

Quarterly Employment Statistics



Results for **Q2:2026**



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QES Background

QUARTERLY EMPLOYMENT
STATISTICS



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.

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QES Coverage

QUARTERLY EMPLOYMENT
STATISTICS

INCLUDES



Mining & quarrying



Manufacturing



Electricity, gas
and water supply



Construction



Wholesale trade, retail trade,
motor trade and hotels
and restaurants



Transport, Storage
& Communication



Business services



Community & personal services

EXCLUDES



Agriculture, hunting,
forestry and fishing



The informal
business sector



Private households

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QES Variables

Estimates are published on a quarter lag (SDDS)



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QES

Employment Results

for **Q2:2026**



Quarterly
Employment Statistics



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EMPLOYMENT RESULTS



Employment declined by **14 000 jobs** between Q1:2026 and Q2:2026, decreasing from **10 439 000** to **10 425 000** reflecting a **0,1%** quarter-on-quarter contraction. Compared with the corresponding quarter of the previous year, employment was **95 000 jobs** lower, representing an annual decline of **0,9%**.



Quarter-on-quarter
change

-14 000
jobs

-0,1%



TOTAL
EMPLOYMENT

Q1:2026

10,439 million



Q2:2026

10,425 million



Year-on-year
change

-95 000
jobs

-0,9%

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EMPLOYMENT COMPOSITION RESULTS



Full-time employment declined by **40 000** jobs between Q1:2026 and Q2:2026, decreasing from **9 370 000** to **9 330 000** employed persons. Compared with Q2:2025, full-time employment was **96 000** jobs lower.



Part-time employment increased by **26 000** jobs quarter-on-quarter, rising from **1 069 000** to **1 095 000**. On an annual basis, part-time employment recorded a modest increase of **1 000** jobs.



FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

9,370
million



9,330
million

Q1:2026

Q2:2026

Q/Q CHANGE

▼ **-40 000 jobs**

Y/Y CHANGE

▼ **-96 000 jobs**



PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

1,069
million



1,095
million

Q1:2026

Q2:2026

Q/Q CHANGE

▲ **+26 000 jobs**

Y/Y CHANGE

▲ **+1 000 jobs**

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Quarter-on-quarter employment changes

BY INDUSTRY



Manufacturing experienced the largest employment decline **(-20 000)** in the quarter, with additional losses reported in **Business Services (-13 000)**, **Trade (-8 000)** and **Transport (-5 000)**. In contrast, **Community Services** reported the strongest employment growth **(+29 000 jobs)**, while **Electricity, Mining** and **Construction** each posted modest gains of **1 000 jobs**. Despite these gains, total employment decreased by **14 000 jobs** quarter-on-quarter.

Industry	Full-time	Part-time	All employees
 Manufacturing	-10 000	-10 000	-20 000
 Business Services	-17 000	+4 000	-13 000
 Trade	-7 000	-1 000	-8 000
 Transport	-6 000	+1 000	-5 000
 Electricity	-1 000	+2 000	+1 000
 Mining	+1 000		+1 000
 Construction	+3 000	-2 000	+1 000
 Community Services	-3 000	+32 000	+29 000
TOTAL	-40 000	+26 000	-14 000



LARGEST LOSS

Manufacturing

-20 000



LARGEST GAIN

Community Services

+29 000



Net change
(all employees)

-14 000

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Year-on-year employment change by industry

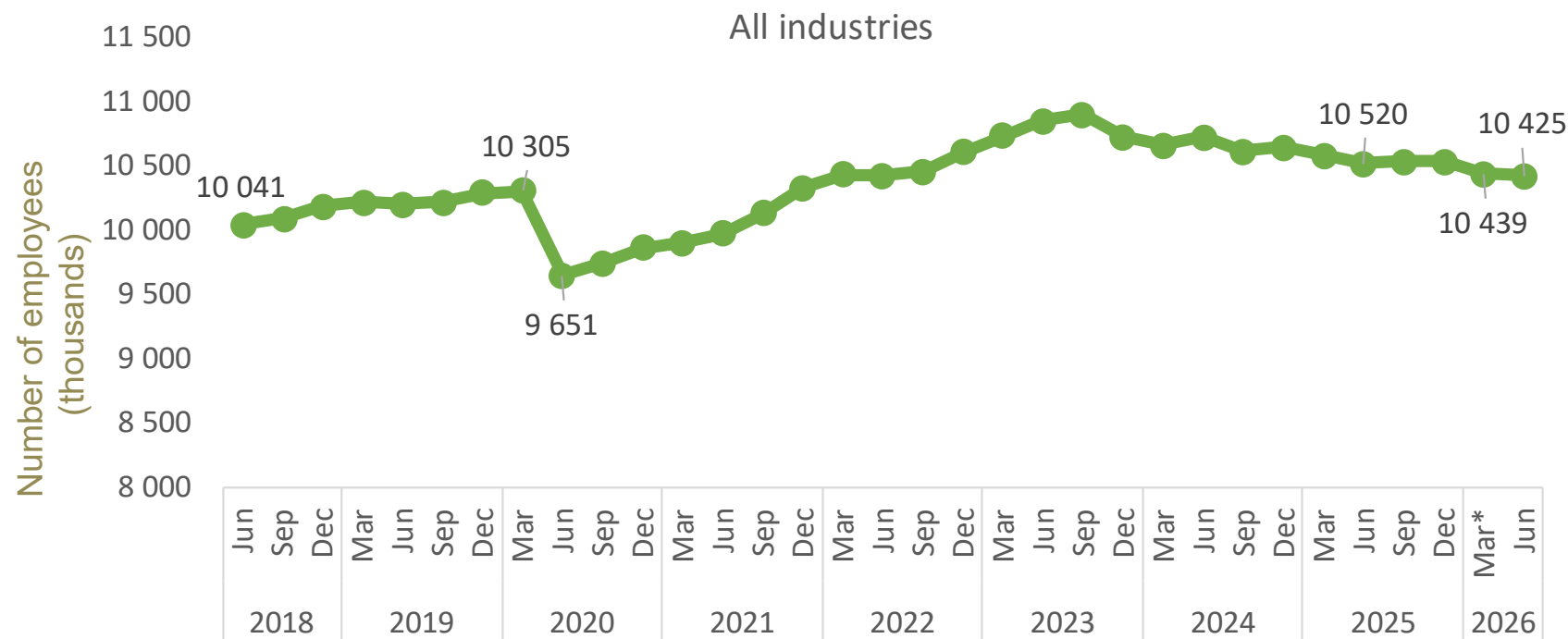
Total employment decreased by **95 000** jobs compared with Q2:2025. **Business Services** reported the largest year-on-year employment decline (**-40 000 jobs**), followed by **Manufacturing (-35 000)** and **Construction (-33 000)**, while **Community Services** reported the strongest gain (**+35 000 jobs**) and modest gain reported in **Mining (+4 000)**.

Industry	 Full-time	 Part-time	 All employees
 Business Services	-16 000	-24 000	-40 000
 Manufacturing	-23 000	-12 000	-35 000
 Construction	-23 000	-10 000	-33 000
 Transport	-14 000	+1 000	-13 000
 Trade	-34 000	+21 000	-13 000
 Electricity	-1 000	+1 000	0
 Mining	+4 000		+4 000
 Community Services	+11 000	+24 000	+35 000
TOTAL	-96 000	+1 000	-95 000



All industries (Total)

The total number of employees **decreased** by **14 000** in Q2:2026 compared with the previous quarter. Year-on-year total employment for all industries **decreased** by **95 000** compared with same quarter of the previous year.



* Revised estimates

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Mining

In Q2:2026, mining industry gained 1 000 jobs. Year-on-year the industry added 4 000 jobs compared to the same quarter of the previous year.



* Revised estimates

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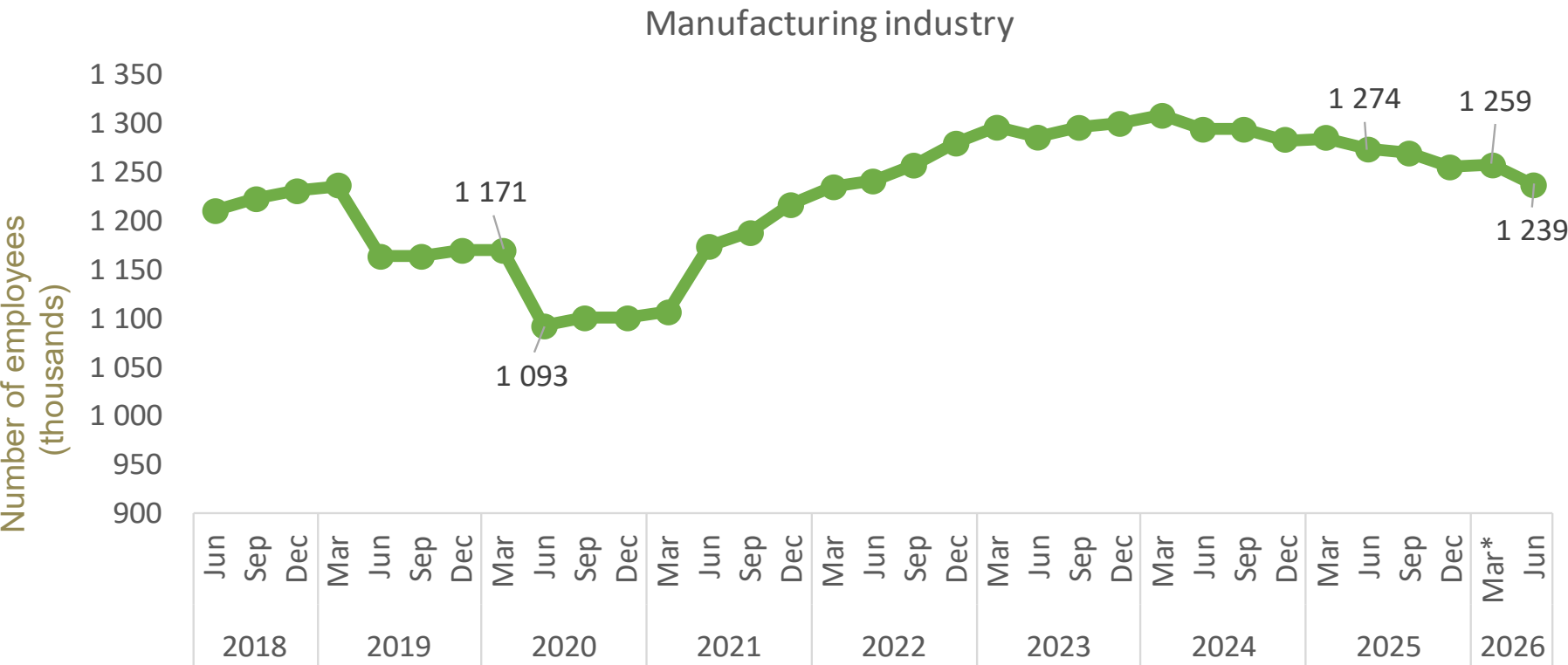
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Manufacturing

