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Quarterly Labour Force Survey

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1. Introduction

The Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) is a household-based sample survey conducted by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). It collects data on the labour market activities of individuals aged 15 years and older who live in South Africa. However, this report only covers labour market activities of persons aged 15–64 years. The QLFS questionnaire was revised in Q3: 2025 in order to adhere to the most recent international labour statistics standards. These standards required additional questions and review of some questions based on the latest International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) resolutions (*i.e. 19th ICLS on Statistics on work, employment and labour underutilisation, 20th ICLS on Statistics on work relationships as well as 21st ICLS on statistics on informal economy*).

This report presents key findings of the QLFS conducted from October to December 2025 (Q4: 2025) based on the updated questionnaire. These updates are part of Stats SA's ongoing efforts to ensure that South Africa's labour statistics remain relevant and internationally comparable. While these revisions strengthen how certain aspects of the labour market are captured, they do not affect the measurement or definition of employment and unemployment. Therefore, headline unemployment figures remain comparable and consistent with previous quarters. The report now includes other labour underutilisation indicators in addition to unemployment, primarily because unemployment is not the only measure of labour underutilisation. The concept of the Not Economically Active population has been changed to "Outside the Labour Force" with additional terms on "Potential labour force". The definitions of the formal/informal sector and formal/informal employment have undergone significant revisions; as a result, the Q4:2025 estimates on informality cannot be compared with the previous estimates other than the results of Q3:2025. (Please refer to concepts and definitions on page 16).

2. Highlights of the results

Table A: Key labour market indicators

	Oct-Dec 2024	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand					%	
Population 15-64 years	41 561	41 948	42 068	120	508	0,3	1,2
Labour Force	25 069	25 062	24 935	-128	-134	-0,5	-0,5
Employment	17 078	17 055	17 099	44	21	0,3	0,1
Formal sector*		11 983	12 303	320		2,7	
Informal sector*		3 961	3 667	-293		-7,4	
Household sector	1 146	1 111	1 129	18	-17	1,6	-1,5
Unemployment	7 991	8 007	7 836	-172	-155	-2,1	-1,9
Outside the Labour Force	16 492	16 886	17 134	248	642	1,5	3,9
Potential Labour Force	4 324	4 529	4 611	82	287	1,8	6,6
Available potential job-seekers	4 300	4 446	4 569	123	269	2,8	6,3
Discouraged job-seekers	3 466	3 481	3 714	233	249	6,7	7,2
Other (available potential job-seekers)	835	965	855	-110	20	-11,4	2,4
Unavailable job-seekers	24	83	42	-41	19	-49,1	78,0
Other (Outside the labour force)	12 168	12 357	12 522	165	355	1,3	2,9
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)							
Labour force participation rate	60,3	59,7	59,3	-0,4	-1,0		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	41,1	40,7	40,6	-0,1	-0,5		
Inactivity rate	39,7	40,3	40,7	0,4	1,0		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)							
LU1- Unemployment rate	31,9	31,9	31,4	-0,5	-0,5		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	35,0	34,9	34,3	-0,6	-0,7		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	41,9	42,4	42,1	-0,3	0,2		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	44,6	44,9	44,5	-0,4	-0,1		

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

** Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.*

The working-age population grew by 120 000 (0,3%) in the fourth quarter of 2025 compared with the third quarter. During the same period, the number of employed individuals increased by 44 000 to reach 17,1 million, while the number of unemployed persons declined by 172 000 to 7,8 million. Consequently, the labour force decreased by 128 000 (0,5%) between Q3 and Q4 of 2025. The formal, informal and household sectors employed 12,3 million, 3,7 million and 1,1 million persons, respectively.

Between the third and fourth quarters of 2025, the number of people outside the labour force increased by 248 000 (1,5%). This rise was driven by a growth of 165 000 among those classified as other individuals outside the labour force, along with an increase of 82 000 in the potential labour force. The number of available potential job-seekers rose by 123 000 (2,8%), while unavailable job-seekers declined by 41 000, leading to a net increase of 82 000 in the potential labour force. Among available job-seekers, discouraged job-seekers increased by 233 000 (6,7%), whereas other available potential job-seekers decreased by 110 000, resulting in an overall increase of 123 000 in this category.

An increase in employment and a decrease in unemployment resulted in a decrease of 0,5 of a percentage point in the unemployment rate to 31,4% in the fourth quarter of 2025. The labour force participation rate decreased by 0,4 of a percentage point to 59,3%, and the absorption rate decreased by 0,1 of a percentage point to 40,6% between Q3: 2025 and Q4: 2025.

In addition to the unemployment rate, other measures of labour underutilisation were recommended: the combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment (LU2), as well as the combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force (LU3). The analysis also looked at the composite measure of labour underutilisation (LU4) that combines unemployment, time-related underemployment, and potential labour force. It is crucial that these indicators are understood as complementary and that they highlight people in different situations and with different degrees of attachment to the labour market.

The combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment (LU2) was recorded at 34,3% and the combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force (LU3) stood at 42,1% in the fourth quarter of 2025. The labour underutilisation rate (which is the composite measure of labour underutilisation) decreased by 0,4 of a percentage point compared with Q3:2025, and it decreased by 0,1 of a percentage point in Q4:2025 compared with the same quarter of the previous year.

Compared with Q4: 2024, the working-age population increased by 508 000 or 1,2%. Total employment increased by 21 000 persons (or 0,1%), the number of unemployed persons decreased by 155 000, and the number of persons who were outside the labour force increased by 642 000 (or 3,9%) during the same period.

3. Employment

Figure 1: Quarter-to-quarter changes in employment, Q4: 2020 to Q4: 2025

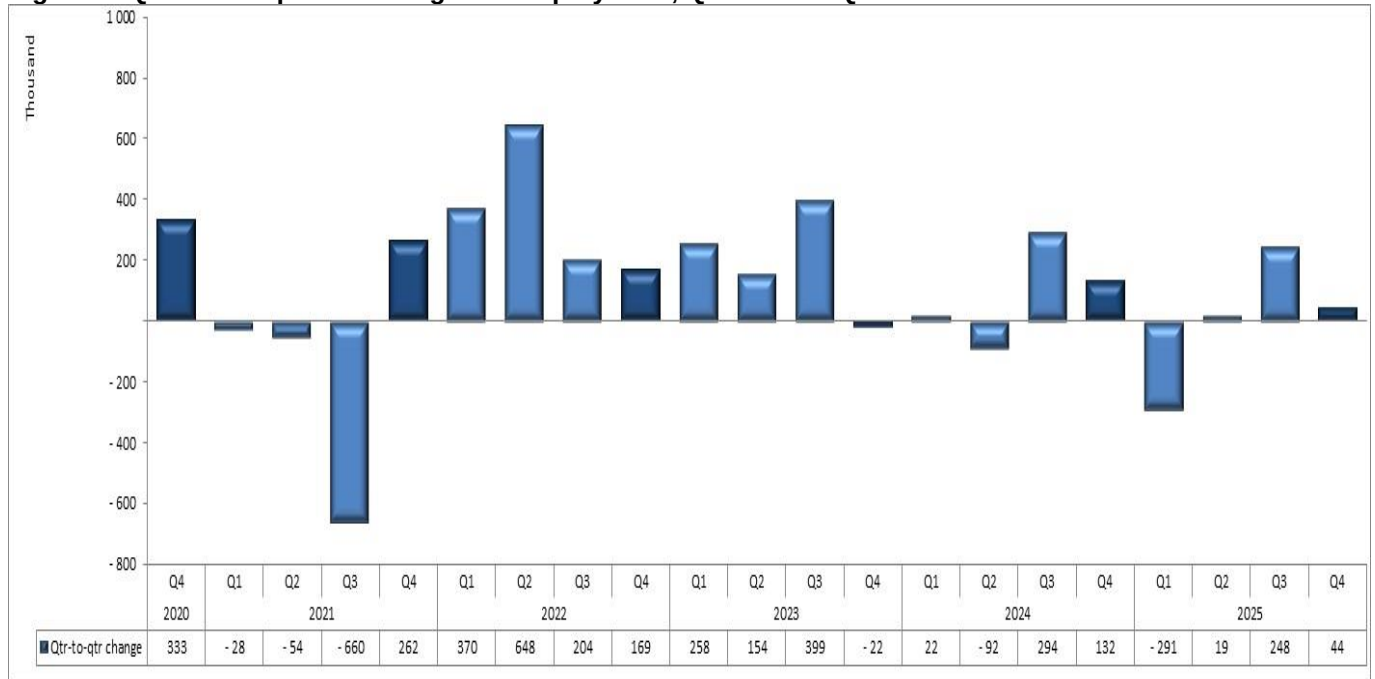


Figure 1 shows that, following an increase of 248 000 in the previous quarter, employment increased by 44 000 in the fourth quarter of 2025. As depicted in Figure 1, employment has always increased in the fourth quarter of each year, except for a decrease in 2023.

Table B: Employment by industry

Industry	Oct-Dec 2024	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand					%	
Total*	17 078	17 055	17 099	44	21	0,3	0,1
Agriculture	924	920	950	30	26	3,3	2,8
Mining	466	449	444	-5	-22	-1,2	-4,7
Manufacturing	1 675	1 610	1 548	-61	-127	-3,8	-7,6
Utilities	111	109	134	24	23	22,4	20,9
Construction	1 359	1 390	1 425	35	65	2,5	4,8
Trade	3 421	3 424	3 326	-98	-95	-2,9	-2,8
Transport	1 064	1 113	1 140	28	76	2,5	7,2
Finance	2 948	2 930	2 962	32	14	1,1	0,5
Community and social services	3 959	3 988	4 034	46	75	1,2	1,9
Private households	1 146	1 111	1 129	18	-17	1,6	-1,5

*Note: Total includes 'Other' industries.

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

Note: Utilities refer to electricity, gas and water supply.

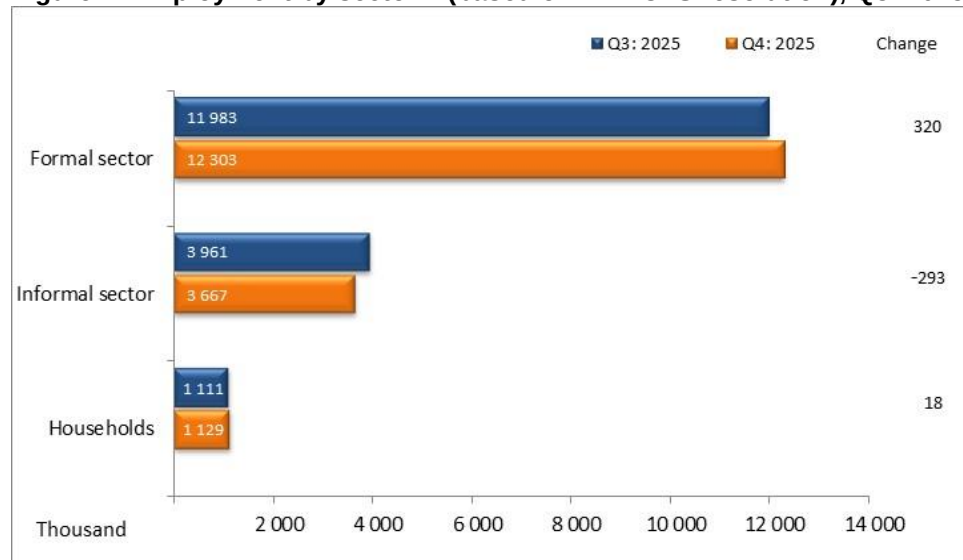
Trade refers to wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods; hotels and restaurants.

Finance refers to financial intermediation, insurance, real estate and business services.

Table B shows that between Q3: 2025 and Q4: 2025, the number of employed persons increased in seven of the ten industries. The largest increases in employment were recorded in the Community and social services industry (46 000), followed by the Construction (35 000), Finance (32 000) and Agriculture (30 000) industries. Decreases in employment were recorded in Trade (98 000), followed by the Manufacturing (61 000) and Mining (5 000) industries.

Compared with the same period last year, a net increase of 21 000 in total employment in Q4: 2025 was largely due to increases in the number of people employed in the Transport (76 000), Community and social services (75 000) and Construction (65 000) industries. Losses in employment were recorded in Manufacturing (127 000), followed by Trade (95 000), Mining (22 000) and Private households (17 000).

Figure 2: Employment by sector – (based on 21st ICLS resolution), Q3: 2025 and Q4: 2025



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

** Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.*

Figure 2 indicates the results of Q3: 2025 and Q4: 2025 based on the 21st ICLS resolution which recommends the three categories of sector, namely the formal sector (including Agriculture), informal sector (including Agriculture) and households sector. Between Q3: 2025 and Q4: 2025, informal sector employment decreased by 293 000 persons while the formal sector and households sector increased by 320 000 and 18 000 persons respectively.

Table C: Employment by occupation

Occupation	Oct-Dec 2024	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change
	Thousand					%	
Total*	17 078	17 055	17 099	44	21	0,3	0,1
Manager	1 496	1 453	1 433	-20	-62	-1,3	-4,2
Professional	869	909	952	43	83	4,7	9,6
Technician	1398	1 488	1 575	87	177	5,9	12,7
Clerk	1 897	1 856	1 820	-36	-77	-1,9	-4,0
Sales and services	2 949	3 073	3 079	7	130	0,2	4,4
Skilled agriculture	71	97	60	-37	-12	-38,6	-16,4
Craft and related trade	1 932	1 991	1 943	-48	11	-2,4	0,6
Plant and machine operator	1 389	1 413	1 427	14	38	1,0	2,7
Elementary	4 215	3 903	3 916	14	-299	0,3	-7,1
Domestic worker	861	848	855	7	-7	0,8	-0,8

*Note: Total includes 'Other' occupations.

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

Six out of the ten occupational categories recorded employment gains in Q4: 2025 compared with Q3: 2025. Increases in employment were observed in Technician occupations (87 000), followed by Professional (43 000), Elementary and Plant and machine operator (14 000 each), Domestic worker and Sales and services occupations (7 000 each). During the same period, employment losses were recorded in Craft and related trade (48 000), followed by Skilled agriculture (37 000), Clerical (36 000) and Managerial (20 000) occupations.

Year-on-year gains in employment were mainly driven by Technician occupations (177 000), followed by Sales and services (130 000) and Professional (83 000) occupations. Losses in employment were recorded among Elementary (299 000), Clerical (77 000), Managerial (62 000), Skilled agriculture (12 000) and Domestic worker (7 000) occupations.

Table D: Employment by province

Province	Oct-Dec 2024	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change
	Thousand					%	
South Africa	17 078	17 055	17 099	44	21	0,3	0,1
Western Cape	2 812	2 814	2 907	93	95	3,3	3,4
Eastern Cape	1 455	1 408	1 377	-32	-79	-2,2	-5,4
Northern Cape	355	319	337	17	-18	5,5	-5,0
Free State	750	782	771	-11	21	-1,4	2,8
KwaZulu-Natal	2 892	2 757	2 716	-41	-176	-1,5	-6,1
North West	935	937	973	36	38	3,9	4,1
Gauteng	5 081	5 237	5 183	-54	102	-1,0	2,0
Mpumalanga	1 255	1 246	1 283	37	29	3,0	2,3
Limpopo	1 543	1 555	1 552	-3	9	-0,2	0,6

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

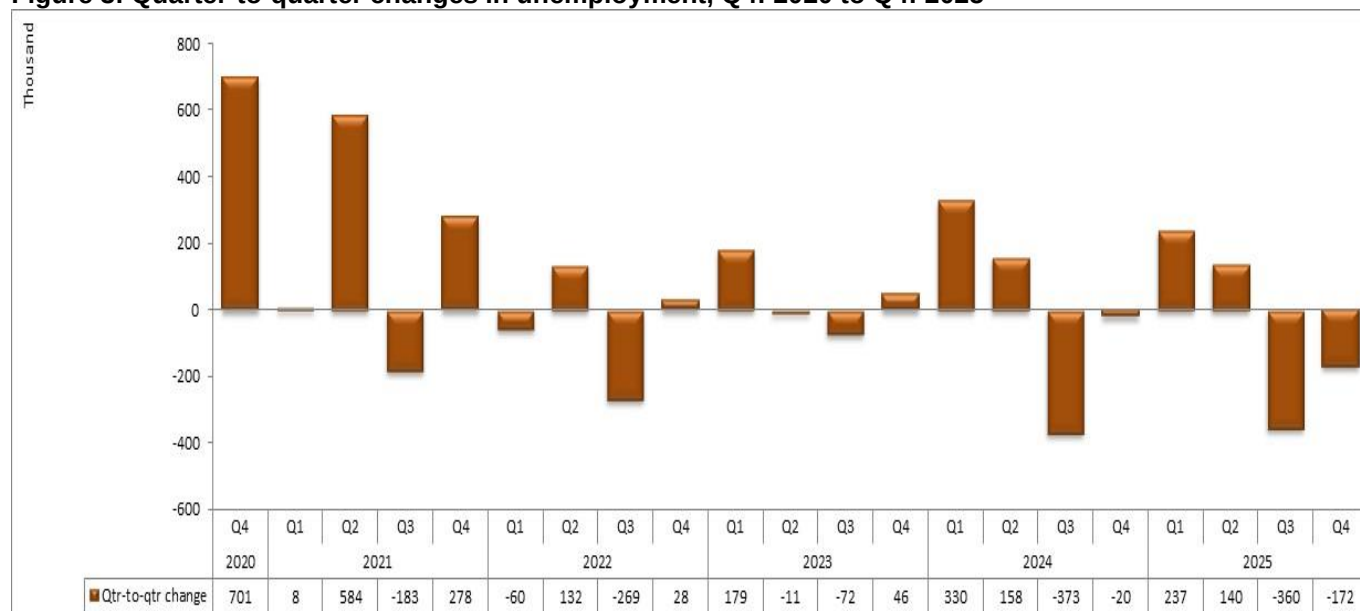
Table D shows that the number of employed persons increased in four provinces between Q3: 2025 and Q4: 2025. Employment gains were recorded in Western Cape (93 000), Mpumalanga (37 000), North West (36 000) and Northern Cape (17 000). During the same period, the largest employment losses were recorded in Gauteng (54 000), KwaZulu-Natal (41 000) and Eastern Cape (32 000).

Compared with Q4: 2024, increases in employment were recorded in Gauteng (102 000), Western Cape (95 000), North West (38 000), Mpumalanga (29 000), Free State (21 000) and Limpopo (9 000). Decreases in employment were recorded in KwaZulu-Natal (176 000), followed by Eastern Cape (79 000) and Northern Cape (18 000).

4. Unemployment and not in employment, education or training (NEET)

4.1 Unemployment

Figure 3: Quarter-to-quarter changes in unemployment, Q4: 2020 to Q4: 2025



The number of unemployed persons decreased by 172 000 in Q4: 2025 following a decrease of 360 000 in the previous quarter. Notably, Figure 3 shows that unemployment has always increased in the fourth quarter of each year, except for the decreases observed in 2024 and 2025.

