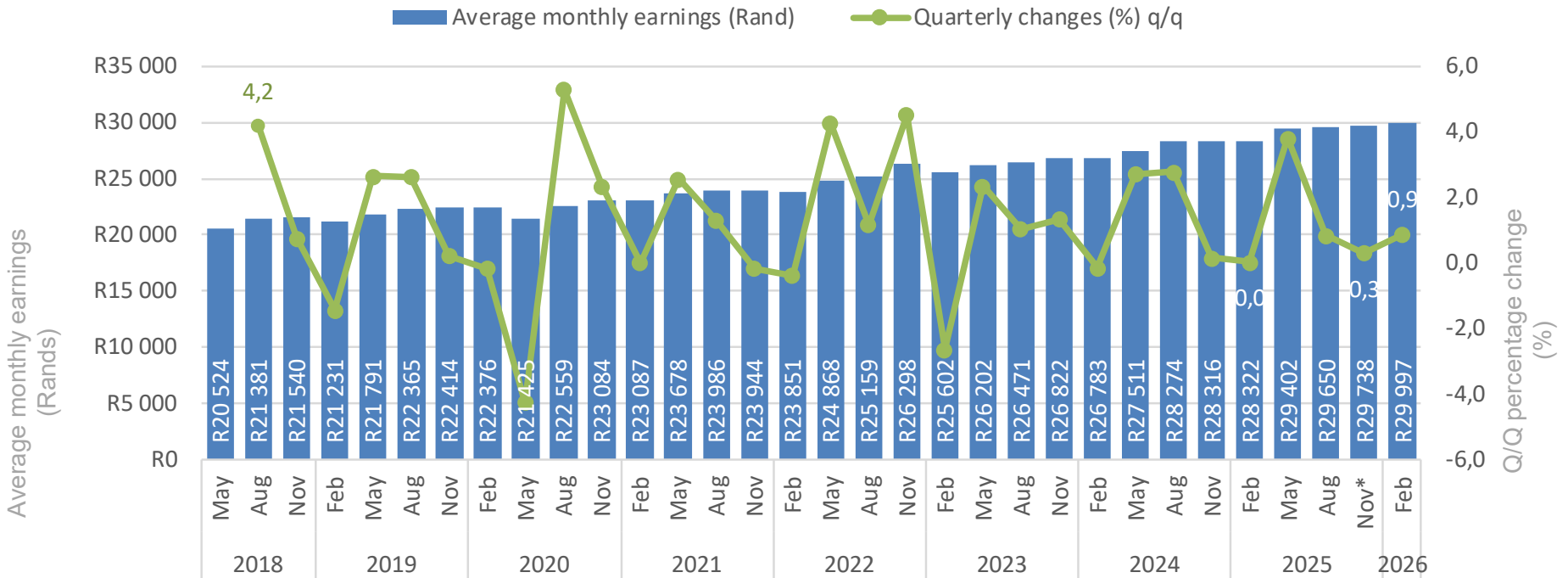
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AME series

The average monthly earnings (AME) amounted to **R29 997** in February 2026, up from **R29 738** reported in November 2025, which represents an increase of **0,9%**.



* Revised estimates



Recap

QES
Q1:2026



Number of employees
decreased by 80 000 Q/Q &
decreased by 121 000 Y/Y.



Full-time jobs decreased by
24 000 Q/Q & decreased
by 48 000 Y/Y.



*Part-time jobs decreased by
56 000 Q/Q and decreased by
73 000 Y/Y.



Average monthly earnings
increased by 0,9% Q/Q &
increased by 5,9% Y/Y.



Gross earnings decreased by
R43,4 billion Q/Q & increased
by R51,4 billion Y/Y.



Basic salaries/wages decreased
by R6,9 billion Q/Q & increased
by R40,4 billion Y/Y.



*Bonus payments decreased by
R35,8 billion Q/Q & increased
by R9,4 billion Y/Y.



*Overtime payments decreased by
R700 million Q/Q & increased by
R1,5 billion Y/Y.

**Excluding mining*

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Thank
You



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