Manufacturing industry **lost 20 000** jobs in Q2:2026.
Year-on-year, the industry saw an annual decrease of **35 000** jobs compared to same quarter of 2025.

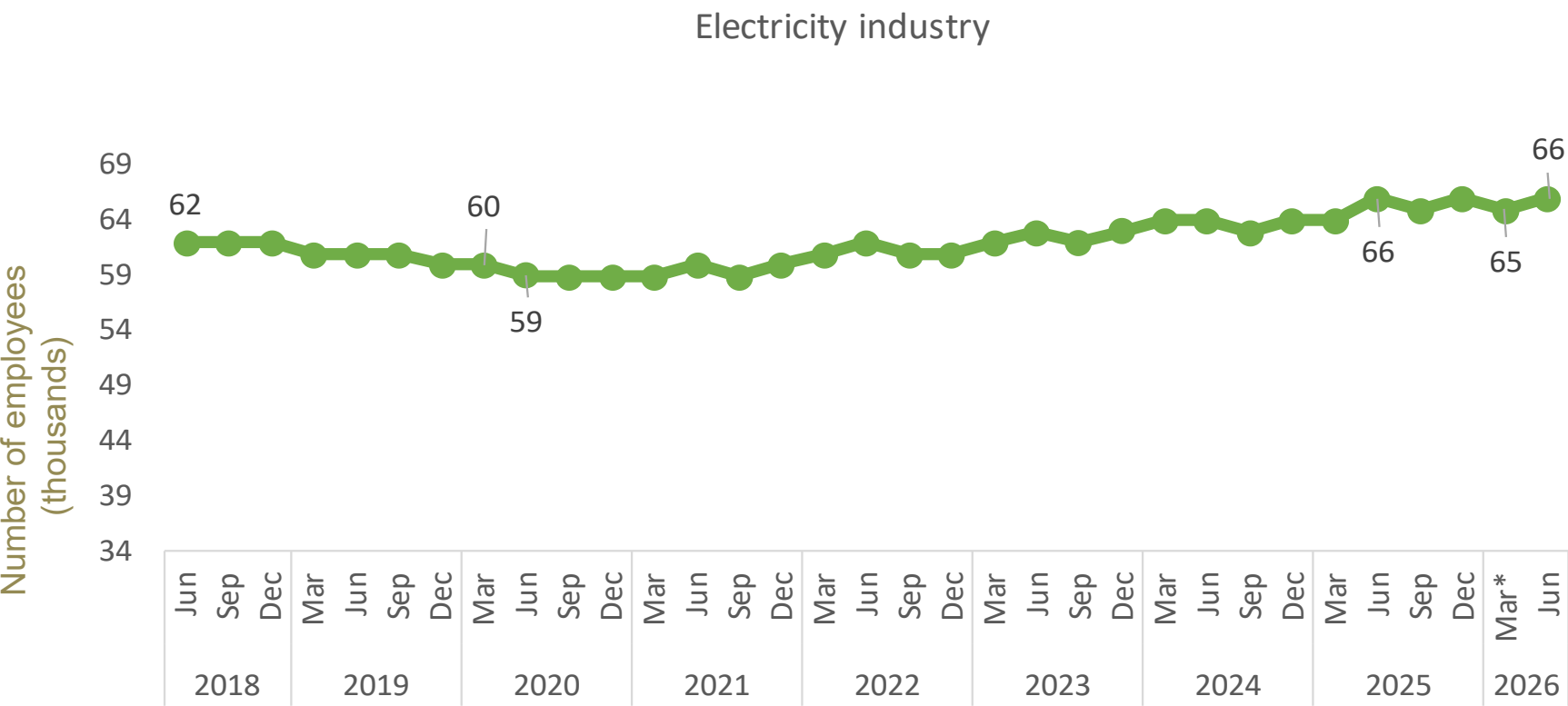


* Revised estimates

Electricity

The electricity industry reported an **increase** of **1 000** jobs in the Q2:2026 compared to the previous quarter.

Year-on-year the industry reported no change.

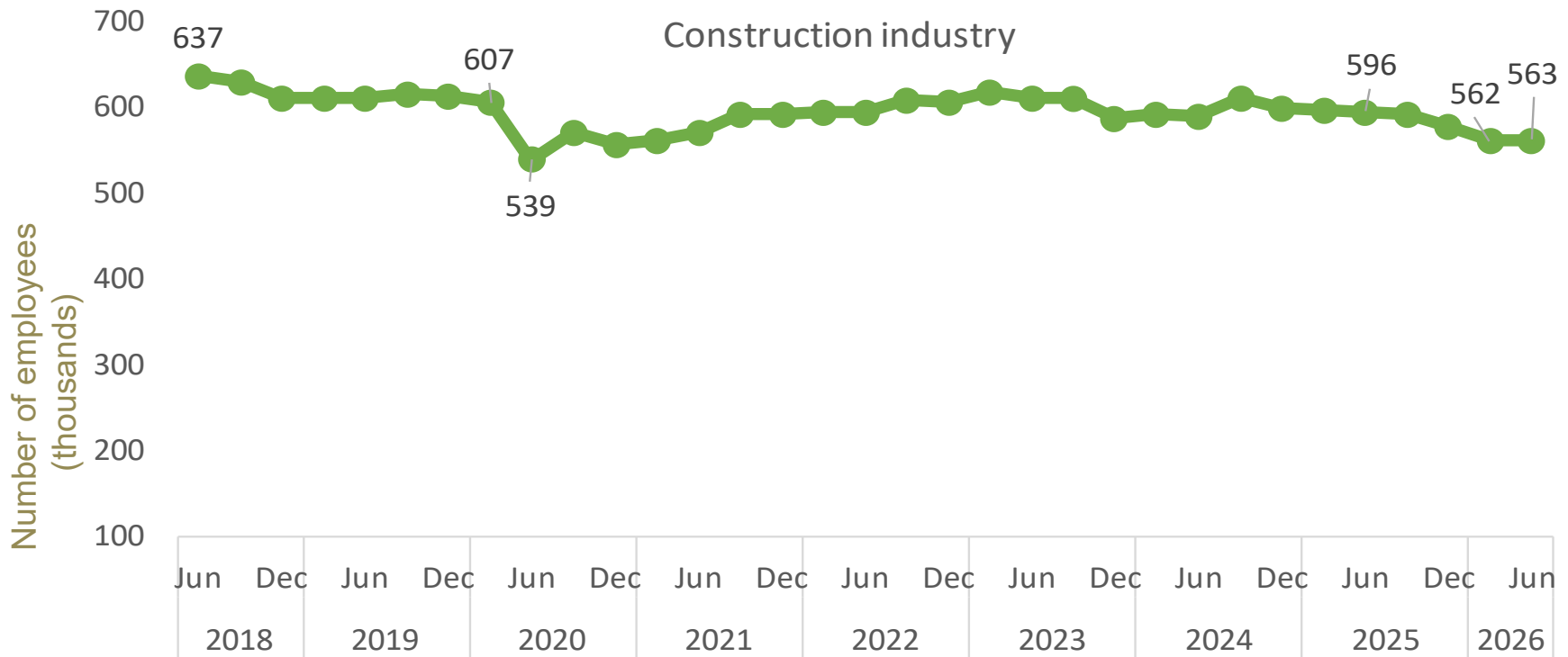


* Revised estimates

Construction

The construction industry **increased** by **1 000** jobs in Q2:2026.

The industry **lost 33 000** jobs when compared with same quarter of the previous year.