Figure 4a: Unemployment rate by education level, Q3: 2025 and Q4: 2025

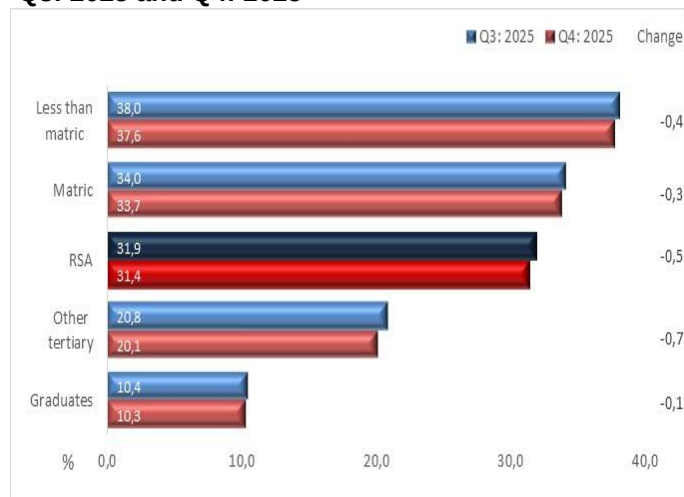
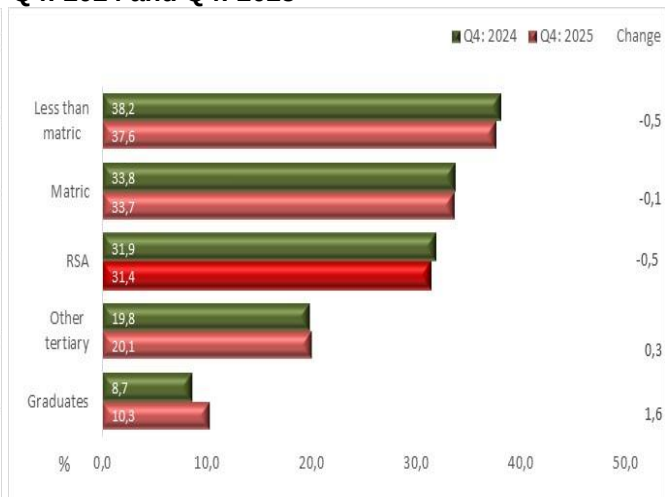


Figure 4b: Unemployment rate by education level, Q4: 2024 and Q4: 2025



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

Figures 4a and 4b show that in Q4: 2025, individuals without matric recorded an unemployment rate of 37,6% (down by 0,4 of a percentage point), while graduates had a rate of 10,3% (down by 0,1 of a percentage point) compared with the previous quarter. Unemployment rates for those with matric or lower educational qualifications exceeded the national rate, whereas individuals with other tertiary qualifications and graduates had rates below the national unemployment rate. Year-on-year comparisons indicated that the unemployment rate decreased among those with matric and below but increased among graduates and those with other tertiary education levels.

Table E: Unemployment rate by province

	Official unemployment rate					Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force (LU3)				
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Oct-Dec 2024	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	%			Percentage points		%			Percentage points	
South Africa	31,9	31,9	31,4	-0,5	-0,5	41,9	42,4	42,1	-0,3	0,2
Western Cape	19,6	19,7	18,1	-1,6	-1,5	24,9	25,8	23,7	-2,1	-1,2
Eastern Cape	36,6	41,2	42,5	1,3	5,9	47,6	50,2	51,4	1,2	3,8
Northern Cape	27,4	31,2	27,1	-4,1	-0,3	39,8	46,5	42,9	-3,6	3,1
Free State	37,9	36,2	37,2	1,0	-0,7	44,3	42,7	44,1	1,4	-0,2
KwaZulu-Natal	28,6	31,7	32,3	0,6	3,7	44,7	46,6	47,1	0,5	2,4
North West	41,3	38,1	35,1	-3,0	-6,2	52,8	52,5	50,9	-1,6	-1,9
Gauteng	34,4	33,1	33,0	-0,1	-1,4	39,9	39,6	39,4	-0,2	-0,5
Mpumalanga	34,7	34,0	32,3	-1,7	-2,4	47,2	47,5	46,3	-1,2	-0,9
Limpopo	31,9	29,8	28,2	-1,6	-3,7	46,5	45,1	46,1	1,0	-0,4

The official unemployment rate decreased by 0,5 of a percentage point to 31,4% in Q4: 2025 compared with Q3: 2025. The official unemployment rate decreased in six of the nine provinces. The largest decreases were recorded in Northern Cape (4,1 percentage points), followed by North West (3,0 percentage points) and Mpumalanga (1,7 percentage points). Increases in the unemployment rate were recorded in the Eastern Cape (1,3 percentage points), Free State (1,0 percentage point) and KwaZulu-Natal (0,6 of a percentage point).

Year-on-year, the official unemployment rate decreased by 0,5 of a percentage point. The official unemployment rate decreased in seven provinces. The largest decreases in the unemployment rate were recorded in North West (6,2 percentage points), followed by Limpopo (3,7 percentage points), and Mpumalanga (2,4 percentage points). Increases in the unemployment rate were recorded in Eastern Cape (5,9 percentage points) and KwaZulu-Natal (3,7 percentage points).

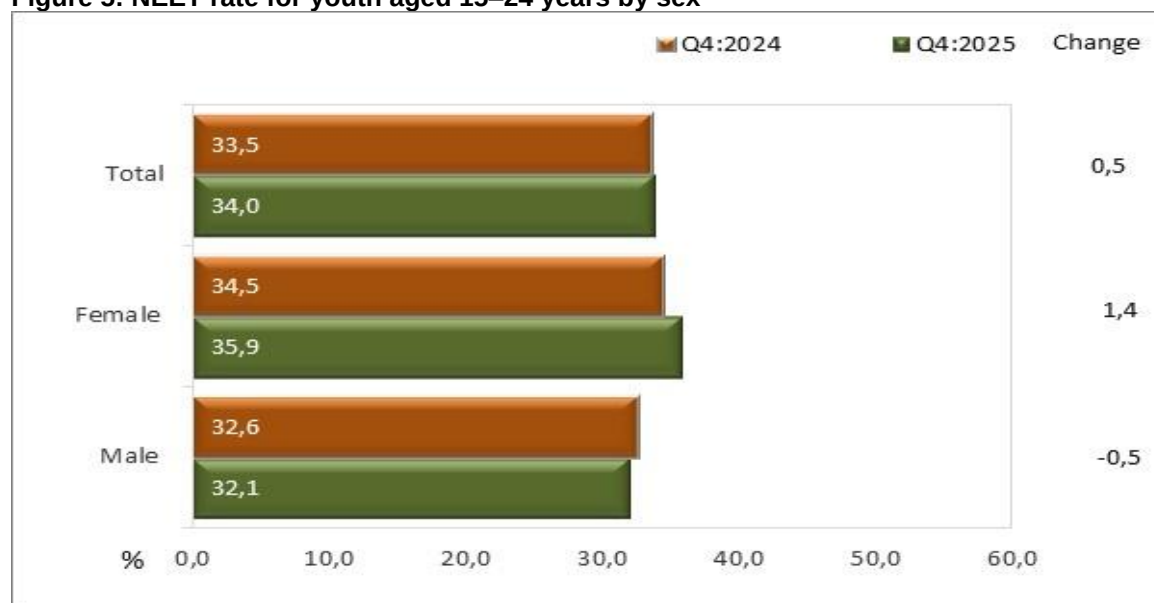
The combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force decreased by 0,3 of a percentage point in Q4: 2025 compared with Q3: 2025. This rate decreased in five provinces. The largest decreases were recorded in Northern Cape (3,6 percentage points), followed by Western Cape (2,1 percentage points) and North West (1,6 percentage points). Increases were recorded in Free State (1,4 percentage points), Eastern Cape (1,2 percentage points), Limpopo (1,0 percentage point) and KwaZulu-Natal (0,5 of a percentage point).

Compared with the same period last year, the combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force increased by 0,2 of a percentage point in Q4: 2025. Three out of the nine provinces recorded increases in the combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force. The increases in the combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force were recorded in Eastern Cape (3,8 percentage points), followed by Northern Cape (3,1 percentage points) and KwaZulu-Natal (2,4 percentage points). The largest decreases in the combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force were recorded in North West (1,9 percentage points), Western Cape (1,2 percentage points) and Mpumalanga (0,9 of a percentage point).

4.2 Not in employment, education or training (NEET)

Some young people have been disengaged from the labour market, and they are also not building on their skills base through education and training – they are not in employment, education or training (NEET). The NEET rate serves as an important additional labour market indicator for young people.

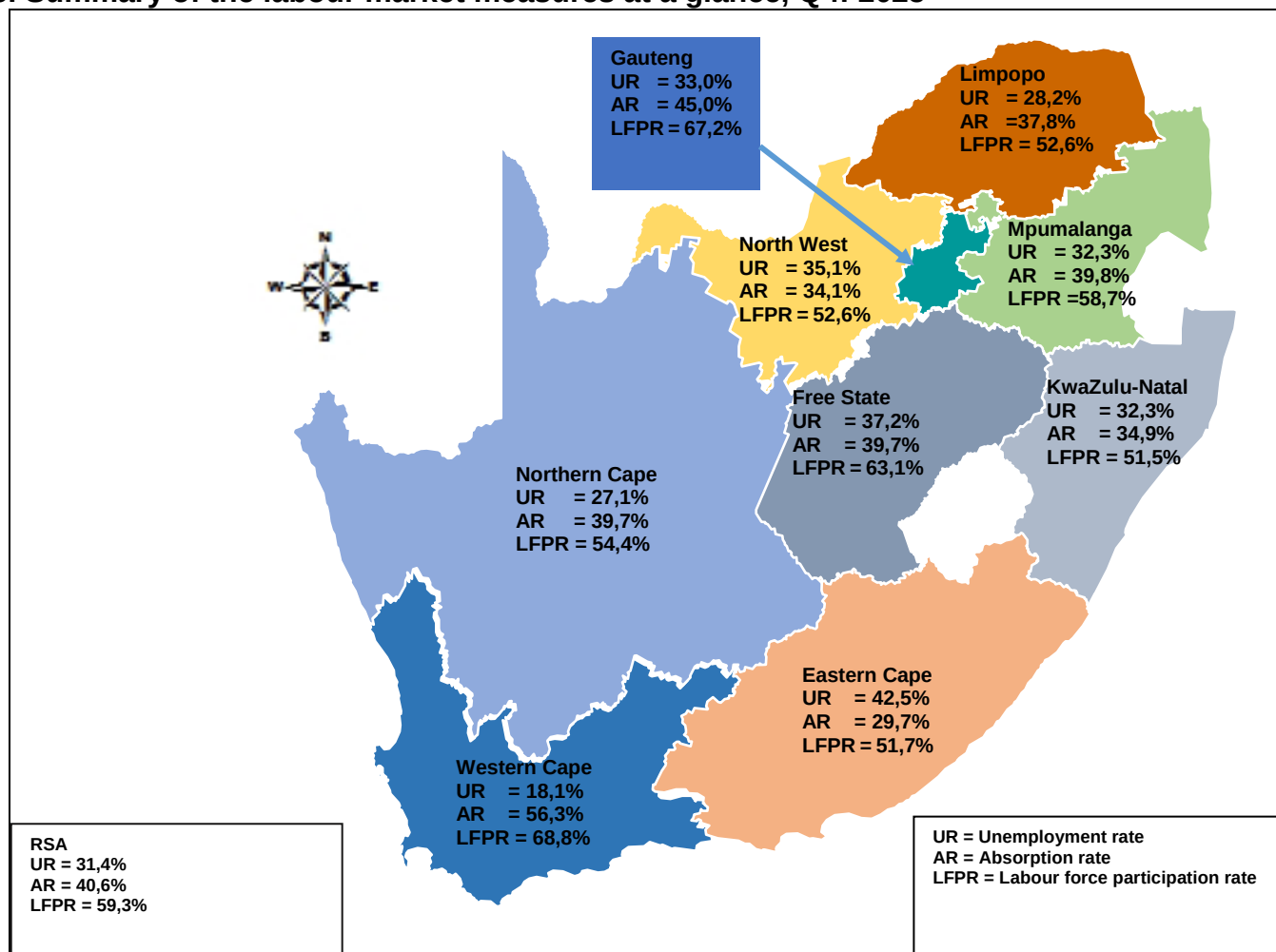
Figure 5: NEET rate for youth aged 15–24 years by sex



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

There were about 10,3 million young people aged 15–24 years in Q4: 2025, of which 34,0% were not in employment, education or training. This is 0,5 of a percentage point higher than the NEET rate in Q4: 2024. In this age group, the NEET rate for females increased by 1,4 percentage points while the rate for males decreased by 0,5 of a percentage point. The NEET rate for females was higher than that of their male counterparts in both years.

5. Summary of the labour market measures at a glance, Q4: 2025

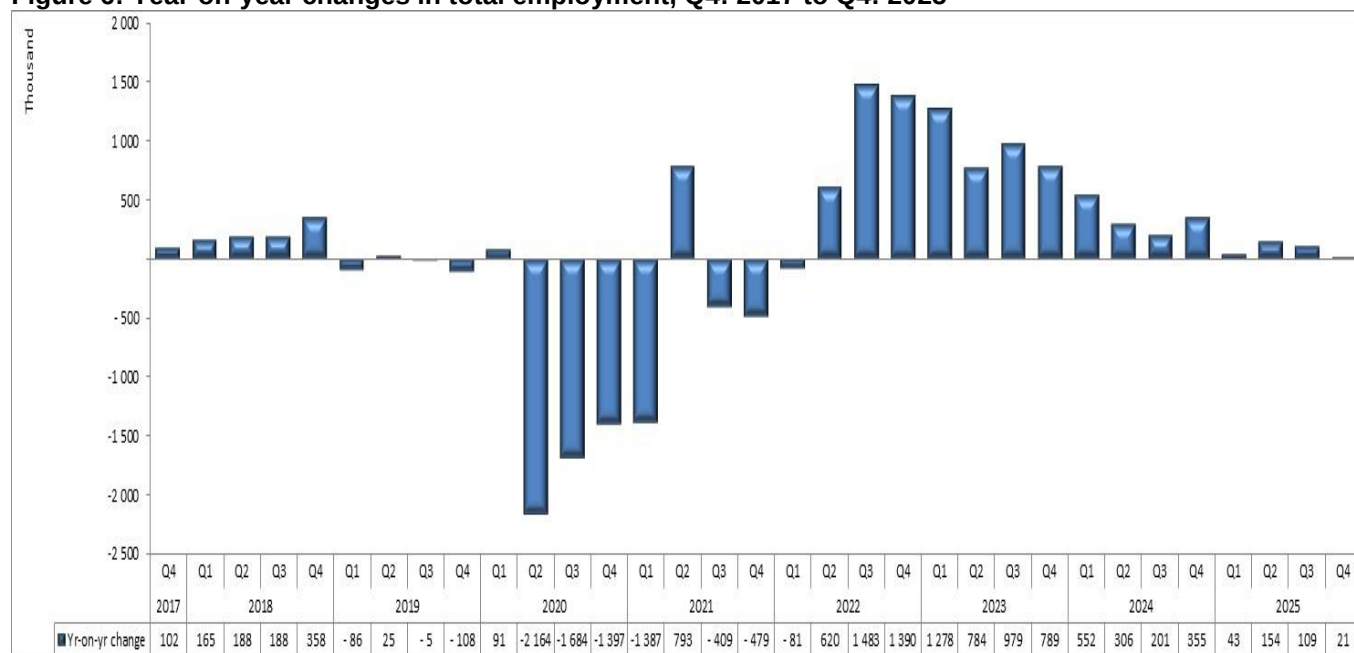


Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

6. Other labour market trends

6.1 Year-on-year changes

Figure 6: Year-on-year changes in total employment, Q4: 2017 to Q4: 2025



6.2 Trends in the unemployment rate

Figure 7: Unemployment rate by sex, Q4: 2017 to Q4: 2025

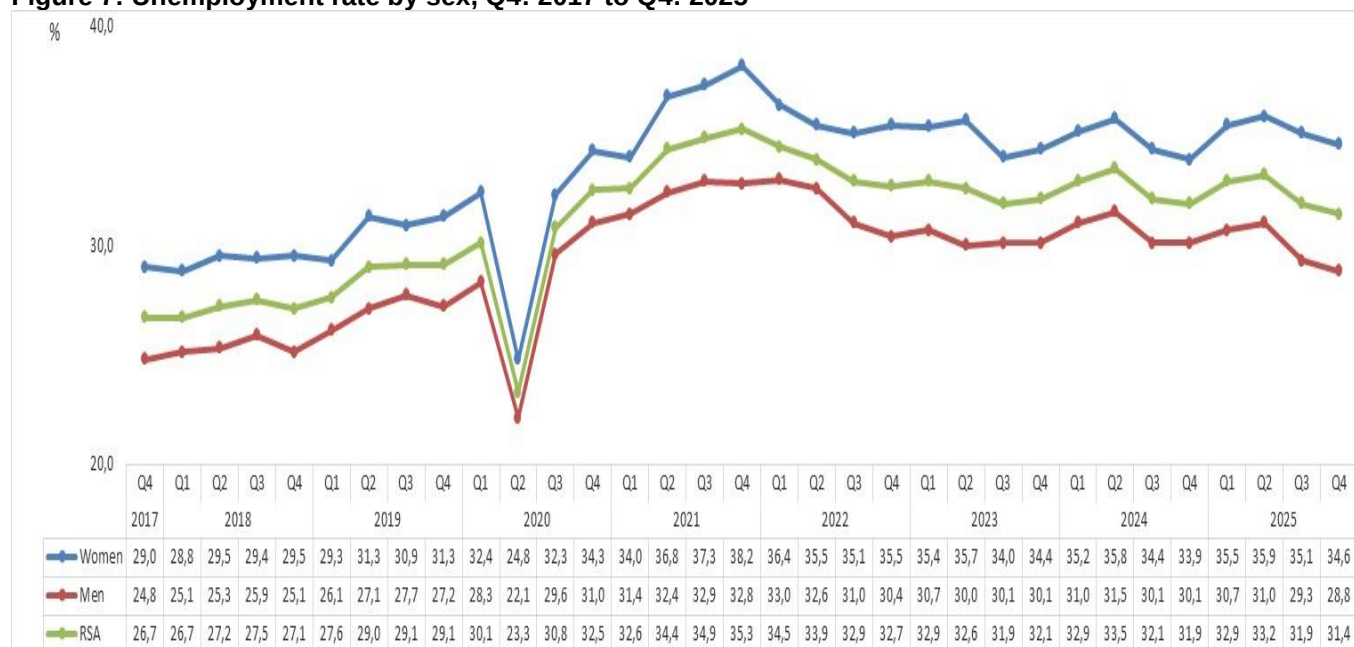
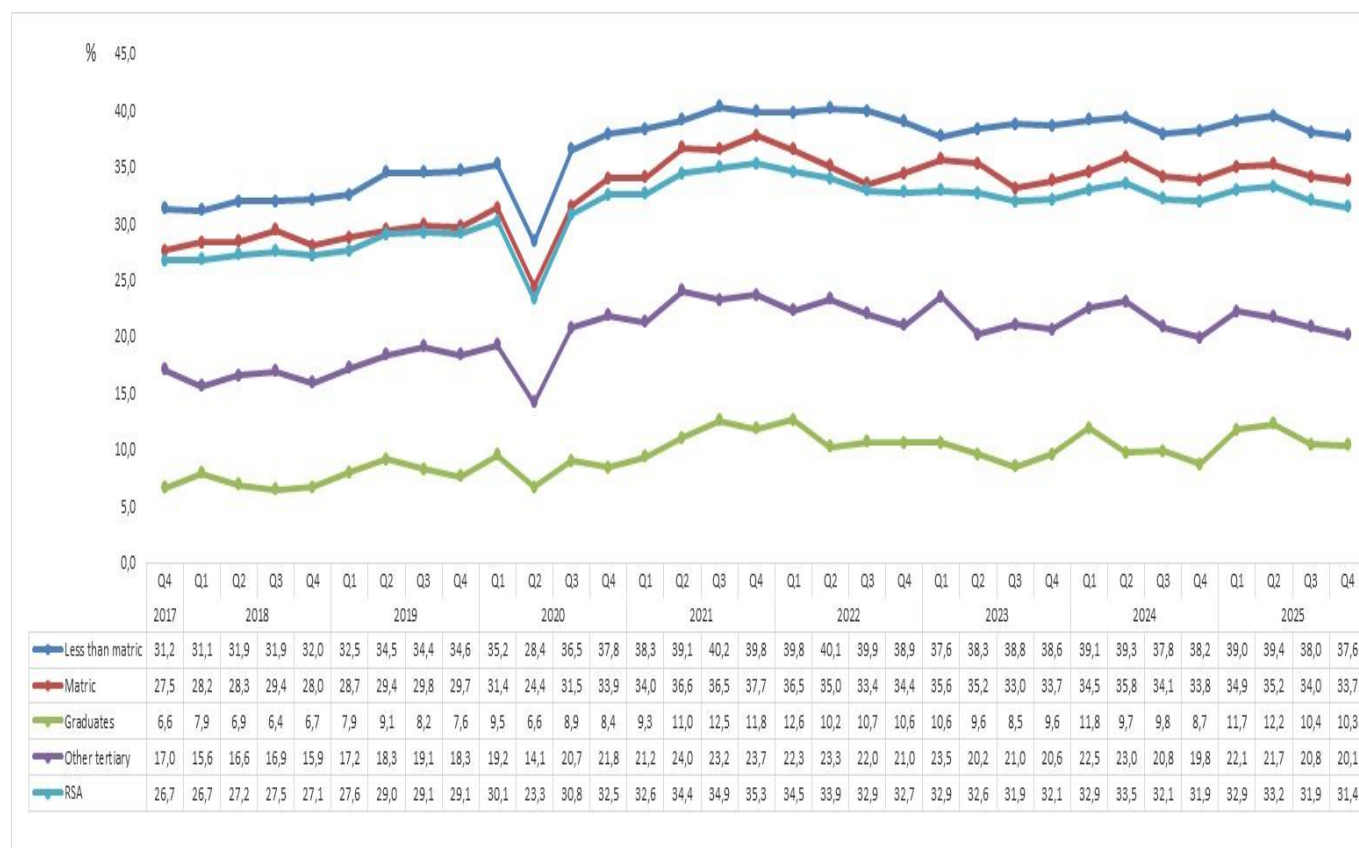


Figure 8: Unemployment rate by education status, Q4: 2017 to Q4: 2025

7. The Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) and the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES)

Stats SA conducts two official sources of employment statistics surveys: QES (which is establishment-based) and QLFS (which is household-based). Each survey has its strengths and limitations. For example, QES cannot provide information on the following:

- description of the employed, e.g. their demographic profile, education level, hours of work, etc.; and
- unemployment and descriptors of the unemployed.

QLFS is a survey of households that collects information from approximately 30 000 dwelling units and collects data on the labour market activities of individuals, whereas QES is an enterprise-based survey that collects information from non-agricultural businesses and organisations from approximately 20 000 units. Numerous conceptual and methodological differences between the household- and enterprise-based surveys result in important distinctions in employment estimates derived from surveys. Among these are:

- The household-based survey includes agricultural workers, self-employed workers whose businesses are unincorporated, unpaid family workers, and private household workers among the employed; these groups are excluded from the enterprise-based QES survey.
- The household-based survey is limited to workers 15 years of age and older, whereas the enterprise-based survey is not limited by age.
- The household-based survey has no duplication of individuals because individuals are counted only once, even if they hold more than one job. In the enterprise-based survey, employees working at more than one job and thus appearing on more than one payroll are counted separately for each appearance.
- QLFS includes registration of the business for VAT or income tax or keeping accounts for tax purposes is the key criterion or Registered with Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC), while QES surveys includes formal sector enterprises with only VAT with annual turnover greater than R300 000.
- QLFS allows for proxy responses (a household member responding on behalf of the other). This can introduce misclassification of items, e.g. formal/informal classification.

Table F: Key differences between the QLFS and the QES

	QLFS	QES
Coverage	Private households and workers' hostels Non-institutional population (15 years and older) Total employment (including Informal sector, Private households, Agriculture and small businesses)	Payroll of VAT-registered businesses Employees only Formal sector, excluding Agriculture
Sample size	Quarterly sample of approximately 30 000 dwellings in which households reside	Quarterly sample of 20 000 non-agricultural formal-sector businesses
Reference period	One week prior to the interview	Payroll on the last day of the quarter
Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)	All industries	Excluding Agriculture and Private households
Formal sector definition	Registration for VAT or income tax or Registered with Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) Or keeping accounts for tax purposes	Employees on a payroll of VAT-registered businesses

8. Technical notes

8.1 Response details

Table G: Response rates by province and metropolitan area

Province / metropolitan area	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025
National	86,1	87,2
Western Cape	81,2	81,2
Non-metro	86,1	86,4
City of Cape Town	79,0	78,9
Eastern Cape	93,3	94,5
Non-metro	93,1	94,4
Buffalo City	94,9	94,7
Nelson Mandela Bay	92,7	94,5
Northern Cape	86,1	86,6
Free State	93,1	93,9
Non-metro	94,5	94,9
Mangaung	89,8	91,7
KwaZulu-Natal	90,6	91,8
Non-metro	93,0	92,8
eThekweni	86,8	90,2
North West	89,8	92,3
Gauteng	74,6	75,9
Non-metro	82,4	83,0
Ekurhuleni	78,2	79,1
City of Johannesburg	67,5	69,0
City of Tshwane	78,3	80,2
Mpumalanga	94,0	95,4
Limpopo	94,9	96,1

8.2 Survey requirements and design

QLFS uses the Master Sample frame that has been developed as a general-purpose household survey frame that can be used by all other Stats SA household-based surveys having design requirements that are reasonably compatible with the QLFS. The 2013 Master Sample is based on information collected during the 2011 Census conducted by Stats SA. In preparation for Census 2011, the country was divided into 103 576 enumeration areas (EAs). Census EAs, together with auxiliary information for the EAs, were used as frame units or building blocks for formation of primary sampling units (PSUs) for the Master Sample. They covered the entire country and had other information that is crucial for stratification and creation of PSUs. There are 3 324 primary sampling units (PSUs) in the Master Sample, with an expected sample of approximately 33 000 dwelling units (DUs). The number of PSUs in the current Master Sample (3 324) reflects an 8,0% increase in the size of the Master Sample compared with the previous Master Sample in 2008 (which had 3 080 PSUs). The larger Master Sample of PSUs was selected to improve precision (smaller coefficients of variation, known as CVs) of the QLFS estimates.

The Master Sample is designed to be representative at provincial level and at metro/non-metro levels. Within metros, the sample is further distributed by geographical type. The three geography types used are Urban, Tribal and Farms. This implies, for example, that within a metropolitan area the sample is representative of different geography types that may exist within that metro.

It is divided equally into four subgroups or panels called rotation groups. Rotation groups are designed in such a way that each of these groups has the same distribution pattern as that which is observed in the whole sample. They are numbered from one (1) to four (4), and these numbers also correspond to the quarters of the year in which the sample will be rotated for the particular group.

A sample for the QLFS is based on a stratified two-stage design with probability proportional to size (PPS) sampling of PSUs in the first stage, and sampling of dwelling units (DUs) with systematic sampling in the second stage.

8.3 Sample rotation

For each quarter of the QLFS, a quarter of the sampled dwellings are rotated out of the sample. These dwellings are replaced by new dwellings from the same PSU or the next PSU on the list. Thus, sampled dwellings are expected to remain in the sample for four consecutive quarters. It should be noted that the sampling unit is the dwelling, and the unit of observation is the household. Therefore, if a household moves out of a dwelling after being in the sample for two quarters (for example) and a new household moves in, the new household will be enumerated for the next two quarters. If no household moves into the sampled dwelling, the dwelling will be classified as vacant (or unoccupied).

8.4 Weighting

Sample weights were constructed in order to account for: the original selection probabilities (design weights); adjustments for PSUs that were sub-sampled or segmented; excluded population from the sampling frame (EAs with insufficient DUs); non-response; weight trimming; benchmarking to known population estimates from the Demographic Analysis Chief Directorate within Stats SA.

8.4.1 Non-response adjustment

In general, imputation is used for item non-response (i.e. blanks within the questionnaire) and edit failures (i.e. invalid or inconsistent responses). Eligible households in sampled dwellings can be divided into two response categories: respondents and non-respondents. Weight adjustment is applied to account for the non-respondent households (e.g. refusal, no contact, etc.). Adjustment for total non-response was computed at two levels of non-response: PSU non-response and household non-response.

8.4.2 Calibrated survey weights

Calibrated sample weights are constructed such that all individuals within a household are assigned the same adjusted base weight. Adjusted base weights are calibrated such that the aggregate totals will match with independently derived population estimates (from the Stats SA Demographic Analysis Chief Directorate) for various age, race and gender groups at national level and individual metropolitan and non-metropolitan area levels within provinces. Calibrated weights are constructed using the constraint that each person within the same household, should have the same calibrated weight, with a lower bound on the calibrated weights set at 50.

8.5 Estimation

Final survey weights are used to obtain the estimates for various domains of interest, e.g. number of persons employed in Agriculture in Western Cape, the number of females employed in Manufacturing, etc.

8.6 Reliability of the survey estimates

Since estimates are based on sample data, they differ from figures that would have been obtained from complete enumeration of the population using the same instrument. Results are subject to both sampling and non-sampling errors. Non-sampling errors include biases from inaccurate reporting, processing, and tabulation, etc., as well as errors from non-responses and incomplete reporting. These types of errors cannot be measured readily. However, to some extent, non-sampling errors can be minimised through the procedures used for data collection, editing, quality control, and non-response adjustment. The variances of the survey estimates are used to measure sampling errors.

(i) Variance estimation

Most commonly used methods for estimating variances of survey estimates from complex surveys such as the QLFS are the Taylor-series Linearization, Jack-knife Replication, Balanced Repeated Replication (BRR), and Bootstrap methods (Wolter, 2007).¹ The Fay's BRR method has been used for variance estimation in the QLFS because of its simplicity.

(ii) Coefficient of variation

It is more useful in many situations to assess the size of standard error relative to magnitude of the characteristic being measured (the standard error is defined as the square root of the variance). The **coefficient of variation** (CV) provides such a measure. It is the **ratio of the standard error of the survey estimate to the value of the estimate itself expressed as a percentage**. It is very useful in comparing the precision of several different survey estimates, where their sizes or scales differ from one another.

(iii) P-value of an estimate of change

The p-value corresponding to an estimate of change is the probability of observing a value larger than the particular observed value under the hypothesis that there is no real change. If the p-value $< 0,01$, the difference is highly significant; if p-value is between 0,01 and 0,05, the difference is significant; and if p-value $> 0,05$, the difference is not significant.

¹Wolter, K.M. 2007. *Introduction to Variance Estimation, 2nd Edition*. New York: Springer-Verlag.
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9. Concepts and Definitions

Available potential jobseekers: Persons outside the labour force who did not carry out activities to seek employment but wanted employment and were currently available.

Contributing- family workers: are workers who help, without receiving regular pay, in a job or market-oriented enterprise held or operated by a household or family member.

Dependent contractor: Dependent contractors are workers who have contractual arrangements of a commercial nature (but not a contract of employment) to provide goods or services for or through another economic unit on which they are dependent for the organization and execution of the work, income or access to the market.

Discouraged work-seeker is a person who was not employed during the reference period, wanted to work, was available to work/start a business but did not take active steps to find work during the last four weeks, provided that the main reason given for not seeking work was any of the following: no jobs available in the area; unable to find work requiring his/her skills; lost hope of finding any kind of work.

Economic activities are those activities that contribute to the production of goods and services in the country. There are two types of economic activities, namely: (1) Market production activities (work done for others and usually associated with pay or profit); and (2) Non-market production activities (work done for the benefit of the household, e.g. subsistence farming).

Employed persons are those aged 15–64 years who, during the reference week, did any work for at least one hour, or had a job or business but were not at work (i.e. were temporarily absent).

Employment-to-population ratio (labour absorption rate) is the proportion of the working-age population that is employed.

Employees: are workers employed for pay, on a formal or informal basis, who do not hold controlling ownership of the economic unit in which they are employed. They are remunerated in cash or in kind in return for time worked, or, in some cases, for each task or piece of work done or for services provided including sales (by the piece or commission).

Employers in corporations: are independent workers who, on their own-account or in partnership with others, own and control the activities of an incorporated enterprise that regularly employs one or more employees.

Employers in household market enterprises: are independent workers who, on their own account or in partnership with others, own and control the activities of an unincorporated market enterprise that regularly employs one or more employees.

Employers: are independent workers who own the economic unit in which they work and control its activities on their own account or in partnership with others, and in this capacity regularly employ one or more employees.

Fixed-term employees: are employees who are employed on a time-limited basis for a period of three months or more and who are guaranteed a minimum number of hours or amount of work.

Formal sector: Comprising economic unit that is formally recognized as distinct producer of goods and services for the consumption of others;

Formal sector has the following components

- being owned or controlled by the government; or
- being recognized as separate legal entities from their owners or
- Registration for VAT or Income tax or
- Keeping accounts for tax purposes or
- Registered in a governmentally established system of registration (i.e CIPC);

Informal employment identifies persons who are in precarious employment situations, irrespective of whether or not the entity for which they work is in the formal or informal sector. Persons in informal employment, therefore, comprise all persons in the informal sector, employees in the formal sector, and persons working in private households who are not entitled to or receive basic benefits such as pension or paid leave and sick leave.

Informal sector: comprising economic unit whose production is mainly intended for the market with the purpose of generating income and profit, but that is not formally recognized as producers of goods and services distinct from the own-use production of the owner-operators' household.

The informal sector does **not** comply with any of the following components:

- being owned or controlled by the government; or
- being recognized as separate legal entities from their owners or
- Registration for VAT or Income tax or
- Keeping accounts for tax purposes or
- Registered in a governmentally established system of registration (i.e CIPC);

Independent workers without employees: are independent workers who operate an economic unit, alone or in partnership with others, that does not employ any employees on a regular basis. The economic unit which they operate may be incorporated or unincorporated.

Institutional sector of employment refers to the kind of economic unit in which the person is employed, as defined by its legal organisation, principal functions, behaviour and objectives. It is a characteristic of the economic unit in which the person is employed.

The **labour force** comprises all persons who are employed, plus all persons who are unemployed.

Labour force participation rate is the proportion of the working-age population that is either employed or unemployed.

Long-term unemployment: Persons in long-term unemployment are those individuals among the unemployed who were without work and trying to find a job or start a business for one year or more.

Labour underutilisation refers to mismatches between labour supply and demand which translates into an unmet need for employment among the population. The measure of Labour underutilisation includes: Time-related underemployment, Unemployment, and Potential labour force.

Outside the Labour Force (*previously Not economically Active*): Persons aged 15–64 years who are neither employed nor unemployed in the reference period.

Own-account workers in household market enterprises without employees: are independent workers who operate an unincorporated household market enterprise, alone or with one or more partners or contributing family workers and do not regularly employ any employees.

Owner-operators of corporations without employees: are independent workers who hold a job in an incorporated enterprise in which they hold controlling ownership of the enterprise, alone or together with one or more partners and /or with family members and does not employ any employees on a regular basis.

Paid apprentices and interns are employees who work for pay in an economic unit to acquire workplace experience or skills in a trade or profession. They may be formal or informal and may or may not receive a certification for the training experience.

Permanent employees (or with contracts without limit of time): are employees who are employed on an ongoing or indefinite basis and guaranteed a minimum number of hours or amount of work. It includes recently appointed employees with jobs that are subject to an initial trial period but who are expected to continue indefinitely.

Potential Labour Force: The potential labour force includes persons who are not in the labour force, but are either available for work but not actively seeking employment or actively seeking employment but not currently available to work.

(a) carried out activities to “seek employment”, were not “currently available” but would become available within a short subsequent period (i.e. unavailable jobseekers); or

(b) did not carry out activities to “seek employment”, but wanted employment and were “currently available” (i.e. available potential jobseekers).

Short-term and casual employees: are employees with short-term employment arrangements and/or without a guaranteed minimum number of hours or amount of work per pay period. It excludes paid apprentices, interns, trainees with short-term employment arrangements.

Status in employment: Status in employment refers to the type of work relationship a person has in his/her job, taking into account the kind of economic risk and degree of authority that the person experiences in their job.

Time related underemployment: Time-related underemployment refers to the number of employed persons whose hours of work in the reference period are insufficient in relation to a more desirable employment situation in which the person is willing and available to engage.

Unavailable jobseekers: Persons outside the labour force who carried out activities to seek employment, were not currently available but would become available within a short subsequent period.

Persons in **underemployment (time-related)** are employed persons who were willing and available to work additional hours, whose total number of hours actually worked during the reference period were below 35 hours per week.

Unemployed persons according to the **Official definition** are those (aged 15–64 years) who:

- a) were not employed in the reference week; **and**
- b) actively looked for work or tried to start a business in the four weeks preceding the survey interview; **and**
- c) were available for work, i.e. would have been able to start work or a business in the reference week; **or**
- d) had not actively looked for work in the past four weeks but had a job or business to start at a definite date in the future and were available.

Unemployment rate is the proportion of the labour force that is unemployed.

Willing non-jobseekers: Persons not in employment who wanted employment but did not seek employment and were not currently available.

Working age population: The working age population consists of all individuals aged 15 years and older who are considered capable of working regardless of their employment status.