* Revised estimates

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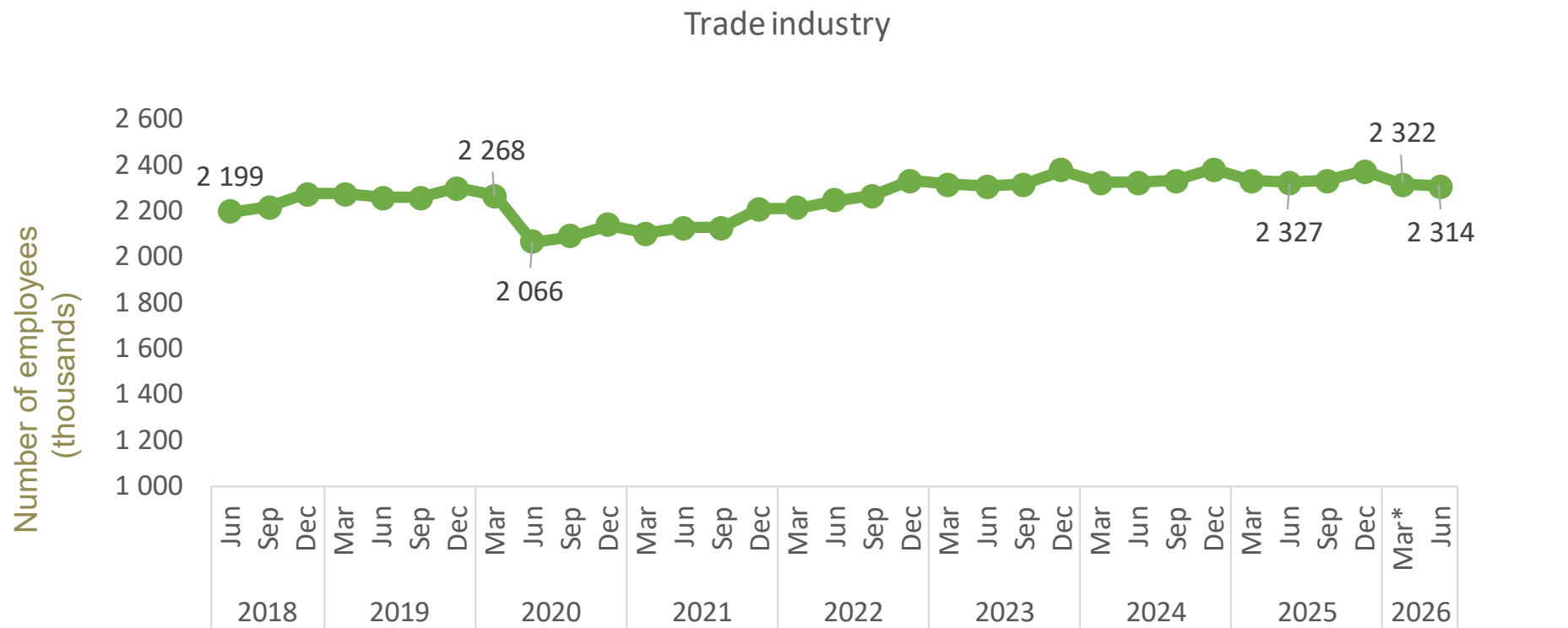
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Trade

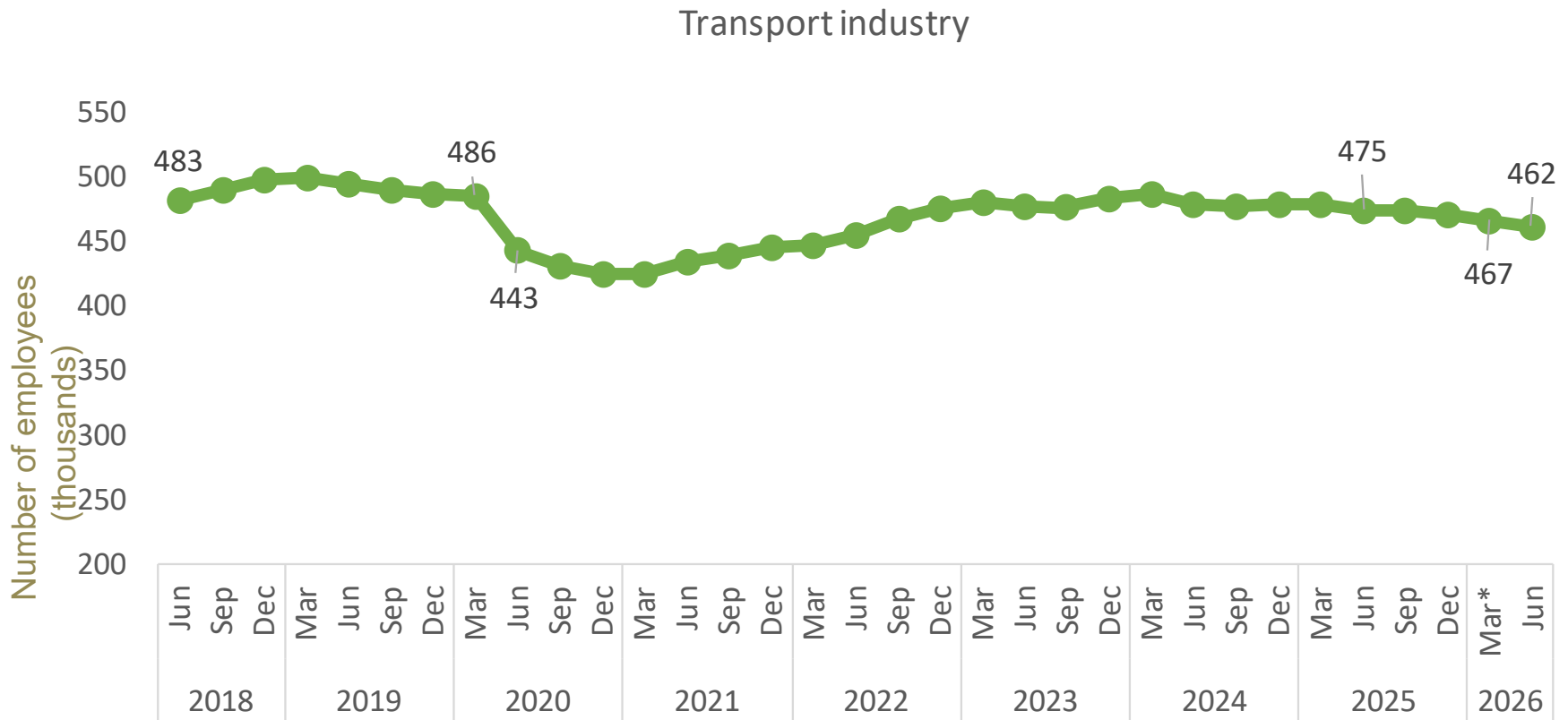
The trade industry **lost 8 000 jobs** in Q2:2026.
 Year-on-year, the industry **lost 13 000 jobs** compared to the same quarter of the previous year.



* Revised estimates

Transport

The transport industry lost 5 000 jobs in Q2:2026, compared to the previous quarter. The industry lost 13 000 jobs compared with the same quarter of the previous year.



* Revised estimates

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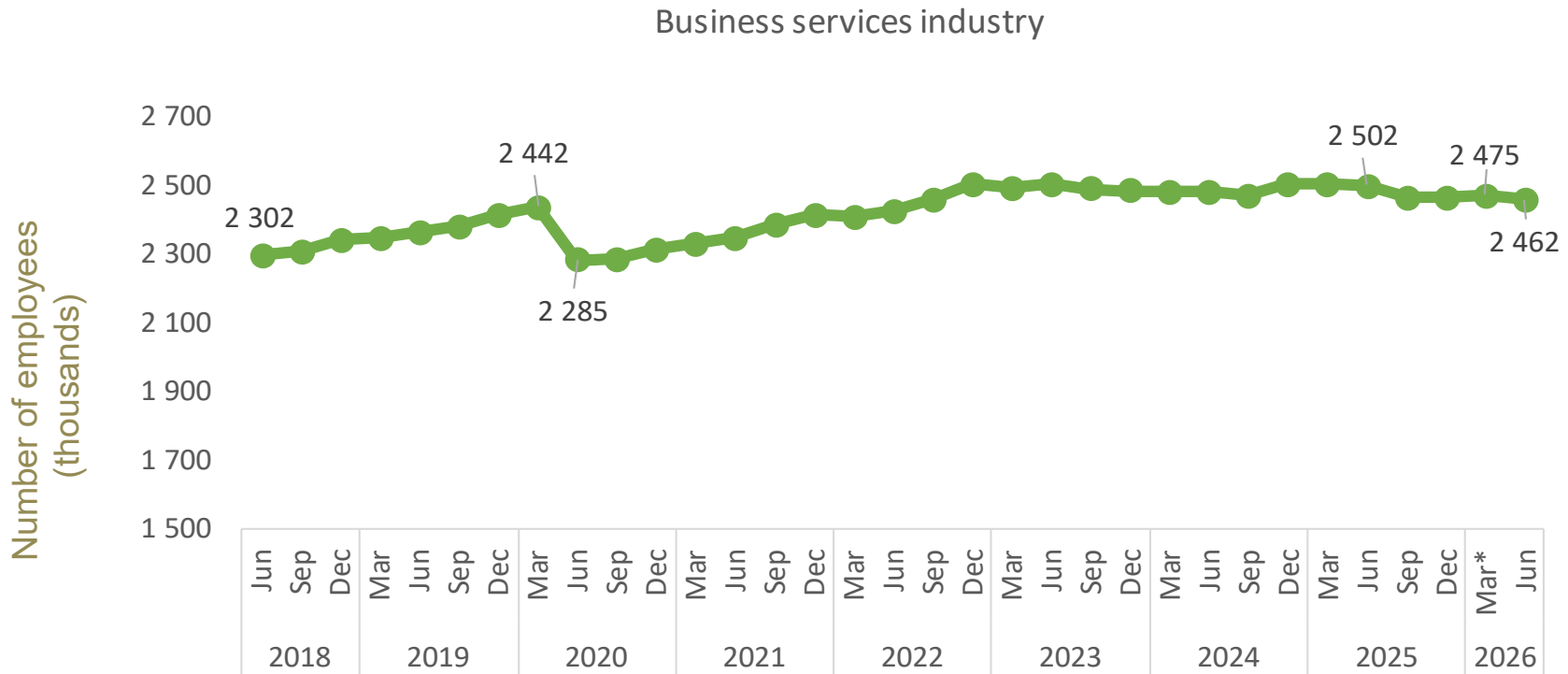
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Business services

The business services industry saw a **decrease of 13 000** jobs in Q2:2026, compared to the previous quarter.