Appendix 1

Table 1: Population of working age (15-64 years)									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Both sexes	41 561	41 691	41 822	41 948	42 068	120	508	0,3	1,2
Women	20 920	20 982	21 043	21 103	21 158	56	238	0,3	1,1
Men	20 640	20 709	20 778	20 846	20 910	64	270	0,3	1,3
Population groups	41 561	41 691	41 822	41 948	42 068	120	508	0,3	1,2
Black/African	34 137	34 270	34 403	34 532	34 656	123	519	0,4	1,5
Coloured	3 616	3 620	3 624	3 629	3 633	4	17	0,1	0,5
Indian/Asian	1 058	1 060	1 062	1 064	1 066	2	8	0,2	0,8
White	2 750	2 741	2 733	2 724	2 715	-9	-36	-0,3	-1,3
South Africa	41 561	41 691	41 822	41 948	42 068	120	508	0,3	1,2
Western Cape	5 090	5 108	5 126	5 143	5 160	16	70	0,3	1,4
Eastern Cape	4 579	4 592	4 605	4 618	4 629	12	50	0,3	1,1
Northern Cape	843	844	846	847	849	1	6	0,2	0,7
Free State	1 941	1 942	1 943	1 944	1 944	0	3	0,0	0,1
KwaZulu Natal	7 683	7 707	7 732	7 756	7 779	23	96	0,3	1,3
North West	2 817	2 826	2 834	2 843	2 851	8	35	0,3	1,2
Gauteng	11 358	11 399	11 440	11 480	11 518	38	160	0,3	1,4
Mpumalanga	3 189	3 199	3 209	3 219	3 228	9	40	0,3	1,2
Limpopo	4 061	4 074	4 086	4 098	4 110	11	48	0,3	1,2

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

Table 2: Labour force characteristics by sex - All population groups

	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Both sexes									
Population 15-64 years	41 561	41 691	41 822	41 948	42 068	120	508	0,3	1,2
Labour Force	25 069	25 015	25 174	25 062	24 935	-128	-134	-0,5	-0,5
Employed	17 078	16 787	16 807	17 055	17 099	44	21	0,3	0,1
Formal sector				11 983	12 303	320		2,7	
Informal sector				3 961	3 667	-293		-7,4	
Household sector	1 146	1 078	1 106	1 111	1 129	18	-17	1,6	-1,5
Unemployed	7 991	8 228	8 367	8 007	7 836	-172	-155	-2,1	-1,9
Outside the Labour Force	16 492	16 676	16 648	16 886	17 134	248	642	1,5	3,9
Potential Labour Force	4 324	4 480	4 299	4 529	4 611	82	287	1,8	6,6
Available potential jobseekers	4 300	4 464	4 280	4 446	4 569	123	269	2,8	6,3
Discouraged work-seekers	3 466	3 473	3 445	3 481	3 714	233	249	6,7	7,2
Other (available potential jobseekers)	835	991	836	965	855	-110	20	-11,4	2,4
Unavailable jobseekers	24	15	19	83	42	-41	19	-49,1	78,0
Other (Outside the labour force)	12 168	12 196	12 348	12 357	12 522	165	355	1,3	2,9
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	60,3	60,0	60,2	59,7	59,3	-0,4	-1,0		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	41,1	40,3	40,2	40,7	40,6	-0,1	-0,5		
Inactivity rate	39,7	40,0	39,8	40,3	40,7	0,4	1,0		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	31,9	32,9	33,2	31,9	31,4	-0,5	-0,5		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	35,0	36,0	36,1	34,9	34,3	-0,6	-0,7		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	41,9	43,1	43,0	42,4	42,1	-0,3	0,2		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	44,6	45,7	45,4	44,9	44,5	-0,4	-0,1		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 2: Labour force characteristics by sex - All population groups (continued)									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Women									
Population 15-64 years	20 920	20 982	21 043	21 103	21 158	56	238	0,3	1,1
Labour Force	11 557	11 491	11 549	11 450	11 419	-31	-138	-0,3	-1,2
Employed	7 636	7 412	7 400	7 429	7 470	41	-165	0,5	-2,2
Formal sector				5 318	5 465	147		2,8	
Informal sector				1 292	1 161	-131		-10,1	
Household sector	856	830	840	819	844	24	-12	3,0	-1,4
Unemployed	3 922	4 078	4 149	4 020	3 949	-71	27	-1,8	0,7
Outside the Labour Force	9 363	9 491	9 494	9 653	9 739	86	376	0,9	4,0
Potential Labour Force	2 396	2 516	2 432	2 554	2 569	15	173	0,6	7,2
Available potential jobseekers	2 385	2 509	2 424	2 504	2 541	36	156	1,4	6,5
Discouraged work-seekers	1 869	1 895	1 912	1 884	1 982	99	113	5,2	6,1
Other (available potential jobseekers)	516	613	511	621	558	-63	43	-10,1	8,3
Unavailable jobseekers	11	7	9	49	28	-21	17	-43,4	153,2
Other (Outside the Labour Force)	6 967	6 975	7 062	7 099	7 171	71	203	1,0	2,9
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	55,2	54,8	54,9	54,3	54,0	-0,3	-1,2		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	36,5	35,3	35,2	35,2	35,3	0,1	-1,2		
Inactivity rate	44,8	45,2	45,1	45,7	46,0	0,3	1,2		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	33,9	35,5	35,9	35,1	34,6	-0,5	0,7		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	37,5	39,1	39,2	38,6	37,9	-0,7	0,4		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	45,3	47,1	47,1	46,9	46,6	-0,3	1,3		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	48,2	50,0	49,8	49,8	49,3	-0,5	1,1		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 2: Labour force characteristics by sex - All population groups (concluded)									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Men									
Population 15-64 years	20 640	20 709	20 778	20 846	20 910	64	270	0,3	1,3
Labour Force	13 512	13 524	13 625	13 613	13 516	-97	4	-0,7	0,0
Employed	9 442	9 375	9 407	9 625	9 629	3	186	0,0	2,0
Formal sector				6 665	6 838	173		2,6	
Informal sector				2 668	2 506	-163		-6,1	
Household sector	291	248	266	292	285	-7	-6	-2,4	-1,9
Unemployed	4 069	4 150	4 218	3 987	3 887	-100	-182	-2,5	-4,5
Outside the Labour Force	7 129	7 185	7 153	7 233	7 395	161	266	2,2	3,7
Potential Labour Force	1 928	1 964	1 867	1 975	2 043	67	115	3,4	5,9
Available potential jobseekers	1 915	1 956	1 857	1 941	2 028	87	113	4,5	5,9
Discouraged work-seekers	1 597	1 578	1 532	1 597	1 732	135	135	8,4	8,5
Other (available potential jobseekers)	319	378	324	344	296	-48	-22	-13,9	-7,0
Unavailable jobseekers	13	8	10	34	15	-20	2	-57,3	13,4
Other (Outside the Labour Force)	5 200	5 221	5 286	5 258	5 352	94	151	1,8	2,9
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	65,5	65,3	65,6	65,3	64,6	-0,7	-0,9		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	45,7	45,3	45,3	46,2	46,0	-0,2	0,3		
Inactivity rate	34,5	34,7	34,4	34,7	35,4	0,7	0,9		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	30,1	30,7	31,0	29,3	28,8	-0,5	-1,3		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	32,9	33,4	33,4	31,9	31,2	-0,7	-1,7		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	38,8	39,5	39,3	38,3	38,1	-0,2	-0,7		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	41,3	41,9	41,4	40,5	40,2	-0,3	-1,1		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 2.1: Labour force characteristics by population group									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
South Africa									
Population 15-64 years	41 561	41 691	41 822	41 948	42 068	120	508	0,3	1,2
Labour Force	25 069	25 015	25 174	25 062	24 935	-128	-134	-0,5	-0,5
Employed	17 078	16 787	16 807	17 055	17 099	44	21	0,3	0,1
Unemployed	7 991	8 228	8 367	8 007	7 836	-172	-155	-2,1	-1,9
Outside the Labour Force	16 492	16 676	16 648	16 886	17 134	248	642	1,5	3,9
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	60,3	60,0	60,2	59,7	59,3	-0,4	-1,0		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	41,1	40,3	40,2	40,7	40,6	-0,1	-0,5		
Inactivity rate	39,7	40,0	39,8	40,3	40,7	0,4	1,0		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	31,9	32,9	33,2	31,9	31,4	-0,5	-0,5		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	35,0	36,0	36,1	34,9	34,3	-0,6	-0,7		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	41,9	43,1	43,0	42,4	42,1	-0,3	0,2		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	44,6	45,7	45,4	44,9	44,5	-0,4	-0,1		
Black/African									
Population 15-64 years	34 137	34 270	34 403	34 532	34 656	123	519	0,4	1,5
Labour Force	20 323	20 196	20 434	20 370	20 179	-191	-144	-0,9	-0,7
Employed	13 048	12 727	12 848	13 082	13 058	-23	10	-0,2	0,1
Unemployed	7 275	7 469	7 586	7 289	7 121	-168	-154	-2,3	-2,1
Outside the Labour Force	13 814	14 074	13 969	14 162	14 476	314	662	2,2	4,8
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	59,5	58,9	59,4	59,0	58,2	-0,8	-1,3		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	38,2	37,1	37,3	37,9	37,7	-0,2	-0,5		
Inactivity rate	40,5	41,1	40,6	41,0	41,8	0,8	1,3		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	35,8	37,0	37,1	35,8	35,3	-0,5	-0,5		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	39,2	40,5	40,2	39,1	38,5	-0,6	-0,7		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	46,2	47,6	47,0	46,4	46,3	-0,1	0,1		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	49,1	50,4	49,6	49,1	49,0	-0,1	-0,1		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 2.1: Labour force characteristics by population group (continued)									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Coloured									
Population 15-64 years	3 616	3 620	3 624	3 629	3 633	4	17	0,1	0,5
Labour Force	2 237	2 263	2 215	2 167	2 215	48	-22	2,2	-1,0
Employed	1 737	1 730	1 683	1 687	1 746	58	9	3,5	0,5
Unemployed	500	533	532	479	469	-10	-31	-2,1	-6,1
Outside the Labour Force	1 379	1 357	1 409	1 462	1 418	-44	39	-3,0	2,8
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	61,9	62,5	61,1	59,7	61,0	1,3	-0,9		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	48,0	47,8	46,4	46,5	48,1	1,6	0,1		
Inactivity rate	38,1	37,5	38,9	40,3	39,0	-1,3	0,9		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	22,3	23,6	24,0	22,1	21,2	-0,9	-1,1		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	24,6	26,1	26,2	24,8	23,4	-1,4	-1,2		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	31,0	32,7	34,6	33,4	31,7	-1,7	0,7		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	33,0	35,0	36,4	35,6	33,6	-2,0	0,6		
Indian/Asian									
Population 15-64 years	1 058	1 060	1 062	1 064	1 066	2	8	0,2	0,8
Labour Force	661	649	621	593	620	28	-41	4,7	-6,2
Employed	569	562	527	510	529	19	-39	3,8	-6,9
Unemployed	92	86	94	83	91	8	-1	10,0	-1,6
Outside the Labour Force	396	411	441	471	445	-26	49	-5,5	12,3
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	62,5	61,2	58,5	55,7	58,2	2,5	-4,3		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	53,8	53,1	49,7	48,0	49,7	1,7	-4,1		
Inactivity rate	37,5	38,8	41,5	44,3	41,8	-2,5	4,3		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	14,0	13,3	15,1	13,9	14,7	0,8	0,7		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	14,9	13,5	16,1	15,5	15,0	-0,5	0,1		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	22,5	20,3	21,2	24,0	23,6	-0,4	1,1		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	23,4	20,4	22,1	25,4	23,9	-1,5	0,5		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Quarter 4: 2025

Table 2.1: Labour force characteristics by population group (concluded)									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
White									
Population 15-64 years	2 750	2 741	2 733	2 724	2 715	-9	-36	-0,3	-1,3
Labour Force	1 848	1 907	1 904	1 932	1 920	-12	72	-0,6	3,9
Employed	1 724	1 768	1 748	1 776	1 765	-11	41	-0,6	2,4
Unemployed	124	139	156	157	155	-2	31	-1,1	24,8
Outside the Labour Force	902	834	829	791	795	3	-108	0,4	-12,0
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	67,2	69,6	69,7	71,0	70,7	-0,3	3,5		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	62,7	64,5	64,0	65,2	65,0	-0,2	2,3		
Inactivity rate	32,8	30,4	30,3	29,0	29,3	0,3	-3,5		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	6,7	7,3	8,2	8,1	8,1	0,0	1,4		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	8,6	8,5	9,5	8,8	8,9	0,1	0,3		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	9,2	9,2	11,3	10,3	10,0	-0,3	0,8		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	11,0	10,4	12,6	10,9	10,8	-0,1	-0,2		

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 2.2: Labour force characteristics by age group									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
15-64 years									
Population 15-64 years	41 561	41 691	41 822	41 948	42 068	120	508	0,3	1,2
Labour Force	25 069	25 015	25 174	25 062	24 935	-128	-134	-0,5	-0,5
Employed	17 078	16 787	16 807	17 055	17 099	44	21	0,3	0,1
Unemployed	7 991	8 228	8 367	8 007	7 836	-172	-155	-2,1	-1,9
Outside the Labour Force	16 492	16 676	16 648	16 886	17 134	248	642	1,5	3,9
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	60,3	60,0	60,2	59,7	59,3	-0,4	-1,0		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	41,1	40,3	40,2	40,7	40,6	-0,1	-0,5		
Inactivity rate	39,7	40,0	39,8	40,3	40,7	0,4	1,0		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	31,9	32,9	33,2	31,9	31,4	-0,5	-0,5		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	35,0	36,0	36,1	34,9	34,3	-0,6	-0,7		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	41,9	43,1	43,0	42,4	42,1	-0,3	0,2		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	44,6	45,7	45,4	44,9	44,5	-0,4	-0,1		
15-24 years									
Population 15-24 years	10 286	10 299	10 312	10 325	10 337	12	51	0,1	0,5
Labour Force	2 731	2 710	2 758	2 833	2 657	-177	-75	-6,2	-2,7
Employed	1 102	1 018	1 043	1 177	1 143	-33	41	-2,8	3,7
Unemployed	1 629	1 692	1 715	1 657	1 513	-143	-115	-8,7	-7,1
Outside the Labour Force	7 555	7 589	7 554	7 491	7 680	189	126	2,5	1,7
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	26,6	26,3	26,7	27,4	25,7	-1,7	-0,9		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	10,7	9,9	10,1	11,4	11,1	-0,3	0,4		
Inactivity rate	73,4	73,7	73,3	72,6	74,3	1,7	0,9		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	59,6	62,4	62,2	58,5	57,0	-1,5	-2,6		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	61,4	63,9	64,4	60,7	58,8	-1,9	-2,6		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	70,3	72,5	71,8	69,3	68,3	-1,0	-2,0		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	71,6	73,6	73,4	70,9	69,6	-1,3	-2,0		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 2.2: Labour force characteristics by age group (continued)

	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
25-34 years									
Population 25-34 years	10 613	10 617	10 621	10 622	10 619	-3	6	0,0	0,1
Labour Force	7 783	7 802	7 823	7 765	7 745	-20	-38	-0,3	-0,5
Employed	4 719	4 651	4 656	4 787	4 707	-80	-12	-1,7	-0,3
Unemployed	3 064	3 151	3 167	2 978	3 038	60	-26	2,0	-0,8
Outside the Labour Force	2 830	2 815	2 798	2 857	2 874	17	44	0,6	1,5
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	73,3	73,5	73,7	73,1	72,9	-0,2	-0,4		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	44,5	43,8	43,8	45,1	44,3	-0,8	-0,2		
Inactivity rate	26,7	26,5	26,3	26,9	27,1	0,2	0,4		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	39,4	40,4	40,5	38,4	39,2	0,8	-0,2		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	42,0	43,4	43,0	41,1	41,7	0,6	-0,3		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	48,9	50,1	49,5	48,2	49,1	0,9	0,2		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	51,2	52,7	51,6	50,5	51,2	0,7	0,0		
35-44 years									
Population 35-44 years	9 218	9 257	9 295	9 332	9 366	34	148	0,4	1,6
Labour Force	7 328	7 269	7 326	7 250	7 294	44	-34	0,6	-0,5
Employed	5 334	5 247	5 222	5 234	5 294	60	-40	1,2	-0,7
Unemployed	1 994	2 022	2 104	2 017	2 000	-17	5	-0,8	0,3
Outside the Labour Force	1 890	1 987	1 969	2 082	2 072	-9	182	-0,4	9,6
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	79,5	78,5	78,8	77,7	77,9	0,2	-1,6		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	57,9	56,7	56,2	56,1	56,5	0,4	-1,4		
Inactivity rate	20,5	21,5	21,2	22,3	22,1	-0,2	1,6		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	27,2	27,8	28,7	27,8	27,4	-0,4	0,2		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	30,7	31,0	31,3	30,8	30,2	-0,6	-0,5		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	35,9	36,7	37,4	37,1	37,0	-0,1	1,1		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	39,0	39,6	39,6	39,6	39,3	-0,3	0,3		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 2.2: Labour force characteristics by age group (concluded)

	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
45-54 years									
Population 45-54 years	6 975	7 020	7 065	7 109	7 149	41	174	0,6	2,5
Labour Force	5 224	5 217	5 241	5 195	5 168	-27	-56	-0,5	-1,1
Employed	4 148	4 099	4 119	4 102	4 115	13	-33	0,3	-0,8
Unemployed	1 075	1 118	1 123	1 093	1 052	-40	-23	-3,7	-2,1
Outside the Labour Force	1 752	1 803	1 824	1 914	1 982	68	230	3,5	13,1
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	74,9	74,3	74,2	73,1	72,3	-0,8	-2,6		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	59,5	58,4	58,3	57,7	57,6	-0,1	-1,9		
Inactivity rate	25,1	25,7	25,8	26,9	27,7	0,8	2,6		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	20,6	21,4	21,4	21,0	20,4	-0,6	-0,2		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	24,4	25,0	25,2	24,8	24,0	-0,8	-0,4		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	29,7	30,7	30,7	30,9	31,0	0,1	1,3		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	33,0	33,9	34,0	34,3	34,2	-0,1	1,2		
55-64 years									
Population 55-64 years	4 468	4 498	4 528	4 562	4 598	36	129	0,8	2,9
Labour Force	2 003	2 017	2 025	2 019	2 072	53	69	2,6	3,4
Employed	1 775	1 772	1 766	1 755	1 840	84	65	4,8	3,7
Unemployed	228	245	259	263	232	-31	4	-11,7	1,7
Outside the Labour Force	2 465	2 481	2 503	2 543	2 526	-17	61	-0,7	2,5
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	44,8	44,8	44,7	44,3	45,1	0,8	0,3		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	39,7	39,4	39,0	38,5	40,0	1,5	0,3		
Inactivity rate	55,2	55,2	55,3	55,7	54,9	-0,8	-0,3		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	11,4	12,1	12,8	13,0	11,2	-1,8	-0,2		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	15,4	16,3	16,1	16,1	14,7	-1,4	-0,7		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	20,2	21,6	22,2	22,2	21,3	-0,9	1,1		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	23,8	25,3	25,1	24,9	24,4	-0,5	0,6		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 2.3: Labour force characteristics by province and metro

	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
South Africa									
Population 15-64 years	41 561	41 691	41 822	41 948	42 068	120	508	0,3	1,2
Labour Force	25 069	25 015	25 174	25 062	24 935	-128	-134	-0,5	-0,5
Employed	17 078	16 787	16 807	17 055	17 099	44	21	0,3	0,1
Unemployed	7 991	8 228	8 367	8 007	7 836	-172	-155	-2,1	-1,9
Outside the Labour Force	16 492	16 676	16 648	16 886	17 134	248	642	1,5	3,9
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	60,3	60,0	60,2	59,7	59,3	-0,4	-1,0		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	41,1	40,3	40,2	40,7	40,6	-0,1	-0,5		
Inactivity rate	39,7	40,0	39,8	40,3	40,7	0,4	1,0		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	31,9	32,9	33,2	31,9	31,4	-0,5	-0,5		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	35,0	36,0	36,1	34,9	34,3	-0,6	-0,7		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	41,9	43,1	43,0	42,4	42,1	-0,3	0,2		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	44,6	45,7	45,4	44,9	44,5	-0,4	-0,1		
Western Cape									
Population 15-64 years	5 090	5 108	5 126	5 143	5 160	16	70	0,3	1,4
Labour Force	3 498	3 558	3 479	3 505	3 548	43	50	1,2	1,4
Employed	2 812	2 861	2 744	2 814	2 907	93	95	3,3	3,4
Unemployed	686	697	735	692	641	-50	-45	-7,3	-6,5
Outside the Labour Force	1 593	1 550	1 647	1 638	1 612	-26	19	-1,6	1,2
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	68,7	69,6	67,9	68,1	68,8	0,7	0,1		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	55,2	56,0	53,5	54,7	56,3	1,6	1,1		
Inactivity rate	31,3	30,4	32,1	31,9	31,2	-0,7	-0,1		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	19,6	19,6	21,1	19,7	18,1	-1,6	-1,5		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	22,3	22,2	23,6	22,0	20,4	-1,6	-1,9		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	24,9	24,8	27,0	25,8	23,7	-2,1	-1,2		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	27,4	27,3	29,3	27,9	25,9	-2,0	-1,5		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 2.3: Labour force characteristics by province and metro (continued)

	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Western Cape - Non metro									
Population 15-64 years	1 847	1 854	1 860	1 866	1 872	6	25	0,3	1,3
Labour Force	1 202	1 219	1 150	1 174	1 184	10	-17	0,9	-1,4
Employed	1 030	1 034	958	987	1 012	25	-18	2,5	-1,7
Unemployed	172	186	192	187	173	-14	1	-7,7	0,3
Outside the Labour Force	646	634	710	692	688	-4	42	-0,6	6,5
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	65,1	65,8	61,8	62,9	63,3	0,4	-1,8		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	55,7	55,8	51,5	52,9	54,0	1,1	-1,7		
Inactivity rate	34,9	34,2	38,2	37,1	36,7	-0,4	1,8		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	14,3	15,2	16,7	15,9	14,6	-1,3	0,3		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	17,2	17,7	19,7	18,5	17,3	-1,2	0,1		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	23,5	24,8	29,4	28,1	27,1	-1,0	3,6		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	26,1	27,0	32,0	30,3	29,4	-0,9	3,3		
Western Cape - City of Cape Town									
Population 15-64 years	3 243	3 255	3 266	3 277	3 288	11	45	0,3	1,4
Labour Force	2 296	2 338	2 329	2 331	2 364	33	68	1,4	3,0
Employed	1 782	1 827	1 786	1 826	1 895	69	113	3,8	6,4
Unemployed	514	511	543	505	469	-36	-45	-7,1	-8,8
Outside the Labour Force	947	916	937	946	924	-22	-23	-2,3	-2,4
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	70,8	71,8	71,3	71,1	71,9	0,8	1,1		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	54,9	56,1	54,7	55,7	57,6	1,9	2,7		
Inactivity rate	29,2	28,2	28,7	28,9	28,1	-0,8	-1,1		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	22,4	21,9	23,3	21,6	19,8	-1,8	-2,6		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	25,0	24,5	25,6	23,8	22,0	-1,8	-3,0		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	25,7	24,8	25,6	24,5	21,7	-2,8	-4,0		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	28,2	27,4	27,8	26,6	23,8	-2,8	-4,4		

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities

Table 2.3: Labour force characteristics by province and metro (continued)

	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Eastern Cape									
Population 15-64 years	4 579	4 592	4 605	4 618	4 629	12	50	0,3	1,1
Labour Force	2 297	2 261	2 418	2 393	2 393	0	97	0,0	4,2
Employed	1 455	1 373	1 462	1 408	1 377	-32	-79	-2,2	-5,4
Unemployed	841	889	956	985	1 016	31	175	3,2	20,8
Outside the Labour Force	2 283	2 331	2 187	2 224	2 236	12	-47	0,5	-2,0
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	50,2	49,2	52,5	51,8	51,7	-0,1	1,5		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	31,8	29,9	31,7	30,5	29,7	-0,8	-2,1		
Inactivity rate	49,8	50,8	47,5	48,2	48,3	0,1	-1,5		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	36,6	39,3	39,5	41,2	42,5	1,3	5,9		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	40,5	42,5	43,5	44,1	44,7	0,6	4,2		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	47,6	49,0	47,7	50,2	51,4	1,2	3,8		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	50,8	51,7	51,1	52,7	53,2	0,5	2,4		
Eastern Cape - Non Metro									
Population 15-64 years	3 119	3 126	3 134	3 141	3 148	7	29	0,2	0,9
Labour Force	1 372	1 373	1 453	1 517	1 507	-10	135	-0,7	9,9
Employed	774	743	760	768	731	-37	-43	-4,8	-5,5
Unemployed	598	630	693	749	776	27	178	3,6	29,8
Outside the Labour Force	1 747	1 753	1 681	1 624	1 640	17	-106	1,0	-6,1
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	44,0	43,9	46,4	48,3	47,9	-0,4	3,9		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	24,8	23,8	24,3	24,5	23,2	-1,3	-1,6		
Inactivity rate	56,0	56,1	53,6	51,7	52,1	0,4	-3,9		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	43,6	45,9	47,7	49,4	51,5	2,1	7,9		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	46,3	50,0	50,8	52,8	53,2	0,4	6,9		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	57,2	57,9	56,4	59,4	61,2	1,8	4,0		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	59,3	61,1	59,0	62,1	62,6	0,5	3,3		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities

Table 2.3: Labour force characteristics by province and metro (continued)

	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Eastern Cape - Buffalo City									
Population 15-64 years	563	565	567	569	571	2	8	0,3	1,4
Labour Force	412	402	394	376	385	9	-27	2,3	-6,6
Employed	281	252	282	276	286	10	5	3,7	1,9
Unemployed	132	150	113	101	99	-1	-32	-1,3	-24,6
Outside the Labour Force	151	163	173	193	186	-7	35	-3,6	23,1
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	73,2	71,1	69,5	66,1	67,4	1,3	-5,8		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	49,8	44,5	49,6	48,5	50,1	1,6	0,3		
Inactivity rate	26,8	28,9	30,5	33,9	32,6	-1,3	5,8		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	31,9	37,3	28,6	26,7	25,7	-1,0	-6,2		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	41,6	38,7	33,8	27,3	29,3	2,0	-12,3		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	34,5	38,5	31,0	30,6	28,4	-2,2	-6,1		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	43,8	39,8	36,1	31,2	31,8	0,6	-12,0		
Eastern Cape - Nelson Mandela Bay									
Population 15-64 years	897	900	904	907	910	3	13	0,3	1,5
Labour Force	512	486	571	500	501	1	-12	0,2	-2,3
Employed	401	378	420	364	360	-5	-41	-1,3	-10,3
Unemployed	112	108	151	135	141	6	29	4,3	26,3
Outside the Labour Force	385	414	333	407	410	2	25	0,5	6,5
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	57,1	54,0	63,1	55,1	55,0	-0,1	-2,1		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	44,7	41,9	46,5	40,2	39,5	-0,7	-5,2		
Inactivity rate	42,9	46,0	36,9	44,9	45,0	0,1	2,1		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	21,8	22,3	26,4	27,1	28,2	1,1	6,4		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	24,1	24,6	31,5	30,2	30,9	0,7	6,8		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	26,2	27,1	35,0	32,4	34,3	1,9	8,1		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	28,4	29,2	39,5	35,3	36,7	1,4	8,3		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities

Table 2.3: Labour force characteristics by province and metro (continued)

	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Northern Cape									
Population 15-64 years	843	844	846	847	849	1	6	0,2	0,7
Labour Force	488	486	466	464	462	-2	-26	-0,5	-5,4
Employed	355	343	314	319	337	17	-18	5,5	-5,0
Unemployed	134	143	152	145	125	-20	-9	-13,6	-6,5
Outside the Labour Force	354	359	380	383	387	4	32	1,0	9,2
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	57,9	57,5	55,1	54,8	54,4	-0,4	-3,5		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	42,1	40,6	37,1	37,7	39,7	2,0	-2,4		
Inactivity rate	42,1	42,5	44,9	45,2	45,6	0,4	3,5		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	27,4	29,5	32,7	31,2	27,1	-4,1	-0,3		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	31,0	34,5	35,8	35,0	30,0	-5,0	-1,0		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	39,8	43,1	47,0	46,5	42,9	-3,6	3,1		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	42,8	47,1	49,4	49,4	45,2	-4,2	2,4		
Free State									
Population 15-64 years	1 941	1 942	1 943	1 944	1 944	0	3	0,0	0,1
Labour Force	1 207	1 214	1 245	1 226	1 227	1	21	0,1	1,7
Employed	750	754	766	782	771	-11	21	-1,4	2,8
Unemployed	457	460	479	444	456	12	0	2,7	-0,1
Outside the Labour Force	735	729	698	718	717	-1	-18	-0,1	-2,5
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	62,2	62,5	64,1	63,1	63,1	0,0	0,9		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	38,6	38,8	39,4	40,2	39,7	-0,5	1,1		
Inactivity rate	37,8	37,5	35,9	36,9	36,9	0,0	-0,9		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	37,9	37,9	38,5	36,2	37,2	1,0	-0,7		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	41,8	42,3	42,2	39,7	40,9	1,2	-0,9		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	44,3	44,9	43,8	42,7	44,1	1,4	-0,2		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	47,8	48,8	47,2	45,8	47,3	1,5	-0,5		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 2.3: Labour force characteristics by province and metro (continued)

	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Free State - Non Metro									
Population 15-64 years	1 383	1 384	1 385	1 385	1 385	0	2	0,0	0,1
Labour Force	865	859	877	891	892	2	27	0,2	3,2
Employed	505	506	514	540	548	9	44	1,6	8,7
Unemployed	361	353	363	351	344	-7	-16	-1,9	-4,5
Outside the Labour Force	518	525	507	494	493	-2	-25	-0,3	-4,9
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	62,5	62,1	63,4	64,3	64,4	0,1	1,9		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	36,5	36,6	37,1	39,0	39,6	0,6	3,1		
Inactivity rate	37,5	37,9	36,6	35,7	35,6	-0,1	-1,9		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	41,7	41,0	41,4	39,4	38,6	-0,8	-3,1		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	45,6	45,4	44,9	42,8	42,2	-0,6	-3,4		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	48,0	48,0	46,5	44,8	44,9	0,1	-3,1		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	51,5	51,9	49,7	47,9	48,2	0,3	-3,3		
Free State - Mangaung									
Population 15-64 years	558	558	558	559	559	0	1	0,0	0,1
Labour Force	342	355	368	336	335	-1	-7	-0,2	-1,9
Employed	245	247	252	242	223	-19	-23	-8,0	-9,2
Unemployed	96	107	116	93	112	19	16	20,2	16,5
Outside the Labour Force	216	204	191	223	224	1	7	0,3	3,4
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	61,2	63,5	65,8	60,1	59,9	-0,2	-1,3		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	44,0	44,3	45,1	43,4	39,9	-3,5	-4,1		
Inactivity rate	38,8	36,5	34,2	39,9	40,1	0,2	1,3		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	28,2	30,2	31,5	27,8	33,5	5,7	5,3		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	32,0	34,9	35,7	31,4	37,2	5,8	5,2		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	34,9	36,9	37,5	37,3	41,9	4,6	7,0		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	38,4	41,1	41,3	40,4	45,2	4,8	6,8		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 2.3: Labour force characteristics by province and metro (continued)

	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
KwaZulu-Natal									
Population 15-64 years	7 683	7 707	7 732	7 756	7 779	23	96	0,3	1,3
Labour Force	4 051	4 116	4 058	4 035	4 010	-25	-41	-0,6	-1,0
Employed	2 892	2 788	2 702	2 757	2 716	-41	-176	-1,5	-6,1
Unemployed	1 159	1 328	1 356	1 278	1 294	16	135	1,3	11,6
Outside the Labour Force	3 632	3 591	3 674	3 721	3 769	48	138	1,3	3,8
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	52,7	53,4	52,5	52,0	51,5	-0,5	-1,2		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	37,6	36,2	35,0	35,5	34,9	-0,6	-2,7		
Inactivity rate	47,3	46,6	47,5	48,0	48,5	0,5	1,2		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	28,6	32,3	33,4	31,7	32,3	0,6	3,7		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	32,2	35,6	36,3	35,1	34,8	-0,3	2,6		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	44,7	46,9	47,9	46,6	47,1	0,5	2,4		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	47,5	49,5	50,1	49,3	49,1	-0,2	1,6		
KwaZulu-Natal - Non Metro									
Population 15-64 years	4 989	5 003	5 018	5 032	5 046	13	57	0,3	1,1
Labour Force	2 444	2 462	2 420	2 365	2 338	-27	-105	-1,1	-4,3
Employed	1 559	1 487	1 503	1 551	1 448	-103	-111	-6,7	-7,1
Unemployed	885	975	917	814	891	76	6	9,4	0,7
Outside the Labour Force	2 545	2 541	2 598	2 667	2 707	40	163	1,5	6,4
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	49,0	49,2	48,2	47,0	46,3	-0,7	-2,7		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	31,2	29,7	30,0	30,8	28,7	-2,1	-2,5		
Inactivity rate	51,0	50,8	51,8	53,0	53,7	0,7	2,7		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	36,2	39,6	37,9	34,4	38,1	3,7	1,9		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	39,9	43,1	40,9	38,1	41,2	3,1	1,3		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	50,7	52,8	51,8	50,1	52,5	2,4	1,8		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	53,6	55,5	54,1	52,9	54,9	2,0	1,3		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 2.3: Labour force characteristics by province and metro (continued)

	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
KwaZulu-Natal - eThekweni									
Population 15-64 years	2 694	2 704	2 714	2 724	2 733	9	39	0,3	1,5
Labour Force	1 607	1 654	1 638	1 670	1 671	2	64	0,1	4,0
Employed	1 333	1 301	1 199	1 206	1 268	62	-65	5,1	-4,9
Unemployed	274	353	439	464	403	-60	129	-13,0	47,1
Outside the Labour Force	1 087	1 050	1 076	1 054	1 062	8	-25	0,7	-2,3
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	59,7	61,2	60,3	61,3	61,2	-0,1	1,5		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	49,5	48,1	44,2	44,3	46,4	2,1	-3,1		
Inactivity rate	40,3	38,8	39,7	38,7	38,8	0,1	-1,5		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	17,1	21,4	26,8	27,8	24,1	-3,7	7,0		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	20,5	24,5	29,4	30,9	26,0	-4,9	5,5		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	35,7	38,0	42,1	41,5	39,2	-2,3	3,5		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	38,3	40,5	44,2	44,0	40,7	-3,3	2,4		
North West									
Population 15-64 years	2 817	2 826	2 834	2 843	2 851	8	35	0,3	1,2
Labour Force	1 593	1 475	1 493	1 513	1 500	-13	-93	-0,9	-5,8
Employed	935	879	895	937	973	36	38	3,9	4,1
Unemployed	658	596	599	576	527	-49	-131	-8,6	-19,9
Outside the Labour Force	1 224	1 351	1 341	1 330	1 352	21	128	1,6	10,4
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	56,6	52,2	52,7	53,2	52,6	-0,6	-4,0		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	33,2	31,1	31,6	33,0	34,1	1,1	0,9		
Inactivity rate	43,4	47,8	47,3	46,8	47,4	0,6	4,0		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	41,3	40,4	40,1	38,1	35,1	-3,0	-6,2		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	42,6	41,2	40,8	39,3	38,1	-1,2	-4,5		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	52,8	56,0	54,7	52,5	50,9	-1,6	-1,9		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	53,8	56,6	55,3	53,4	53,2	-0,2	-0,6		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 2.3: Labour force characteristics by province and metro (continued)

	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Gauteng									
Population 15-64 years	11 358	11 399	11 440	11 480	11 518	38	160	0,3	1,4
Labour Force	7 748	7 799	7 831	7 823	7 739	-84	-9	-1,1	-0,1
Employed	5 081	5 091	5 186	5 237	5 183	-54	102	-1,0	2,0
Unemployed	2 667	2 708	2 645	2 586	2 556	-30	-111	-1,2	-4,2
Outside the Labour Force	3 610	3 600	3 608	3 657	3 779	122	170	3,3	4,7
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	68,2	68,4	68,5	68,1	67,2	-0,9	-1,0		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	44,7	44,7	45,3	45,6	45,0	-0,6	0,3		
Inactivity rate	31,8	31,6	31,5	31,9	32,8	0,9	1,0		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	34,4	34,7	33,8	33,1	33,0	-0,1	-1,4		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	36,9	37,5	36,0	35,5	35,4	-0,1	-1,5		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	39,9	40,1	39,2	39,6	39,4	-0,2	-0,5		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	42,2	42,6	41,2	41,8	41,6	-0,2	-0,6		
Gauteng - Non Metro									
Population 15-64 years	1 504	1 509	1 515	1 521	1 526	5	22	0,4	1,5
Labour Force	1 049	1 087	1 081	1 062	1 037	-24	-12	-2,3	-1,2
Employed	607	633	650	702	707	5	100	0,7	16,5
Unemployed	443	455	431	359	330	-29	-112	-8,1	-25,4
Outside the Labour Force	454	422	434	459	489	30	35	6,5	7,7
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	69,8	72,0	71,4	69,8	68,0	-1,8	-1,8		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	40,3	41,9	42,9	46,2	46,3	0,1	6,0		
Inactivity rate	30,2	28,0	28,6	30,2	32,0	1,8	1,8		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	42,2	41,8	39,9	33,9	31,8	-2,1	-10,4		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	43,5	43,3	41,4	37,8	33,6	-4,2	-9,9		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	48,6	46,6	45,5	41,7	39,6	-2,1	-9,0		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	49,7	48,0	46,9	45,1	41,1	-4,0	-8,6		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 2.3: Labour force characteristics by province and metro (continued)