Year-on-year the industry **lost 40 000** jobs compared to same quarter of the previous year.



* Revised estimates

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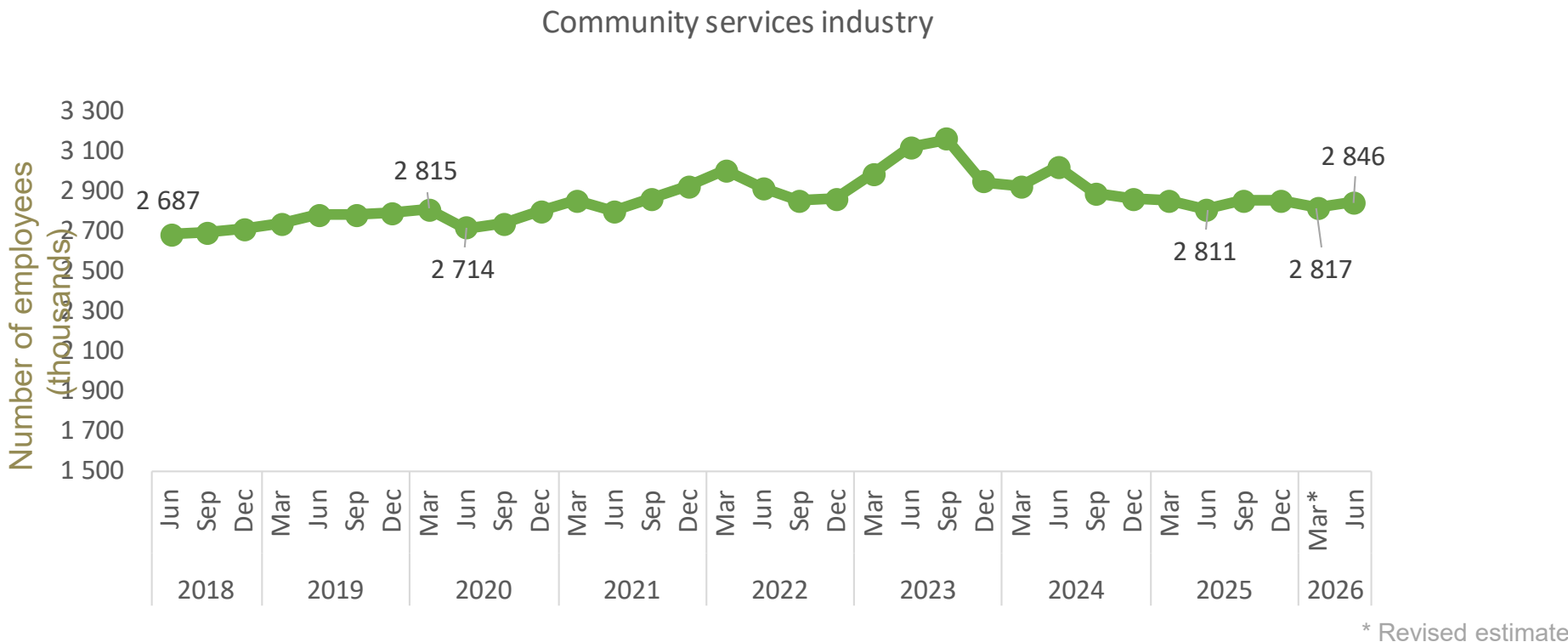
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Community services

The community services industry **increased by 29 000** jobs in Q2:2026, compared to the previous quarter.

Year-on-year the industry **increased by 35 000** jobs compared to the same quarter of the previous year.



Gross Earnings Results

for Q2:2026



Quarterly
Employment Statistics



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Changes in gross earnings



Gross earnings declined by **R4,8 billion (-0,5%)** in Q2:2026 reaching **R1,025 trillion** compared to **R1,03 trillion** in Q1:2026. Despite growth in Basic Salaries and Overtime Payments, the decrease was driven by a sharp contraction in Bonus Payments by **R23,1 billion (-26,9%)**.



**Total
Gross Earnings**

R1,025 tn

Q2:2026



Basic Salaries

R930,1 bn

Q2:2026



Bonus Payments

R62,8 bn

Q2:2026



**Overtime
Payments**

R32,2 bn

Q2:2026



**-R4,8bn
(-0,5%)**

Gross earnings



**+R15,5bn
(+1,7%)**

Basic salaries



**-R23,1bn
(-26,9%)**

Bonus



**+R2,7bn
(+9,3%)**

Overtime

Quarter-on-quarter changes in gross earnings by industry



The quarter-on-quarter decline in gross earnings was mainly driven by a decrease in bonus payments amounting to **R23,1 billion**. Growth in basic salaries by **(+R15,5 billion)** and overtime payments by **(+R2,7 billion)** mitigated some of the losses. The most significant decline was observed in **Business Services**, followed by **Mining** and **Transport**, while **Community Services**, **Trade**, **Construction**, **Manufacturing**, and **Electricity** reported increases in gross earnings.



Net change

-R4,8bn
(-0,5%)



Basic Salary

+R15,5bn
(+1,7%)



Bonus payments

-R23,1bn
(-26,9%)



Overtime payments

+R2,7bn
(+9,3%)

Quarter-on-quarter change in gross earnings (R'000)

Industry	Basic Salary/Wages	Bonus Payments	Overtime Payments	Total Gross Earnings
Business Services	4 391 000	-20 662 000	761 000	-15 510 000
Mining	-758 000	-	-	-758 000
Transport	-59 000	-675 000	261 000	-473 000
Electricity	-153 000	-59 000	219 000	7 000
Manufacturing	884 000	-222 000	335 000	997 000
Construction	1 164 000	31 000	186 000	1 381 000
Trade	894 000	629 000	213 000	1 736 000
Community Services	9 115 000	-2 108 000	767 000	7 774 000
TOTAL	15 478 000	-23 066 000	2 742 000	-4 846 000



LARGEST LOSS

Business Services

-R15,5bn



LARGEST GAIN

Community Services

+R7,8bn



KEY FINDINGS

- Gross earnings declined by R4,8bn
- Bonus payments fell by R23,1bn
- Salary growth and overtime growth offset losses
- Community Services largest gain
- Business Services largest loss

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Year-on-year changes in gross earnings by industry



Year-on-year gross earnings increased by **R35,1 billion (3,5%)**, driven primarily by growth in **basic salaries and wages (+R26,7 billion)**, **bonus payments (+R6,1 billion)** and **overtime payments (+R2,3 billion)**.



Net change

↑ +R35,1bn
(+3,5%)



Basic Salary

↑ +R26,7bn
(+3,0%)



Bonus payments

↑ +R6,1bn
(+10,8%)



Overtime payments

↑ +R2,3bn
(+3,5%)

Year-on-year change in Gross Earnings (R'000)

Industry	Basic Salary/Wages	Bonus Payments	Overtime Payments	Total Gross Earnings
Community Services	17 233 000	472 000	1 304 000	19 009 000
Trade	4 693 000	1 254 000	286 000	6 233 000
Business Services	814 000	3 221 000	105 000	4 140 000
Mining	2 664 000	-	-	2 664 000
Manufacturing	1 250 000	552 000	156 000	1 958 000
Transport	772 000	214 000	749 000	1 735 000
Electricity	795 000	65 000	-39 000	821 000
Construction	-1 489 000	328 000	-294 000	-1 455 000
TOTAL	26 732 000	6 106 000	2 267 000	35 105 000



LARGEST GAIN

Community Services

+R19bn



LARGEST LOSS

Construction

- R1,5bn



KEY FINDINGS

- Gross earnings increased by R35,1bn year-on-year.
- Salary growth contributed R26,7bn.
- Community Services recorded the largest increase.
- Construction was the only industry showing an overall decline.