	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Gauteng - Ekurhuleni									
Population 15-64 years	2 853	2 863	2 874	2 884	2 894	10	41	0,3	1,4
Labour Force	1 820	1 779	1 838	1 819	1 838	19	18	1,1	1,0
Employed	1 255	1 202	1 200	1 235	1 248	13	-6	1,1	-0,5
Unemployed	566	578	638	584	590	6	25	1,1	4,4
Outside the Labour Force	1 033	1 084	1 036	1 065	1 055	-10	23	-0,9	2,2
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	63,8	62,1	63,9	63,1	63,5	0,4	-0,3		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	44,0	42,0	41,8	42,8	43,1	0,3	-0,9		
Inactivity rate	36,2	37,9	36,1	36,9	36,5	-0,4	0,3		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	31,1	32,5	34,7	32,1	32,1	0,0	1,0		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	32,3	33,6	36,0	33,5	32,9	-0,6	0,6		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	39,2	41,2	42,7	42,2	41,5	-0,7	2,3		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	40,3	42,2	43,8	43,4	42,2	-1,2	1,9		
Gauteng - City of Johannesburg									
Population 15-64 years	4 212	4 227	4 242	4 256	4 270	14	58	0,3	1,4
Labour Force	2 965	3 010	2 983	3 001	2 891	-109	-74	-3,6	-2,5
Employed	1 935	1 977	2 000	1 963	1 915	-49	-20	-2,5	-1,1
Unemployed	1 030	1 032	983	1 037	976	-61	-53	-5,9	-5,2
Outside the Labour Force	1 247	1 217	1 259	1 255	1 379	123	132	9,8	10,6
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	70,4	71,2	70,3	70,5	67,7	-2,8	-2,7		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	45,9	46,8	47,1	46,1	44,8	-1,3	-1,1		
Inactivity rate	29,6	28,8	29,7	29,5	32,3	2,8	2,7		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	34,7	34,3	33,0	34,6	33,8	-0,8	-0,9		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	38,1	37,7	35,9	37,0	37,4	0,4	-0,7		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	38,6	38,0	37,3	39,2	38,9	-0,3	0,3		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	41,7	41,3	40,0	41,5	42,2	0,7	0,5		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 2.3: Labour force characteristics by province and metro (continued)

	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Gauteng - City of Tshwane									
Population 15-64 years	2 789	2 799	2 809	2 819	2 828	9	39	0,3	1,4
Labour Force	1 913	1 923	1 929	1 941	1 972	30	59	1,6	3,1
Employed	1 285	1 279	1 336	1 336	1 313	-23	28	-1,7	2,2
Unemployed	628	644	593	605	659	53	30	8,8	4,8
Outside the Labour Force	876	876	880	878	856	-21	-19	-2,4	-2,2
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	68,6	68,7	68,7	68,9	69,7	0,8	1,1		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	46,1	45,7	47,6	47,4	46,4	-1,0	0,3		
Inactivity rate	31,4	31,3	31,3	31,1	30,3	-0,8	-1,1		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	32,8	33,5	30,8	31,2	33,4	2,2	0,6		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	35,8	37,3	33,0	33,7	35,7	2,0	-0,1		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	37,8	38,4	35,0	36,3	38,1	1,8	0,3		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	40,6	41,9	37,1	38,7	40,2	1,5	-0,4		
Mpumalanga									
Population 15-64 years	3 189	3 199	3 209	3 219	3 228	9	40	0,3	1,2
Labour Force	1 920	1 876	1 853	1 889	1 895	6	-26	0,3	-1,3
Employed	1 255	1 212	1 223	1 246	1 283	37	29	3,0	2,3
Unemployed	666	664	631	643	611	-31	-54	-4,9	-8,1
Outside the Labour Force	1 268	1 323	1 356	1 330	1 333	3	65	0,2	5,1
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	60,2	58,6	57,8	58,7	58,7	0,0	-1,5		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	39,3	37,9	38,1	38,7	39,8	1,1	0,5		
Inactivity rate	39,8	41,4	42,2	41,3	41,3	0,0	1,5		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	34,7	35,4	34,0	34,0	32,3	-1,7	-2,4		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	38,2	39,7	37,6	38,6	35,7	-2,9	-2,5		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	47,2	49,3	48,4	47,5	46,3	-1,2	-0,9		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	50,0	52,7	51,2	51,1	49,0	-2,1	-1,0		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 2.3: Labour force characteristics by province and metro (concluded)

	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Limpopo									
Population 15-64 years	4 061	4 074	4 086	4 098	4 110	11	48	0,3	1,2
Labour Force	2 267	2 231	2 329	2 214	2 160	-54	-107	-2,4	-4,7
Employed	1 543	1 488	1 515	1 555	1 552	-3	9	-0,2	0,6
Unemployed	724	743	814	659	609	-50	-116	-7,6	-16,0
Outside the Labour Force	1 794	1 843	1 757	1 884	1 949	65	155	3,4	8,6
Key rates in relation to the working-age population									
Labour force participation rate	55,8	54,8	57,0	54,0	52,6	-1,4	-3,2		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	38,0	36,5	37,1	37,9	37,8	-0,1	-0,2		
Inactivity rate	44,2	45,2	43,0	46,0	47,4	1,4	3,2		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	31,9	33,3	35,0	29,8	28,2	-1,6	-3,7		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	37,0	37,4	39,4	34,4	33,3	-1,1	-3,7		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	46,5	48,6	47,7	45,1	46,1	1,0	-0,4		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	50,5	51,8	51,3	48,7	50,0	1,3	-0,5		

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 3.1: Employed by industry and sex - South Africa

	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Both sexes	17 078	16 787	16 807	17 055	17 099	44	21	0,3	0,1
Agriculture	924	930	906	920	950	30	26	3,3	2,8
Mining	466	431	434	449	444	-5	-22	-1,2	-4,7
Manufacturing	1 675	1 677	1 672	1 610	1 548	-61	-127	-3,8	-7,6
Utilities	111	145	139	109	134	24	23	22,4	20,9
Construction	1 359	1 240	1 259	1 390	1 425	35	65	2,5	4,8
Trade	3 421	3 228	3 315	3 424	3 326	-98	-95	-2,9	-2,8
Transport	1 064	1 131	1 115	1 113	1 140	28	76	2,5	7,2
Finance	2 948	3 008	2 983	2 930	2 962	32	14	1,1	0,5
Community and social services	3 959	3 914	3 872	3 988	4 034	46	75	1,2	1,9
Private households	1 146	1 078	1 106	1 111	1 129	18	-17	1,6	-1,5
Other	5	6	4	11	7	-4	2	-36,7	40,1
Women	7 636	7 412	7 400	7 429	7 470	41	-165	0,5	-2,2
Agriculture	296	279	257	272	281	9	-15	3,3	-5,1
Mining	88	86	73	72	81	9	-7	13,0	-7,6
Manufacturing	642	589	570	543	543	-1	-100	-0,1	-15,5
Utilities	33	50	43	30	34	4	1	14,6	4,0
Construction	152	140	143	142	148	7	-4	4,7	-2,5
Trade	1 634	1 505	1 527	1 606	1 559	-46	-75	-2,9	-4,6
Transport	200	223	183	201	195	-6	-5	-3,1	-2,6
Finance	1 257	1 279	1 333	1 264	1 260	-4	3	-0,3	0,2
Community and social services	2 478	2 430	2 429	2 478	2 522	44	44	1,8	1,8
Private households	856	830	840	819	844	24	-12	3,0	-1,4
Other		2	1	3	3	0		13,8	

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 3.1: Employed by industry and sex - South Africa (concluded)									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Men	9 442	9 375	9 407	9 625	9 629	3	186	0,0	2,0
Agriculture	628	651	648	648	669	21	41	3,2	6,6
Mining	378	345	360	377	363	-15	-15	-3,9	-4,0
Manufacturing	1 033	1 088	1 102	1 066	1 006	-61	-27	-5,7	-2,6
Utilities	78	96	96	79	100	20	22	25,4	28,1
Construction	1 207	1 099	1 117	1 248	1 276	28	69	2,3	5,7
Trade	1 787	1 722	1 788	1 818	1 766	-52	-21	-2,8	-1,2
Transport	864	908	932	912	946	34	82	3,7	9,4
Finance	1 691	1 729	1 650	1 666	1 702	36	11	2,2	0,6
Community and social services	1 481	1 484	1 444	1 510	1 513	2	31	0,2	2,1
Private households	291	248	266	292	285	-7	-6	-2,4	-1,9
Other	5	5	4	8	4	-5	-1	-55,3	-27,9

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 3.2: Employed by industry and province									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Agriculture	924	930	906	920	950	30	26	3,3	2,8
Western Cape	193	244	202	190	215	25	22	12,9	11,3
Eastern Cape	90	78	99	104	83	-21	-7	-20,2	-8,2
Northern Cape	52	62	38	42	59	17	7	39,7	12,9
Free State	66	64	85	71	92	20	25	28,6	38,4
KwaZulu-Natal	152	132	118	122	139	17	-13	14,3	-8,7
North West	63	58	67	70	65	-5	2	-7,3	2,4
Gauteng	49	38	25	39	42	3	-7	7,8	-14,1
Mpumalanga	131	116	126	113	114	2	-16	1,5	-12,6
Limpopo	128	138	146	170	142	-27	15	-16,2	11,6
Mining	466	431	434	449	444	-5	-22	-1,2	-4,7
Western Cape	10	6	3	6	5	-1	-5	-16,6	-47,9
Eastern Cape	1		1						
Northern Cape	39	37	32	35	28	-7	-12	-20,5	-29,5
Free State	20	21	25	26	26	0	6	0,2	29,3
KwaZulu-Natal	4	9	6	10	10	0	6	3,5	140,9
North West	107	110	98	99	100	1	-8	1,3	-7,2
Gauteng	88	81	93	101	100	-2	11	-1,5	12,8
Mpumalanga	70	55	50	58	63	5	-7	8,4	-10,3
Limpopo	126	112	126	115	113	-2	-13	-1,8	-10,4

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 3.2: Employed by industry and province (continued)									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Manufacturing	1 675	1 677	1 672	1 610	1 548	-61	-127	-3,8	-7,6
Western Cape	307	337	301	296	320	24	13	8,2	4,3
Eastern Cape	139	135	146	118	112	-6	-27	-5,2	-19,5
Northern Cape	11	11	15	18	8	-9	-3	-53,6	-25,2
Free State	46	62	52	47	47	0	2	0,1	3,4
KwaZulu-Natal	368	331	355	364	344	-20	-24	-5,5	-6,4
North West	45	48	45	63	67	4	22	6,9	48,7
Gauteng	568	548	548	526	491	-35	-77	-6,7	-13,5
Mpumalanga	106	109	99	83	66	-18	-40	-21,3	-37,9
Limpopo	86	96	110	95	93	-1	7	-1,6	7,8
Utilities	111	145	139	109	134	24	23	22,4	20,9
Western Cape	10	11	12	9	13	4	3	49,3	28,7
Eastern Cape	9	13	9	4	10	7	2	197,5	23,5
Northern Cape	5	3	4	4	5	1	0	28,4	-6,8
Free State	5	4	2	2	2	0	-3	-2,3	-62,0
KwaZulu-Natal	5	17	19	7	12	4	6	56,8	121,7
North West	6	1	3	3	3	0	-3	4,4	-43,9
Gauteng	29	43	41	36	36	-1	7	-1,5	23,8
Mpumalanga	26	31	33	31	35	4	9	13,7	36,1
Limpopo	16	22	16	13	17	4	2	30,1	10,6

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 3.2: Employed by industry and province (continued)									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Construction	1 359	1 240	1 259	1 390	1 425	35	65	2,5	4,8
Western Cape	245	245	224	259	267	8	22	3,0	8,9
Eastern Cape	126	111	132	117	117	-1	-10	-0,8	-7,6
Northern Cape	19	18	19	25	22	-2	3	-8,7	16,3
Free State	54	53	45	60	55	-5	1	-8,9	1,1
KwaZulu-Natal	240	200	212	235	235	0	-5	-0,1	-2,1
North West	73	65	74	62	73	11	-1	16,8	-0,7
Gauteng	340	334	325	372	400	28	60	7,7	17,7
Mpumalanga	97	90	97	101	113	12	16	11,9	16,2
Limpopo	164	124	131	158	143	-15	-21	-9,6	-12,7
Trade	3 421	3 228	3 315	3 424	3 326	-98	-95	-2,9	-2,8
Western Cape	509	492	535	559	557	-3	47	-0,5	9,3
Eastern Cape	295	232	292	273	296	24	1	8,7	0,4
Northern Cape	58	55	57	52	56	4	-2	7,2	-3,6
Free State	144	148	144	152	157	5	13	3,5	9,2
KwaZulu-Natal	595	579	533	548	501	-48	-94	-8,7	-15,8
North West	203	153	159	170	172	2	-31	1,5	-15,1
Gauteng	1 029	1 027	1 062	1 059	986	-73	-43	-6,9	-4,2
Mpumalanga	241	226	223	265	286	21	45	7,8	18,7
Limpopo	347	315	311	346	315	-31	-32	-9,0	-9,3

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 3.2: Employed by industry and province (continued)									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Transport	1 064	1 131	1 115	1 113	1 140	28	76	2,5	7,2
Western Cape	184	195	181	199	191	-8	7	-3,9	3,8
Eastern Cape	101	117	105	86	81	-4	-19	-5,1	-19,2
Northern Cape	12	5	6	7	10	3	-2	44,8	-13,8
Free State	38	28	29	42	36	-7	-3	-16,4	-7,2
KwaZulu-Natal	176	176	181	196	221	24	44	12,4	25,2
North West	36	48	44	28	28	0	-8	1,8	-21,2
Gauteng	377	425	430	409	430	21	53	5,1	14,1
Mpumalanga	67	68	67	62	55	-6		-10,1	-16,6
Limpopo	74	69	71	84	88	4	14	5,0	19,2
Finance	2 948	3 008	2 983	2 930	2 962	32	14	1,1	0,5
Western Cape	587	595	550	569	573	4	-14	0,7	-2,3
Eastern Cape	185	193	187	193	172	-21	-13	-10,8	-7,1
Northern Cape	49	42	34	29	37	8	-12	26,3	-25,3
Free State	94	101	99	94	80	-15	-14	-15,5	-15,2
KwaZulu-Natal	424	461	441	395	416	21	-8	5,2	-1,9
North West	128	122	121	130	143	13	15	10,0	11,7
Gauteng	1 182	1 193	1 223	1 210	1 202	-8	20	-0,7	1,7
Mpumalanga	148	157	166	179	184	4	36	2,5	24,4
Limpopo	152	145	163	131	156	26	4	19,6	2,7

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 3.2: Employed by industry and province (concluded)									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Community and social services	3 959	3 914	3 872	3 988	4 034	46	75	1,2	1,9
Western Cape	608	576	571	558	609	51	1	9,2	0,2
Eastern Cape	397	408	386	421	413	-8	15	-2,0	3,9
Northern Cape	90	87	90	88	94	6	4	7,2	4,5
Free State	216	201	214	222	205	-18	-12	-8,0	-5,4
KwaZulu-Natal	711	686	654	676	648	-28	-64	-4,1	-8,9
North West	222	221	235	256	254	-2	32	-0,9	14,4
Gauteng	1 067	1 088	1 111	1 139	1 166	26	99	2,3	9,3
Mpumalanga	285	278	275	271	275	4	-10	1,5	-3,5
Limpopo	363	370	336	357	371	14	9	4,1	2,4
Private households	1 146	1 078	1 106	1 111	1 129	18	-17	1,6	-1,5
Western Cape	158	158	165	164	153	-11	-5	-6,5	-3,1
Eastern Cape	113	86	106	92	93	1	-20	1,3	-17,8
Northern Cape	19	22	17	21	18	-2	-1	-11,6	-5,0
Free State	67	72	71	65	72	7	5	10,9	7,5
KwaZulu-Natal	216	197	184	202	191	-11	-25	-5,5	-11,6
North West	52	55	49	57	68	11	16	19,1	30,2
Gauteng	349	309	324	342	330	-13	-19	-3,7	-5,5
Mpumalanga	85	82	85	83	92	9	7	11,4	8,2
Limpopo	88	96	104	87	113	26	25	29,5	28,4

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 3.3: Employed by sector and industry - South Africa									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Total employed				17 055	17 099	44		0,3	
Formal and informal sector*				15 944	15 970	27		0,2	
Agriculture				920	950	30		3,3	
Mining				449	444	-5		-1,2	
Manufacturing				1 610	1 548	-61		-3,8	
Utilities				109	134	24		22,4	
Construction				1 390	1 425	35		2,5	
Trade				3 424	3 326	-98		-2,9	
Transport				1 113	1 140	28		2,5	
Finance				2 930	2 962	32		1,1	
Community and social services				3 988	4 034	46		1,2	
Other				11	7	-4		-36,7	
Formal sector*				11 983	12 303	320		2,7	
Agriculture				575	683	109		18,9	
Mining				434	435	1		0,2	
Manufacturing				1 300	1 297	-4		-0,3	
Utilities				106	131	25		23,1	
Construction				711	738	28		3,9	
Trade				2 136	2 138	2		0,1	
Transport				678	703	24		3,6	
Finance				2 547	2 618	71		2,8	
Community and social services				3 490	3 553	63		1,8	
Other				6	6	1		15,3	

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 3.3: Employed by sector and industry - South Africa (concluded)									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Informal sector*				3 961	3 667	-293		-7,4	
Agriculture				346	267	-79		-22,7	
Mining				15	9	-6		-41,5	
Manufacturing				309	252	-58		-18,6	
Utilities				3	3	0		-1,5	
Construction				679	686	7		1,0	
Trade				1 288	1 188	-100		-7,8	
Transport				435	438	3		0,8	
Finance				383	343	-39		-10,3	
Community and social services				498	481	-17		-3,4	
Other				6	1	-5		-87,2	
Household sector	1 146	1 078	1 106	1 111	1 129	18	-17	1,6	-1,5

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 3.4: Employed by province, metro and sector									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
South Africa	17 078	16 787	16 807	17 055	17 099	44	21	0,3	0,1
Formal sector*				11 983	12 303	320		2,7	
Informal sector*				3 961	3 667	-293		-7,4	
Household sector	1 146	1 078	1 106	1 111	1 129	18	-17	1,6	-1,5
Western Cape	2 812	2 861	2 744	2 814	2 907	93	95	3,3	3,4
Formal sector*				2 165	2 274	109		5,0	
Informal sector*				484	480	-5		-1,0	
Household sector	158	158	165	164	153	-11	-5	-6,5	-3,1
Western Cape - Non-Metro	1 030	1 034	958	987	1 012	25	-18	2,5	-1,7
Formal sector*				741	783	42		5,7	
Informal sector*				188	169	-18		-9,8	
Household sector	64	58	56	59	59	1	-5	1,3	-7,8
Western Cape - City of Cape Town	1 782	1 827	1 786	1 826	1 895	69	113	3,8	6,4
Formal sector*				1 424	1 491	67		4,7	
Informal sector*				297	310	14		4,6	
Household sector	94	101	110	105	94	-11	0	-10,8	0,0
Eastern Cape	1 455	1 373	1 462	1 408	1 377	-32	-79	-2,2	-5,4
Formal sector*				946	957	12		1,3	
Informal sector*				371	327	-45		-12,0	
Household sector	113	86	106	92	93	1	-20	1,3	-17,8

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 3.4: Employed by province, metro and sector (continued)									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Eastern Cape - Non-Metro	774	743	760	768	731	-37	-43	-4,8	-5,5
Formal sector*				472	442	-30		-6,4	
Informal sector*				236	228	-9		-3,6	
Household sector	67	57	59	60	62	2	-5	3,1	-7,8
Eastern Cape - Buffalo City	281	252	282	276	286	10	5	3,7	1,9
Formal sector*				185	218	33		18,0	
Informal sector*				78	51	-26		-33,8	
Household sector	27	9	21	14	17	3	-10	22,7	-37,2
Eastern Cape - Nelson Mandela bay	401	378	420	364	360	-5	-41	-1,3	-10,3
Formal sector*				289	298	9		3,1	
Informal sector*				57	47	-10		-17,1	
Household sector	19	20	25	18	14	-4	-5	-20,8	-25,5
Northern Cape	355	343	314	319	337	17	-18	5,5	-5,0
Formal sector*				255	287	32		12,7	
Informal sector*				44	32	-13		-28,4	
Household sector	19	22	17	21	18	-2	-1	-11,6	-5,0
Free State	750	754	766	782	771	-11	21	-1,4	2,8
Formal sector*				553	541	-12		-2,2	
Informal sector*				164	159	-6		-3,5	
Household sector	67	72	71	65	72	7	5	10,9	7,5