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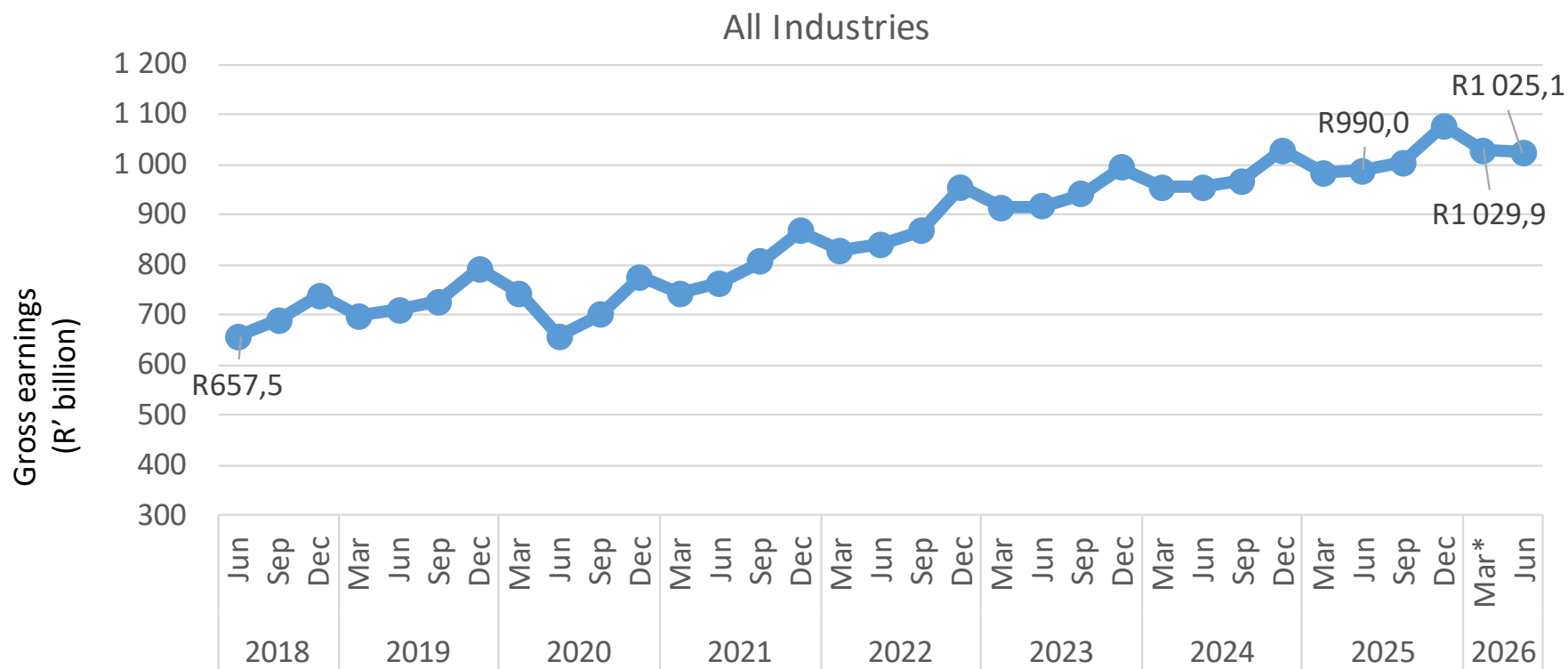
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All industries (Total)

Gross earnings for all industries **decreased** by **R4,8** billion in the Q2:2026.



* Revised estimates

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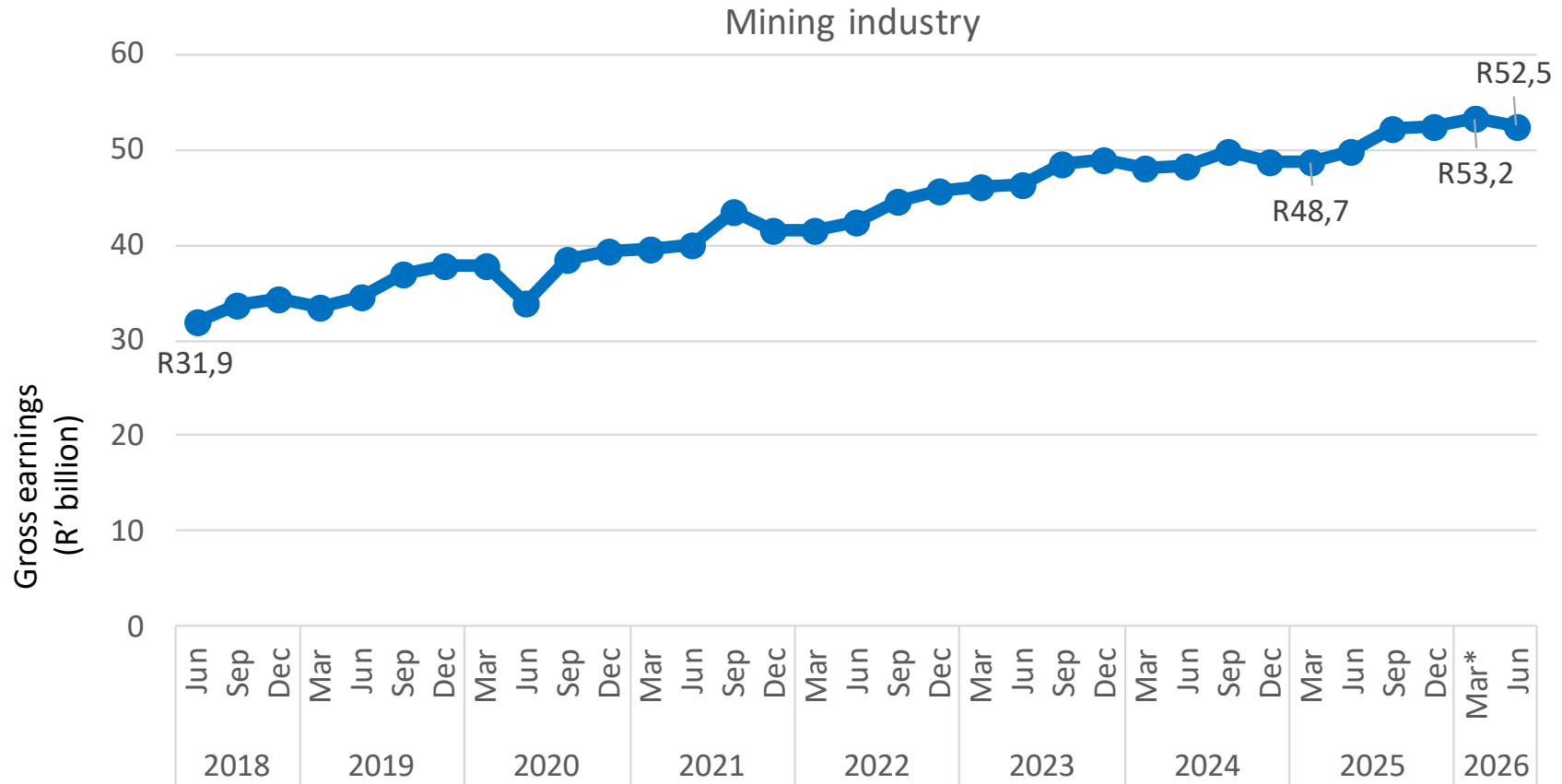
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Mining

Gross earnings paid in the mining industry **decreased** by **R758** million in Q2:2026.



* Revised estimates

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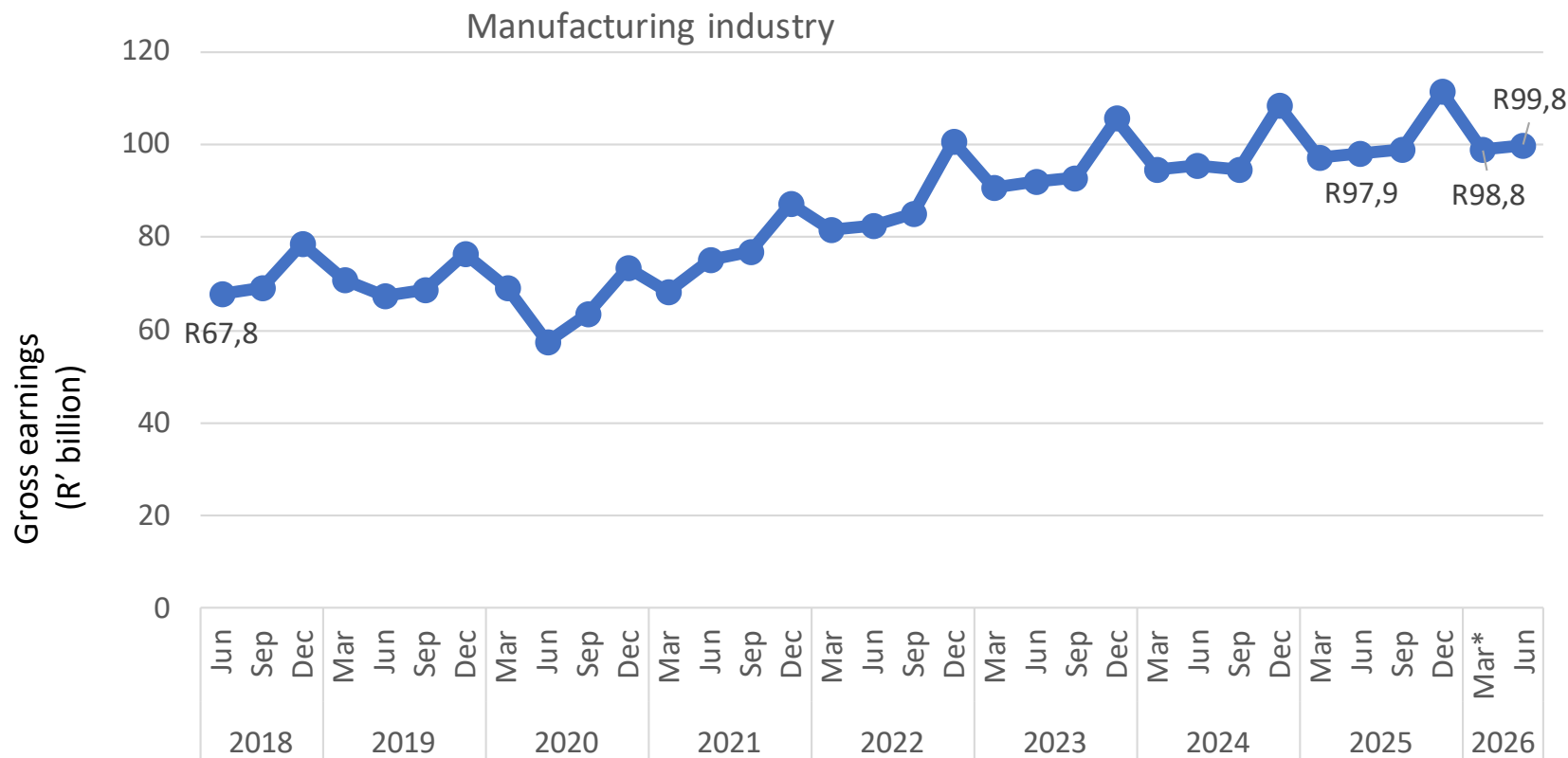
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Manufacturing

Gross earnings paid in the manufacturing industry **increased** by **R997** million in Q2:2026.