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 3.4: Employed by province, metro and sector (continued)									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Free State - Non-Metro	505	506	514	540	548	9	44	1,6	8,7
Formal sector*				373	380	7		1,9	
Informal sector*				120	117	-3		-2,7	
Household sector	45	51	56	46	51	5	6	10,8	13,6
Free State - Mangaung	245	247	252	242	223	-19	-23	-8,0	-9,2
Formal sector*				180	161	-19		-10,7	
Informal sector*				44	42	-2		-5,4	
Household sector	21	21	15	18	20	2	-1	11,3	-5,1
KwaZulu-Natal	2 892	2 788	2 702	2 757	2 716	-41	-176	-1,5	-6,1
Formal sector*				1 781	1 832	51		2,9	
Informal sector*				774	693	-81		-10,5	
Household sector	216	197	184	202	191	-11	-25	-5,5	-11,6
KwaZulu-Natal - Non-Metro	1 559	1 487	1 503	1 551	1 448	-103	-111	-6,7	-7,1
Formal sector*				982	957	-25		-2,5	
Informal sector*				463	399	-64		-13,8	
Household sector	119	105	97	106	92	-14	-28	-13,5	-23,1
KwaZulu-Natal - eThekweni	1 333	1 301	1 199	1 206	1 268	62	-65	5,1	-4,9
Formal sector*				799	875	76		9,5	
Informal sector*				311	294	-17		-5,5	
Household sector	97	93	87	96	99	3	3	3,4	2,7

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 3.4: Employed by province, metro and sector (continued)									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
North West	935	879	895	937	973	36	38	3,9	4,1
Formal sector*				649	657	8		1,2	
Informal sector*				231	248	17		7,5	
Household sector	52	55	49	57	68	11	16	19,1	30,2
Gauteng	5 081	5 091	5 186	5 237	5 183	-54	102	-1,0	2,0
Formal sector*				3 871	3 943	71		1,8	
Informal sector*				1 023	911	-112		-11,0	
Household sector	349	309	324	342	330	-13	-19	-3,7	-5,5
Gauteng - Non-Metro	607	633	650	702	707	5	100	0,7	16,5
Formal sector*				555	572	17		3,1	
Informal sector*				108	98	-9		-8,5	
Household sector	42	38	36	40	37	-3	-6	-7,7	-13,4
Gauteng - Ekurhuleni	1 255	1 202	1 200	1 235	1 248	13	-6	1,1	-0,5
Formal sector*				969	990	21		2,2	
Informal sector*				211	207	-4		-1,9	
Household sector	69	62	58	54	51	-4	-18	-7,0	-26,2
Gauteng - City of Johannesburg	1 935	1 977	2 000	1 963	1 915	-49	-20	-2,5	-1,1
Formal sector*				1 341	1 328	-13		-1,0	
Informal sector*				473	439	-34		-7,2	
Household sector	148	128	142	149	147	-2	-1	-1,2	-0,6

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 3.4: Employed by province, metro and sector (concluded)									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Gauteng - City of Tshwane	1 285	1 279	1 336	1 336	1 313	-23	28	-1,7	2,2
Formal sector*				1 006	1 053	46		4,6	
Informal sector*				231	166	-65		-28,3	
Household sector	90	82	87	99	95	-4	5	-4,1	6,0
Mpumalanga	1 255	1 212	1 223	1 246	1 283	37	29	3,0	2,3
Formal sector*				838	839	1		0,1	
Informal sector*				326	353	27		8,3	
Household sector	85	82	85	83	92	9	7	11,4	8,2
Limpopo	1 543	1 488	1 515	1 555	1 552	-3	9	-0,2	0,6
Formal sector*				925	973	47		5,1	
Informal sector*				542	466	-76		-14,1	
Household sector	88	96	104	87	113	26	25	29,5	28,4

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 3.5: Employed by sex and occupation - South Africa									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Both sexes	17 078	16 787	16 807	17 055	17 099	44	21	0,3	0,1
Manager	1 496	1 430	1 507	1 453	1 433	-20	-62	-1,3	-4,2
Professional	869	980	983	909	952	43	83	4,7	9,6
Technician	1 398	1 503	1 565	1 488	1 575	87	177	5,9	12,7
Clerk	1 897	1 854	1 813	1 856	1 820	-36	-77	-1,9	-4,0
Sales and services	2 949	2 929	2 875	3 073	3 079	7	130	0,2	4,4
Skilled agriculture	71	62	47	97	60	-37	-12	-38,6	-16,4
Craft and related trade	1 932	1 862	1 858	1 991	1 943	-48	11	-2,4	0,6
Plant and machine operator	1 389	1 386	1 396	1 413	1 427	14	38	1,0	2,7
Elementary	4 215	3 964	3 923	3 903	3 916	14	-299	0,3	-7,1
Domestic worker	861	818	839	848	855	7	-7	0,8	-0,8
Other	1			25	39	13	37	52,7	2898,7
Women	7 636	7 412	7 400	7 429	7 470	41	-165	0,5	-2,2
Manager	532	480	501	508	497	-12	-36	-2,3	-6,7
Professional	479	517	563	495	550	55	71	11,0	14,7
Technician	724	758	784	726	807	81	84	11,2	11,6
Clerk	1 380	1 321	1 299	1 341	1 312	-29	-68	-2,2	-4,9
Sales and services	1 457	1 466	1 422	1 550	1 546	-4	89	-0,3	6,1
Skilled agriculture	24	14	11	25	24	-1	0	-3,9	-1,2
Craft and related trade	275	243	258	257	234	-23	-41	-8,8	-14,9
Plant and machine operator	192	196	166	180	165	-15	-27	-8,4	-14,3
Elementary	1 759	1 637	1 593	1 539	1 509	-30	-250	-2,0	-14,2
Domestic worker	813	780	802	798	813	15	0	1,9	0,0
Other				10	14	4		38,4	

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 3.5: Employed by sex and occupation - South Africa (concluded)									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Men	9 442	9 375	9 407	9 625	9 629	3	186	0,0	2,0
Manager	963	950	1 007	945	937	-8	-27	-0,8	-2,8
Professional	389	463	420	414	402	-12	12	-2,9	3,2
Technician	674	744	781	762	768	6	93	0,8	13,8
Clerk	517	533	514	515	508	-7	-9	-1,3	-1,7
Sales and services	1 492	1 462	1 452	1 523	1 533	11	41	0,7	2,8
Skilled agriculture	47	48	36	72	36	-36	-11	-50,4	-24,0
Craft and related trade	1 656	1 618	1 601	1 734	1 709	-25	52	-1,5	3,2
Plant and machine operator	1 197	1 190	1 230	1 233	1 263	29	66	2,4	5,5
Elementary	2 456	2 327	2 330	2 363	2 407	44	-49	1,9	-2,0
Domestic worker	48	38	37	50	42	-8	-6	-15,4	-13,3
Other	1			15	25	9	23	62,1	1812,8

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 3.6: Employed by sex and status in employment 19th ICLS (ICSE-93) - South Africa									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Both sexes	17 078	16 787	16 807	17 055	17 099	44	21	0,3	0,1
Employee	14 087	13 797	13 836	14 093	14 269	176	181	1,2	1,3
Employer	966	953	947	776	805	29	-161	3,7	-16,7
Own-account worker	1 932	1 926	1 926	2 069	1 931	-138	-1	-6,7	-0,1
Unpaid household member	92	111	97	117	94	-22	2	-19,0	2,5
Women	7 636	7 412	7 400	7 429	7 470	41	-165	0,5	-2,2
Employee	6 516	6 372	6 351	6 385	6 513	129	-3	2,0	0,0
Employer	245	224	220	172	164	-8	-81	-4,6	-33,0
Own-account worker	824	755	781	816	748	-68	-77	-8,3	-9,3
Unpaid household member	50	61	49	57	45	-12	-5	-21,4	-9,5
Men	9 442	9 375	9 407	9 625	9 629	3	186	0,0	2,0
Employee	7 571	7 425	7 486	7 709	7 755	47	184	0,6	2,4
Employer	721	729	728	603	640	37	-80	6,1	-11,1
Own-account worker	1 108	1 171	1 145	1 254	1 183	-70	75	-5,6	6,8
Unpaid household member	43	50	48	60	50	-10	7	-16,8	16,3

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 3.6b: Employed by sex and status in employment (ICSE-18 Type of authority) - South Africa									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Both sexes				17 055	17 099	44		0,3	
Employers				788	825	37		4,7	
Independent workers without employees				1 738	1 611	-127		-7,3	
Dependent contractors				642	540	-102		-15,9	
Employees				13 826	14 084	258		1,9	
Contributing family workers				61	39	-22		-35,8	
Women				7 429	7 470	41		0,5	
Employers				179	177	-2		-1,3	
Independent workers without employees				704	640	-64		-9,0	
Dependent contractors				208	176	-31		-15,1	
Employees				6 311	6 460	149		2,4	
Contributing family workers				28	17	-11		-39,8	
Men				9 625	9 629	3		0,0	
Employers				608	648	40		6,5	
Independent workers without employees				1 034	971	-63		-6,1	
Dependent contractors				434	363	-71		-16,3	
Employees				7 516	7 624	109		1,4	
Contributing family workers				33	22	-11		-32,4	

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 3.6c: Employed by sex and status in employment (ICSE-18 detailed) - South Africa

	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Both sexes				17 055	17 099	44		0,3	
Employers in corporations				195	173	-21		-11,0	
Employers in household market units				593	652	59		9,9	
Owners-operators of corporations without employees				96	78	-18		-18,8	
Own-account workers in household market units				1 642	1 533	-109		-6,6	
Dependent contractors				642	540	-102		-15,9	
Permanent employees				11 616	12 022	407		3,5	
Fixed-term employees				1 559	1 491	-68		-4,3	
Short term and casual employees				291	291	0		0,1	
Paid apprentices, trainees and interns				87	66	-22		-24,9	
Employees not elsewhere classified				274	214	-60		-21,8	
Contributing family workers				61	39	-22		-35,8	
Women				7 429	7 470	41		0,5	
Employers in corporations				49	55	6		12,9	
Employers in household market units				131	122	-9		-6,6	
Owners-operators of corporations without employees				28	21	-8		-27,3	
Own-account workers in household market units				676	620	-56		-8,3	
Dependent contractors				208	176	-31		-15,1	
Permanent employees				5 257	5 478	221		4,2	
Fixed-term employees				796	747	-49		-6,2	
Short term and casual employees				99	121	22		22,2	
Paid apprentices, trainees and interns				50	40	-10		-20,0	
Employees not elsewhere classified				108	73	-35		-32,3	
Contributing family workers				28	17	-11		-39,8	

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 36c: Employed by sex and status in employment (ICSE-18 detailed) - South Africa (concluded)									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Men				9 593	9 606	14		0,1	
Employees not elsewhere classified				166	141	-25		-15,0	
Employers in corporations				146	118	-28		-18,9	
Employers in household market units				462	530	67		14,5	
Owners-operators of corporations without employees				67	57	-10		-15,3	
Own-account workers in household market units				967	914	-53		-5,5	
Dependent contractors				434	363	-71		-16,3	
Permanent employees				6 359	6 544	185		2,9	
Fixed-term employees				762	744	-18		-2,4	
Short term and casual employees				192	170	-22		-11,2	
Paid apprentices, trainees and interns				37	25	-12		-31,5	
Contributing family workers				33	22	-11		-32,4	

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 3.7: Employed by sex and usual hours of work - South Africa									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Both sexes	17 078	16 787	16 807	17 055	17 099	44	21	0,3	0,1
Working less than 15 hours per week	509	518	496	585	433	-152	-75	-26,0	-14,8
Working 15-29 hours per week	1 256	1 230	1 179	1 111	1 073	-38	-183	-3,4	-14,6
Working 30-39 hours per week	1 230	1 195	1 079	1 176	1 168	-8	-62	-0,7	-5,1
Working 40-45 hours per week	9 554	9 375	9 402	9 556	9 858	302	304	3,2	3,2
Working more than 45 hours per week	4 529	4 470	4 650	4 626	4 566	-60	36	-1,3	0,8
Women	7 636	7 412	7 400	7 429	7 470	41	-165	0,5	-2,2
Working less than 15 hours per week	260	277	283	327	219	-108	-41	-32,9	-15,6
Working 15-29 hours per week	782	751	729	647	650	2	-132	0,4	-16,9
Working 30-39 hours per week	684	677	597	657	701	44	17	6,7	2,5
Working 40-45 hours per week	4 386	4 240	4 248	4 352	4 453	101	67	2,3	1,5
Working more than 45 hours per week	1 523	1 468	1 542	1 446	1 445	-1	-78	0,0	-5,1
Men	9 442	9 375	9 407	9 625	9 629	3	186	0,0	2,0
Working less than 15 hours per week	249	242	212	258	214	-45	-35	-17,3	-14,0
Working 15-29 hours per week	474	479	450	464	424	-40	-51	-8,6	-10,7
Working 30-39 hours per week	546	518	482	519	466	-53	-79	-10,2	-14,5
Working 40-45 hours per week	5 168	5 134	5 154	5 204	5 405	201	237	3,9	4,6
Working more than 45 hours per week	3 006	3 002	3 108	3 180	3 120	-60	114	-1,9	3,8

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 3.8: Conditions of employment based on ICSE-93 - South Africa									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Pension/retirement fund contribution									
Both sexes	14 087	13 797	13 836	14 093	14 269	176	181	1,2	1,3
Yes	6 305	6 290	6 194	6 180	6 337	157	31	2,5	0,5
No	7 398	7 107	7 236	7 433	7 487	55	89	0,7	1,2
Don't know	384	400	407	481	445	-36	61	-7,5	15,8
Women	6 516	6 372	6 351	6 385	6 513	129	-3	2,0	0,0
Yes	2 856	2 846	2 825	2 837	2 907	69	50	2,4	1,8
No	3 510	3 340	3 340	3 325	3 424	99	-86	3,0	-2,4
Don't know	150	186	185	222	183	-39	32	-17,7	21,6
Men	7 571	7 425	7 486	7 709	7 755	47	184	0,6	2,4
Yes	3 449	3 445	3 368	3 343	3 430	87	-19	2,6	-0,6
No	3 888	3 767	3 896	4 108	4 064	-44	175	-1,1	4,5
Don't know	234	214	222	258	262	3	28	1,3	12,0
Entitled to any paid leave									
Both sexes	14 087	13 797	13 836	14 093	14 269	176	181	1,2	1,3
Yes	9 303	9 352	9 219	9 166	9 562	395	259	4,3	2,8
No	4 594	4 278	4 437	4 722	4 498	-224	-96	-4,8	-2,1
Don't know	191	167	181	205	209	5	19	2,2	9,8
Women	6 516	6 372	6 351	6 385	6 513	129	-3	2,0	0,0
Yes	4 350	4 350	4 311	4 260	4 438	178	88	4,2	2,0
No	2 093	1 964	1 967	2 021	1 997	-24	-97	-1,2	-4,6
Don't know	73	59	73	104	79	-25	6	-24,1	8,1
Men	7 571	7 425	7 486	7 709	7 755	47	184	0,6	2,4
Yes	4 952	5 002	4 909	4 906	5 124	218	171	4,4	3,5
No	2 501	2 314	2 469	2 702	2 501	-200	0	-7,4	0,0
Don't know	118	109	108	101	130	29	13	29,2	10,8

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals. Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Quarter 4: 2025

Table 3.8: Conditions of employment based on ICSE-93 - South Africa (concluded)									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Entitled to paid sick leave									
Both sexes	14 087	13 797	13 836	14 093	14 269	176	181	1,2	1,3
Yes	10 027	10 052	9 982	10 078	10 483	405	456	4,0	4,5
No	3 868	3 578	3 687	3 820	3 569	-251	-300	-6,6	-7,7
Don't know	192	168	167	196	217	22	25	11,0	13,2
Women	6 516	6 372	6 351	6 385	6 513	129	-3	2,0	0,0
Yes	4 684	4 678	4 619	4 648	4 841	193	157	4,2	3,4
No	1 756	1 636	1 661	1 645	1 584	-61	-172	-3,7	-9,8
Don't know	77	58	71	92	89	-3	12	-3,0	15,4
Men	7 571	7 425	7 486	7 709	7 755	47	184	0,6	2,4
Yes	5 343	5 373	5 364	5 430	5 642	212	299	3,9	5,6
No	2 113	1 942	2 026	2 175	1 985	-190	-128	-8,7	-6,0
Don't know	115	110	96	104	128	24	13	23,4	11,7
Entitled to maternity/paternity leave									
Both sexes	14 087	13 797	13 836	14 093	14 269	176	181	1,2	1,3
Yes	7 810	7 805	7 725	7 892	8 131	238	321	3,0	4,1
No	5 912	5 635	5 762	5 807	5 697	-110	-215	-1,9	-3,6
Don't know	366	357	349	394	441	47	75	12,0	20,6
Women	6 516	6 372	6 351	6 385	6 513	129	-3	2,0	0,0
Yes	3 785	3 817	3 773	3 874	3 971	97	186	2,5	4,9
No	2 593	2 425	2 447	2 343	2 369	26	-223	1,1	-8,6
Don't know	139	131	130	168	174	6	34	3,4	24,8
Men	7 571	7 425	7 486	7 709	7 755	47	184	0,6	2,4
Yes	4 025	3 988	3 951	4 019	4 160	141	135	3,5	3,4
No	3 319	3 211	3 315	3 464	3 328	-136	8	-3,9	0,3
Don't know	227	226	219	226	268	41	41	18,3	18,0

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.

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

Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Quarter 4: 2025

Table 3.8b: Conditions of employment based on ICSE-93 - South Africa									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
UIF contribution									
Both sexes	14 087	13 797	13 836	14 093	14 269	176	181	1,2	1,3
Yes	8 571	8 446	8 532	8 737	8 937	200	365	2,3	4,3
No	5 184	5 042	4 993	4 993	4 962	-31	-223	-0,6	-4,3
Don't know	332	309	312	364	370	7	39	1,8	11,6
Women	6 516	6 372	6 351	6 385	6 513	129	-3	2,0	0,0
Yes	3 790	3 735	3 760	3 833	3 923	90	133	2,4	3,5
No	2 589	2 494	2 447	2 367	2 423	55	-167	2,3	-6,4
Don't know	137	143	143	184	168	-17	30	-9,0	22,1
Men	7 571	7 425	7 486	7 709	7 755	47	184	0,6	2,4
Yes	4 782	4 711	4 772	4 904	5 014	110	232	2,2	4,9
No	2 595	2 548	2 546	2 626	2 539	-86	-56	-3,3	-2,2
Don't know	194	166	168	179	203	23	8	13,0	4,2
Medical aid benefits									
Both sexes	14 087	13 797	13 836	14 093	14 269	176	181	1,2	1,3
Yes	4 228	4 220	4 191	4 292	4 364	72	136	1,7	3,2
No	9 649	9 378	9 451	9 525	9 640	114	-9	1,2	-0,1
Don't know	211	199	194	276	265	-11	54	-3,8	25,7
Women	6 516	6 372	6 351	6 385	6 513	129	-3	2,0	0,0
Yes	1 955	1 987	1 961	2 046	2 065	20	111	1,0	5,7
No	4 465	4 290	4 302	4 199	4 322	124	-143	2,9	-3,2
Don't know	97	95	88	140	126	-14	29	-10,2	29,9
Men	7 571	7 425	7 486	7 709	7 755	47	184	0,6	2,4
Yes	2 273	2 233	2 230	2 246	2 299	52	25	2,3	1,1
No	5 184	5 088	5 149	5 327	5 317	-9	134	-0,2	2,6
Don't know	114	104	107	136	140	4	25	2,8	22,2

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.