* Revised estimates

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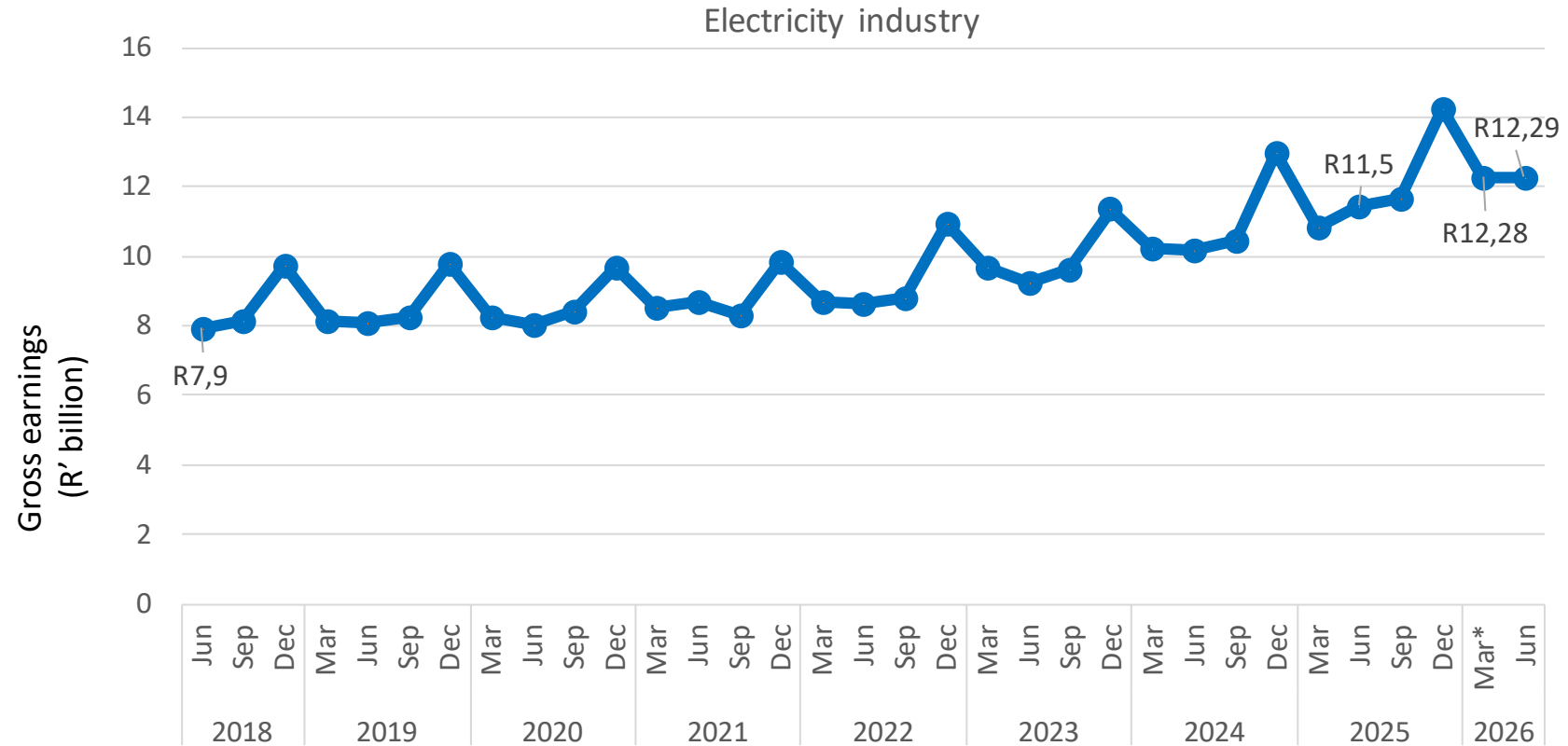
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Electricity

Gross earnings paid in the electricity industry **increased** by **R7** million in Q2:2026.



* Revised estimates

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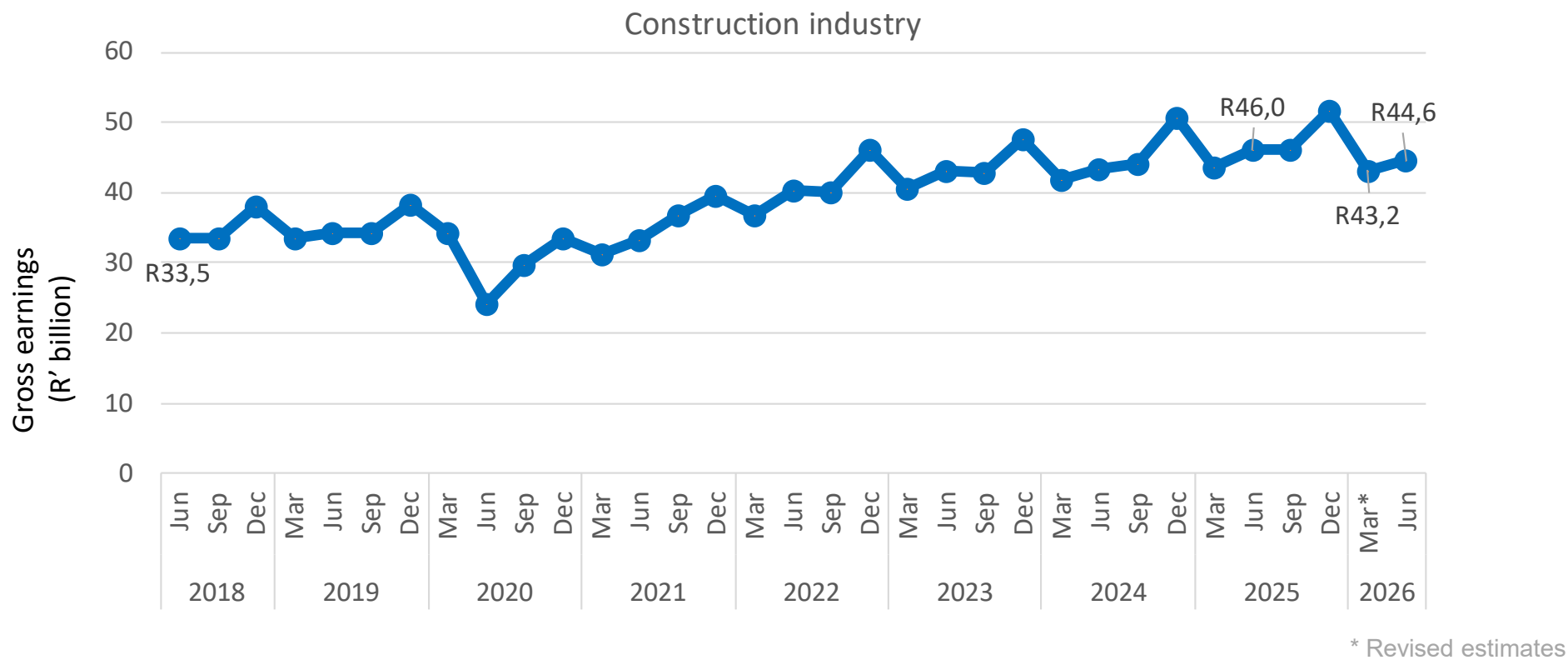
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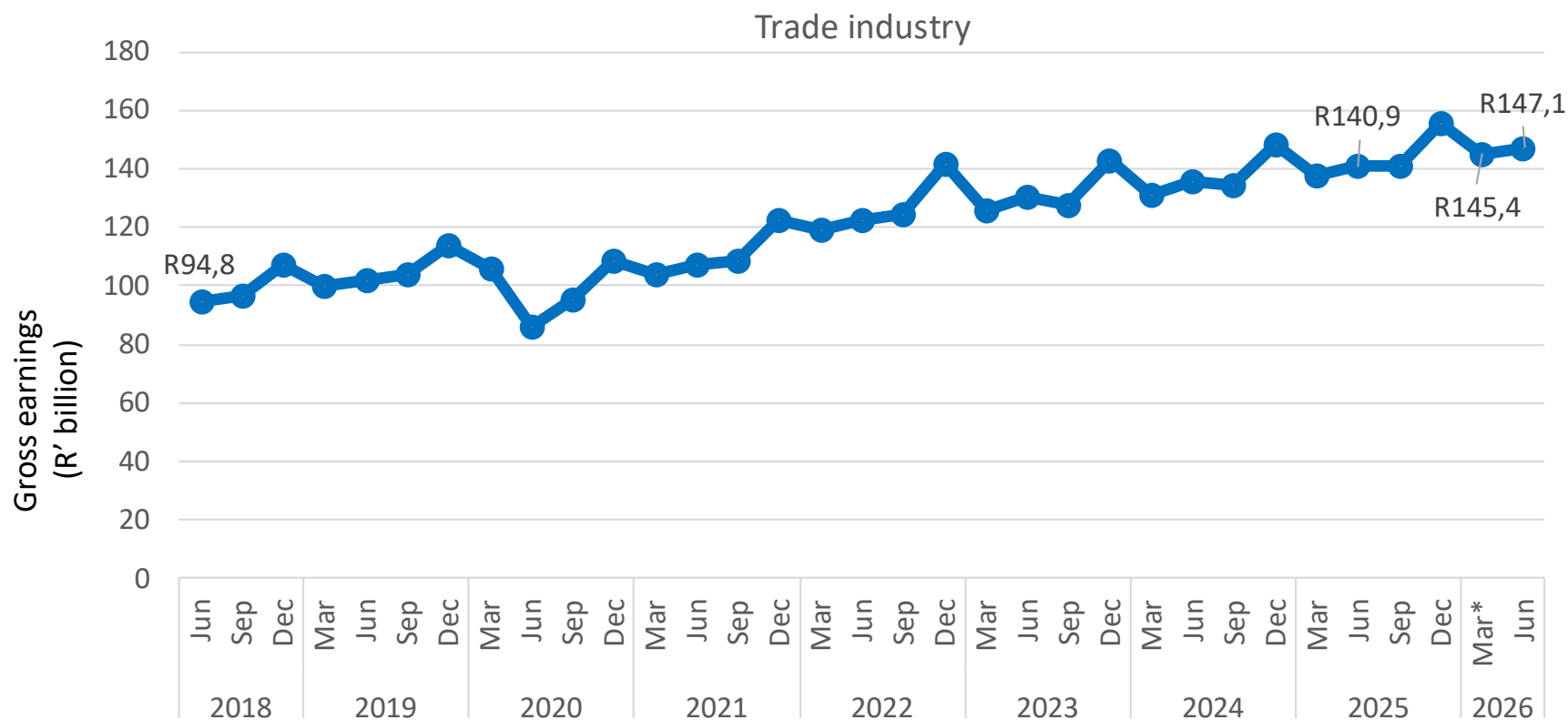
Construction

Gross earnings paid in the construction industry **increased** by **R1,4 billion** in Q2:2026.



Trade

Gross earnings paid in the trade industry **increased** by **R1,7** billion in Q2:2026.



* Revised estimates

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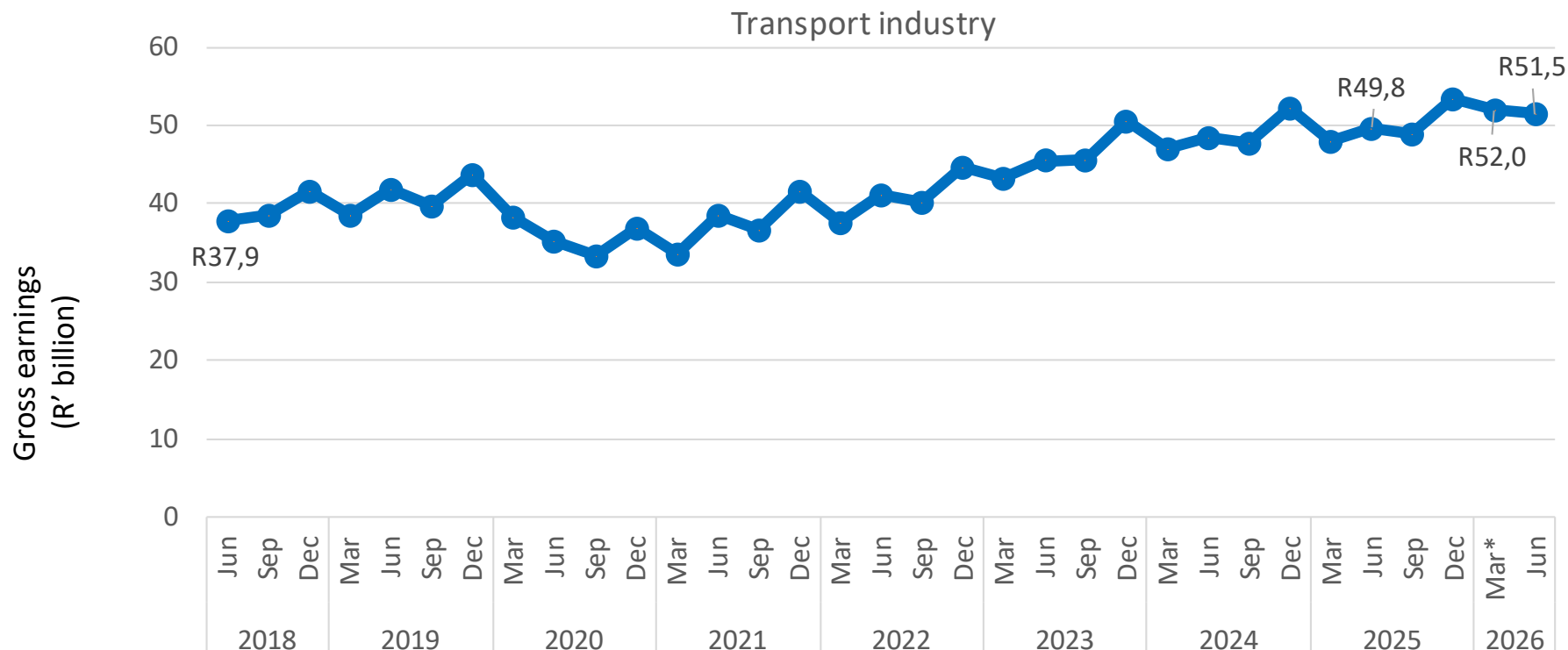
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Transport

Gross earnings paid in the transport industry **decreased** by **R473** million in Q2:2026.



* Revised estimates

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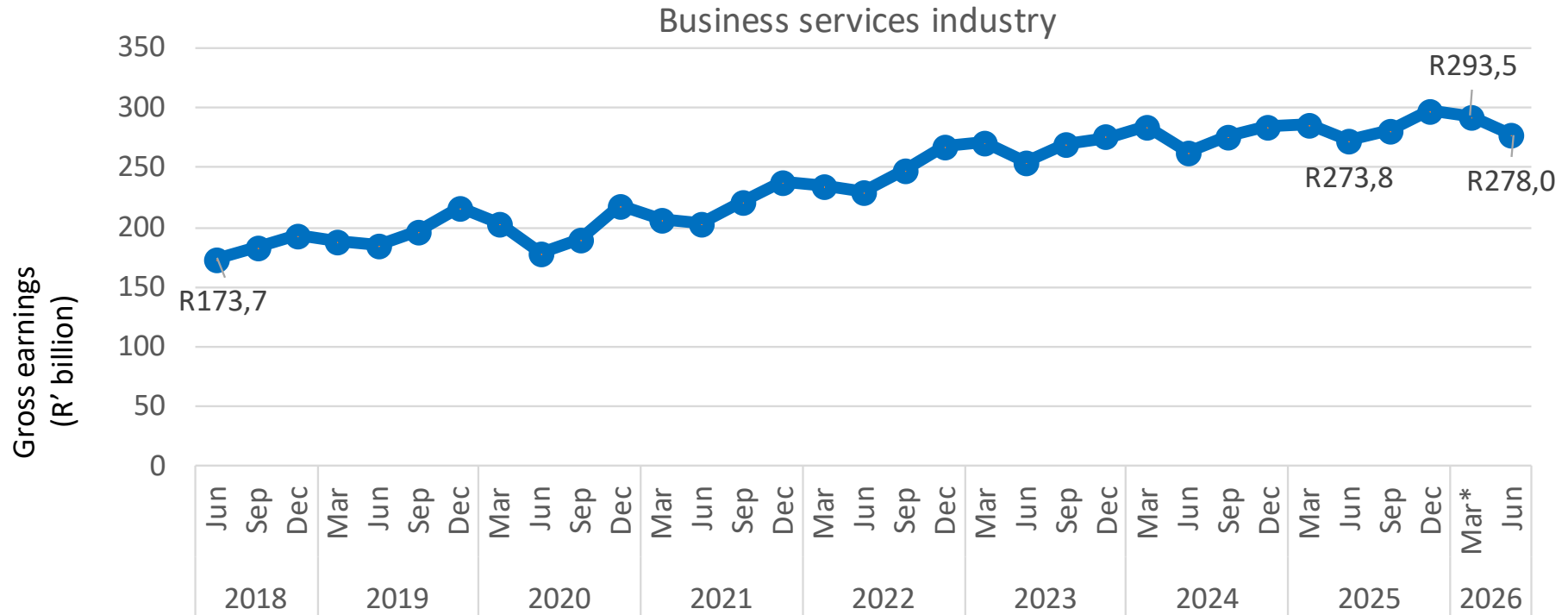
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Business services

Gross earnings paid in the business services industry **fell by R15,5 billion** in Q2:2026.



* Revised estimates

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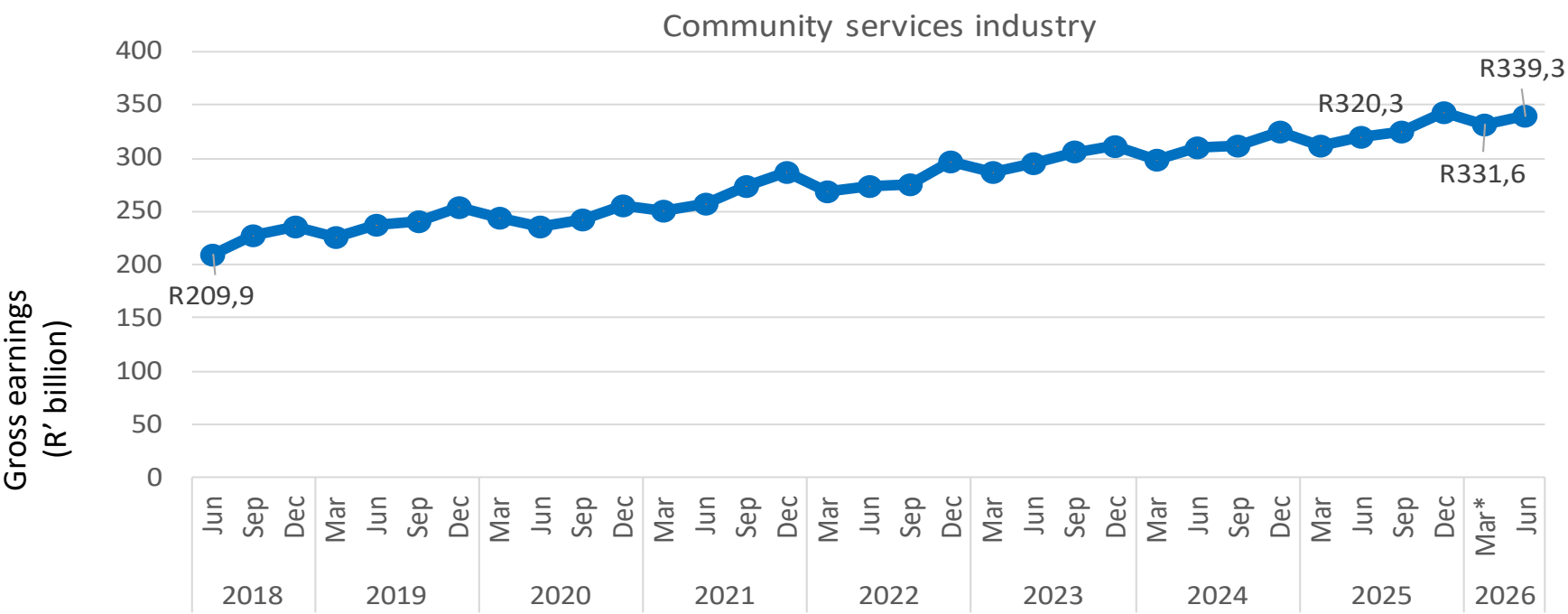
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Community services

Gross earnings paid in the community services industry **increased** by R7,8 billion in Q2:2026.



* Revised estimates

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Results for Q2:2026



**Average Monthly
Earnings (AME)**



May 2026



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AME RESULTS



In May 2026, average monthly earnings (AME) increased across most industries. **Community services** reported the highest quarter-on-quarter growth, followed by **manufacturing, business services, trade, construction, mining, electricity** and **transport**. On an annual basis, **electricity** registered the strongest year-on-year growth (**7,9%**), while **construction** reported the lowest growth rate (**1,7%**).



AVERAGE MONTHLY EARNINGS (AME)

R30 611

Previous quarter:
R29 825



Quarter-on-quarter: **2,6%**



Year-on-year: **4,1%**

TOP QUARTERLY PERFORMER



Community Services

4,5%

TOP ANNUAL PERFORMER



Electricity

7,9%

LOWEST QUARTERLY GROWTH



Transport & Electricity

0,5%

Industry	QoQ %	YoY %
Community Services	4,5	6,0
Manufacturing	2,3	4,7
Business Services	1,9	2,1
Trade	1,9	2,9
Construction	1,8	1,7
Mining *	1,7	3,4
Electricity	0,5	7,9
Transport	0,5	5,7
Total	2,6	4,1



SUMMARY



AME increased from **R29 825** to **R30 611**.



AME QoQ growth reached **2,6%**.



AME YoY growth reached **4,1%**.



Community Services highest QoQ (**4,5%**).



Electricity highest YoY (**7,9%**).



Lowest QoQ: Transport & Electricity (**0,5%**).

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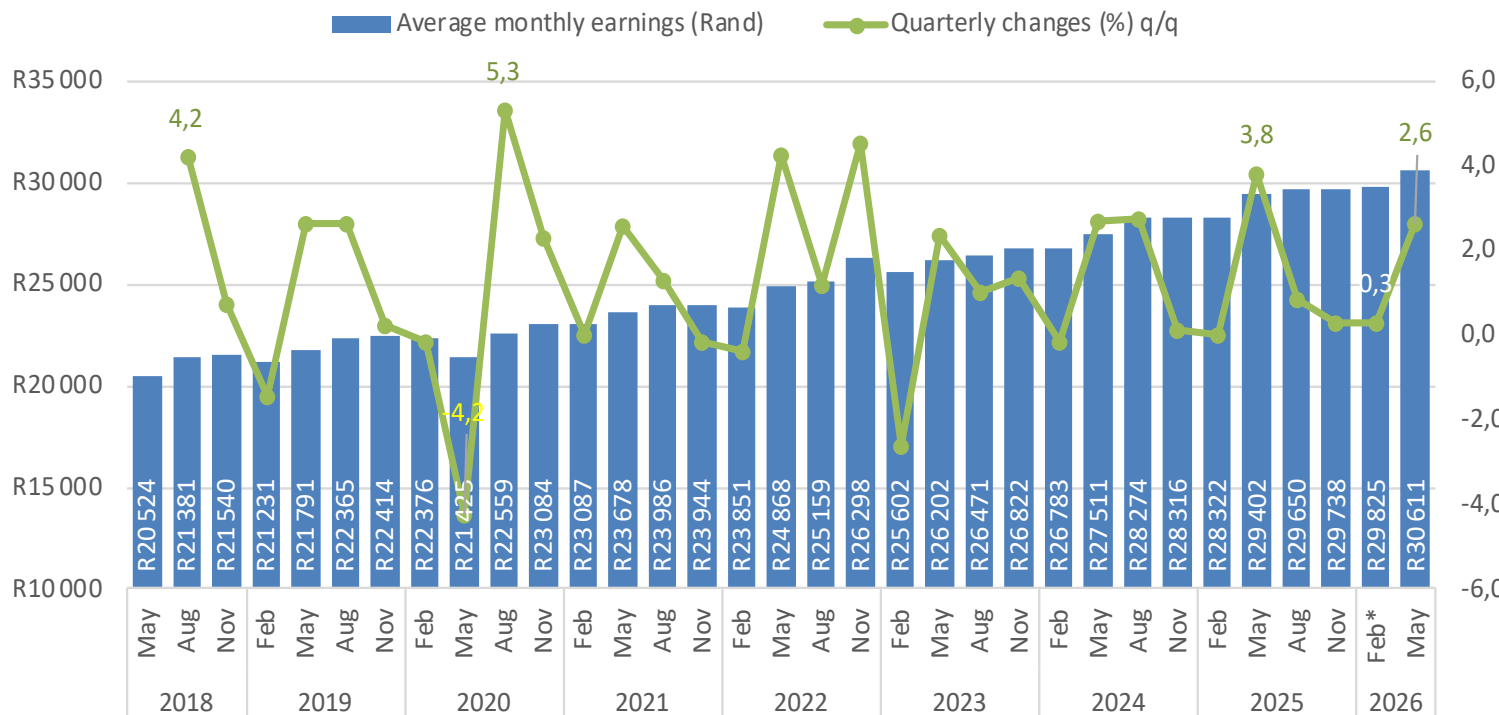


AME (May 2018 – May 2026)



The average monthly earnings (AME) amounted to **R30 611** in May 2026, up from **R29 825** reported in February 2026, which represents an increase of **2,6%**.

+2,6%
increase



**Latest figures
May 2026**



AME
R30 611



Feb 2026
R29 825



Increase
R786



Q/Q change
+2,6%

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Recap

QES | Q2:2026



Employment



Total Employment

QoQ

▼ -14 000

YoY

▼ -95 000



Full-Time Jobs

QoQ

▼ -40 000

YoY

▼ -96 000



Part-Time

QoQ

▲ +26 000

YoY

▲ +1 000



Gross earnings



Gross Earnings

QoQ

▼ -R4,8bn

YoY

▲ +R35,1bn



Salaries & Wages

QoQ

▲ +R15,5bn

YoY

▲ +R26,7bn



Bonus Payments

QoQ

▼ -R23,1bn

YoY

▲ +R6,1bn



Overtime

QoQ

▲ +R2,7bn

YoY

▲ +R2,3bn



AME



AME

QoQ

▲ +2,6%

YoY

▲ +4,1%

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