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

Table 3.8b: Conditions of employment based on ICSE-93 - South Africa (concluded)									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Income tax (PAYE/ SITE) deduction									
Both sexes	14 087	13 797	13 836	14 093	14 269	176	181	1,2	1,3
Yes	7 777	7 679	7 630	7 951	8 128	176	351	2,2	4,5
No	5 866	5 705	5 774	5 698	5 697	-1	-169	0,0	-2,9
Don't know	445	414	432	444	444	0	-1	0,0	-0,2
Women	6 516	6 372	6 351	6 385	6 513	129	-3	2,0	0,0
Yes	3 554	3 465	3 492	3 622	3 735	113	182	3,1	5,1
No	2 798	2 745	2 673	2 550	2 590	40	-209	1,6	-7,5
Don't know	164	161	185	213	188	-24	24	-11,3	14,6
Men	7 571	7 425	7 486	7 709	7 755	47	184	0,6	2,4
Yes	4 223	4 214	4 138	4 329	4 392	63	169	1,5	4,0
No	3 068	2 959	3 101	3 148	3 107	-41	40	-1,3	1,3
Don't know	280	252	247	231	256	24	-25	10,4	-8,8
Condition of employment									
Both sexes	14 087	13 797	13 836	14 093	14 269	176	181	1,2	1,3
Written contract	11 462	11 329	11 364	11 548	11 849	301	387	2,6	3,4
Verbal agreement	2 625	2 468	2 473	2 545	2 420	-126	-205	-4,9	-7,8
Women	6 516	6 372	6 351	6 385	6 513	129	-3	2,0	0,0
Written contract	5 418	5 360	5 350	5 382	5 528	147	110	2,7	2,0
Verbal agreement	1 098	1 012	1 001	1 003	985	-18	-113	-1,8	-10,3
Men	7 571	7 425	7 486	7 709	7 755	47	184	0,6	2,4
Written contract	6 044	5 970	6 014	6 166	6 321	155	277	2,5	4,6
Verbal agreement	1 527	1 456	1 472	1 542	1 434	-108	-92	-7,0	-6,1

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.

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

Table 3.8c: Conditions of employment based on ICSE-93 - South Africa									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Nature of contract/agreement (Both sexes)									
Both sexes	14 087	13 797	13 836	14 093	14 269	176	181	1,2	1,3
For a specified period of time				1 869	1 770	-100		-5,3	
Until the date a task is completed				340	298	-42		-12,4	
Permanent or until retirement				7 881	8 128	247		3,1	
Ongoing with no specified end date				3 902	3 994	92		2,4	
Don't know				101	79	-21		-21,3	
Women	6 516	6 372	6 351	6 385	6 513	129	-3	2,0	0,0
For a specified period of time				920	888	-32		-3,5	
Until the date a task is completed				95	83	-11		-12,1	
Permanent or until retirement				3 616	3 740	124		3,4	
Ongoing with no specified end date				1 697	1 776	78		4,6	
Don't know				56	26	-30		-53,6	
Men	7 571	7 425	7 486	7 709	7 755	47	184	0,6	2,4
For a specified period of time				949	882	-67		-7,1	
Until the date a task is completed				245	215	-31		-12,5	
Permanent or until retirement				4 264	4 387	123		2,9	
Ongoing with no specified end date				2 205	2 218	13		0,6	
Don't know				44	53	9		19,8	
Trade union membership (Both sexes)									
Both sexes	14 087	13 797	13 836	14 093	14 269	176	181	1,2	1,3
Yes	3 863	3 871	3 998	3 908	3 973	65	110	1,7	2,9
No	9 697	9 405	9 292	9 564	9 709	145	12	1,5	0,1
Don't know	528	522	546	622	587	-35	59	-5,6	11,2

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.

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

Table 3.8c: Conditions of employment based on ICSE-93 - South Africa (continued)									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Women	6 516	6 372	6 351	6 385	6 513	129	-3	2,0	0,0
Yes	1 771	1 744	1 822	1 773	1 828	55	57	3,1	3,2
No	4 529	4 409	4 278	4 329	4 426	98	-103	2,3	-2,3
Don't know	216	219	250	283	259	-24	43	-8,4	19,8
Men	7 571	7 425	7 486	7 709	7 755	47	184	0,6	2,4
Yes	2 092	2 127	2 176	2 135	2 145	10	53	0,5	2,6
No	5 168	4 996	5 014	5 235	5 283	48	115	0,9	2,2
Don't know	311	303	296	339	328	-11	16	-3,3	5,3
How annual salary increment is negotiated									
Both sexes	14 087	13 797	13 836	14 093	14 269	176	181	1,2	1,3
Individual and employer	1 088	1 090	1 010	1 066	1 116	51	29	4,8	2,6
Union and employer	2 911	2 764	2 890	2 838	2 769	-69	-142	-2,4	-4,9
Bargaining council	1 432	1 437	1 359	1 274	1 436	162	4	12,7	0,3
Employer only	7 832	7 693	7 752	7 931	7 929	-2	98	0,0	1,2
No regular increment	797	780	773	930	968	38	171	4,1	21,4
Other	28	33	52	54	50	-4	23	-7,2	82,0
Women	6 516	6 372	6 351	6 385	6 513	129	-3	2,0	0,0
Individual and employer	473	464	429	452	471	19	-2	4,2	-0,4
Union and employer	1 292	1 186	1 270	1 223	1 201	-23	-91	-1,8	-7,0
Bargaining council	726	757	713	684	738	54	12	7,9	1,6
Employer only	3 628	3 578	3 564	3 581	3 645	64	17	1,8	0,5
No regular increment	389	370	351	421	438	17	49	4,0	12,5
Other	8	17	23	23	21	-2	12	-9,6	146,5

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.

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

Table 3.8c: Conditions of employment based on ICSE-93 - South Africa (concluded)									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Men	7 571	7 425	7 486	7 709	7 755	47	184	0,6	2,4
Individual and employer	615	626	581	614	646	32	31	5,2	5,0
Union and employer	1 619	1 578	1 621	1 614	1 568	-46	-51	-2,9	-3,2
Bargaining council	706	680	646	590	698	108	-8	18,3	-1,2
Employer only	4 204	4 115	4 188	4 350	4 285	-66	81	-1,5	1,9
No regular increment	408	410	422	510	530	21	122	4,1	29,9
Other	19	17	29	31	29	-2	10	-5,4	53,4

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.

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

Table 3.9: Time-related underemployment - South Africa									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Both sexes	788	781	710	747	705	-42	-83	-5,6	-10,5
Women	409	410	382	397	378	-19	-31	-4,7	-7,6
Men	379	372	328	350	327	-23	-52	-6,5	-13,6
As percentage of the labour force (Both sexes)	3,1	3,1	2,8	3,0	2,8	-0,2	-0,3		
Women	3,5	3,6	3,3	3,5	3,3	-0,2	-0,2		
Men	2,8	2,7	2,4	2,6	2,4	-0,2	-0,4		
As percentage of total employment (Both sexes)	4,6	4,7	4,2	4,4	4,1	-0,3	-0,5		
Women	5,4	5,5	5,2	5,3	5,1	-0,2	-0,3		
Men	4,0	4,0	3,5	3,6	3,4	-0,2	-0,6		

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.
Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 3.9: Time-related underemployment - South Africa (concluded)									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Industry	788	781	710	747	705	-42	-83	-5,6	-10,5
Agriculture	27	28	18	21	22	1	-5	2,6	-17,9
Mining		1		1					
Manufacturing	43	37	23	38	31	-7	-12	-18,6	-28,3
Utilities		2							
Construction	91	95	68	86	83	-3	-8	-3,3	-8,9
Trade	104	115	136	142	102	-40	-2	-28,2	-1,4
Transport	25	27	33	23	20	-3	-5	-14,0	-21,3
Finance	89	83	74	72	75	2	-14	3,4	-15,6
Community and social services	210	203	181	193	177	-16	-33	-8,2	-15,9
Private households	200	191	177	170	196	26	-4	15,5	-1,8
Other	.	.	.	1					
Occupation	788	781	710	747	705	-42	-83	-5,6	-10,5
Manager	25	26	23	17	23	6	-1	35,4	-6,0
Professional	9	23	14	9	12	3	4	33,8	41,9
Technician	39	38	41	35	36	1	-3	3,1	-6,6
Clerk	22	31	15	19	16	-3	-7	-17,3	-30,3
Sales and services	87	89	83	96	90	-6	2	-6,3	2,7
Skilled agriculture	7	6	2	5	7	1	-1	23,2	-11,8
Craft and related trade	115	100	87	110	92	-18	-23	-16,4	-19,7
Plant and machine operator	21	18	26	26	17	-9	-3	-34,8	-16,8
Elementary	324	318	295	311	270	-41	-55	-13,2	-16,8
Domestic worker	139	132	124	117	142	25	3	21,5	2,0
Other	.	.	.	1	1	-1		-52,2	

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.
Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 3 10: Formal and informal employment									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Employed (Both sexes)				17 055	17 099	44		0,3	
Formal employment*				11 032	11 377	345		3,1	
Informal employment*				6 023	5 722	-301		-5,0	
Employed (Women)				7 429	7 470	41		0,5	
Formal employment*				4 934	5 081	147		3,0	
Informal employment*				2 495	2 389	-106		-4,3	
Employed (Men)				9 625	9 629	3		0,0	
Formal employment*				6 098	6 295	198		3,2	
Informal employment*				3 528	3 333	-194		-5,5	
Formal employment*				11 032	11 377	345		3,1	
15-24 yrs				603	566	-38		-6,2	
25-34 yrs				2 992	3 010	18		0,6	
35-44 yrs				3 440	3 623	184		5,3	
45-54 yrs				2 801	2 894	93		3,3	
55-64 yrs				1 197	1 284	87		7,3	
Informal employment*				6 023	5 722	-301		-5,0	
15-24 yrs				574	578	4		0,7	
25-34 yrs				1 795	1 697	-98		-5,5	
35-44 yrs				1 794	1 671	-123		-6,9	
45-54 yrs				1 301	1 221	-80		-6,2	
55-64 yrs				559	556	-3		-0,5	

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates. to totals.

Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up

* Definition of informal employment from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy.

Table 3 10: Formal and informal employment (continued)									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Formal employment*				11 032	11 377	345		3,1	
No schooling				67	88	21		31,3	
Less than primary completed				276	299	23		8,2	
Primary completed				188	217	29		15,5	
Secondary not completed				2 720	2 804	83		3,1	
Secondary completed				4 372	4 427	56		1,3	
Tertiary				3 241	3 371	130		4,0	
Other				168	171	3		1,5	
Informal employment*				6 023	5 722	-301		-5,0	
No schooling				86	81	-5		-6,0	
Less than primary completed				359	287	-72		-20,0	
Primary completed				248	226	-22		-9,0	
Secondary not completed				2 414	2 196	-218		-9,0	
Secondary completed				2 009	2 011	2		0,1	
Tertiary				766	819	54		7,0	
Other				141	101	-39		-28,1	

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.

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

* Definition of informal employment from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy.

Table 3.10b: Formal and informal employment (continued)									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Formal employment*				11 032	11 377	345		3,1	
Agriculture				401	490	90		22,4	
Mining				400	417	17		4,2	
Manufacturing				1 245	1 194	-51		-4,1	
Utilities				98	119	22		22,2	
Construction				634	729	96		15,1	
Trade				2 331	2 317	-13		-0,6	
Transport				600	623	23		3,8	
Finance				2 173	2 191	19		0,9	
Community and social services				2 954	3 038	85		2,9	
Private households				195	251	56		28,5	
Other				13	36	23		314,7	
Informal employment*				6 023	5 722	-301		-5,0	
Agriculture				519	460	-60		-11,5	
Mining				49	26	-22		-45,7	
Manufacturing				365	355	-10		-2,9	
Utilities				12	14	3		24,8	
Construction				756	695	-61		-8,0	
Trade				1 093	1 008	-85		-7,8	
Transport				513	517	4		0,9	
Finance				757	770	13		1,8	
Community and social services				1 035	996	-38		-3,7	
Private households				916	878	-38		-4,2	
Other				23	9	-14		-126,6	

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.

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

* Definition of informal employment from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy.

Table 3.10b: Formal and informal employment (concluded)									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Formal employment*				11 032	11 377	345		3,1	
Manager				957	958	1		0,1	
Professional				766	788	22		2,9	
Technician				1 248	1 318	70		5,6	
Clerk				1 513	1 513	-1		-0,1	
Sales and services				2 097	2 121	24		1,1	
Skilled agriculture				38	32	-6		-15,6	
Craft and related trade				1 242	1 260	18		1,5	
Plant and machine operator				878	920	43		4,9	
Elementary				2 120	2 234	115		5,4	
Domestic worker				162	202	40		24,4	
Informal employment*				6 023	5 722	-301		-5,0	
Manager				496	476	-20		-4,1	
Professional				143	163	21		14,6	
Technician				240	258	17		7,2	
Clerk				342	307	-35		-10,2	
Sales and services				976	959	-17		-1,8	
Skilled agriculture				59	27	-32		-53,6	
Craft and related trade				749	683	-66		-8,8	
Plant and machine operator				536	507	-29		-5,3	
Elementary				1 783	1 682	-101		-5,7	
Domestic worker				685	653	-32		-4,7	

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.

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

* Definition of informal employment from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy.

Table 4: Characteristics of the unemployed - South Africa

	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Unemployed	7 991	8 228	8 367	8 007	7 836	-172	-155	-2,1	-1,9
Job losers	2 060	2 165	2 106	1 961	2 006	46	-53	2,3	-2,6
Job leavers	220	214	244	247	184	-63	-36	-25,6	-16,3
New entrants	3 421	3 547	3 611	3 472	3 317	-154	-104	-4,4	-3,0
Re-entrants	401	325	323	281	325	44	-77	15,6	-19,1
Other	1 889	1 977	2 083	2 047	2 003	-43	114	-2,1	6,1
Unemployed	7 991	8 228	8 367	8 007	7 836	-172	-155	-2,1	-1,9
Long-term unemployment (1 year and more)	6 213	6 295	6 411	6 163	6 247	85	34	1,4	0,6
Short-term unemployment (less than 1 year)	1 778	1 933	1 956	1 845	1 588	-256	-190	-13,9	-10,7
Long-term unemployment (%)									
Proportion of the labour force	24,8	25,2	25,5	24,6	25,1	0,5	0,3		
Proportion of the unemployed	77,7	76,5	76,6	77,0	79,7	2,7	2,0		
Those who have worked in the past 5 years									
Previous occupation	2 681	2 704	2 673	2 489	2 515	26	-166	1,1	-6,2
Manager	51	55	56	47	57	11	7	23,3	12,7
Professional	54	57	75	51	57	5	3	10,4	5,1
Technician	129	134	117	136	142	6	13	4,6	10,4
Clerk	268	327	304	279	270	-9	2	-3,2	0,8
Sales and services	552	515	511	479	512	33	-40	6,8	-7,3
Skilled agriculture	11	8	11	8	11	3	-1	37,5	-5,7
Craft and related trade	411	406	391	324	346	22	-65	6,8	-15,7
Plant and machine operator	187	172	186	181	158	-23	-29	-12,7	-15,5
Elementary	850	856	873	837	793	-44	-57	-5,2	-6,7
Domestic worker	169	174	149	141	160	19	-9	13,3	-5,2
Other				6	9	3		43,9	

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.

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

Table 4: Characteristics of the unemployed - South Africa (concluded)									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Previous industry	2 681	2 704	2 673	2 489	2 515	26	-166	1,1	-6,2
Agriculture	168	167	170	163	162	-2	-6	-1,1	-3,7
Mining	48	63	63	37	41	4	-7	9,5	-15,5
Manufacturing	239	222	256	239	215	-24	-24	-10,0	-10,0
Utilities	19	16	11	18	14	-5	-5	-25,7	-28,6
Construction	392	388	379	327	336	9	-55	2,8	-14,1
Trade	556	562	578	537	536	-1	-19	-0,2	-3,4
Transport	137	150	143	141	149	8	12	5,3	8,4
Finance	362	376	341	340	352	12	-9	3,5	-2,6
Community and social services	529	525	504	462	495	32	-35	6,9	-6,6
Private households	232	235	229	217	210	-7	-22	-3,4	-9,4
Other				5	6	0		8,0	

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.

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

Table 5: Characteristics of Outside the Labour Force - South Africa									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Outside the Labour Force	16 492	16 676	16 648	16 886	17 134	248	642	1,5	3,9
Student	6 144	5 939	6 090	6 038	6 281	243	137	4,0	2,2
Home-maker	2 243	2 245	2 373	2 417	2 403	-15	160	-0,6	7,1
Illness/disability	1 533	1 587	1 600	1 724	1 668	-56	136	-3,2	8,9
Too old/young to work	1 792	1 796	1 762	1 801	1 770	-31	-22	-1,7	-1,2
Discouraged work seekers	3 466	3 473	3 445	3 481	3 714	233	249	6,7	7,2
Other	1 315	1 636	1 379	1 426	1 298	-128	-17	-9,0	-1,3
Inactivity rate by age (Both sexes)	39,7	40,0	39,8	40,3	40,7	0,4	1,0		
15-24 years	73,4	73,7	73,3	72,6	74,3	1,7	0,9		
25-54 years	24,1	24,6	24,4	25,3	25,5	0,2	1,4		
55-64 years	55,2	55,2	55,3	55,7	54,9	-0,8	-0,3		
Inactivity rate by age (Women)	44,8	45,2	45,1	45,7	46,0	0,3	1,2		
15-24 years	75,7	76,1	75,4	75,0	76,8	1,8	1,1		
25-54 years	29,8	30,4	30,3	31,5	31,2	-0,3	1,4		
55-64 years	61,3	61,4	62,0	62,2	62,6	0,4	1,3		
Inactivity rate by age (Men)	34,5	34,7	34,4	34,7	35,4	0,7	0,9		
15-24 years	71,2	71,3	71,1	70,1	71,8	1,7	0,6		
25-54 years	18,6	18,8	18,6	19,3	20,0	0,7	1,4		
55-64 years	47,7	47,5	47,0	47,8	45,5	-2,3	-2,2		

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.

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

Table 6: Socio-demographic characteristics - South Africa

	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Age group of the employed	17 078	16 787	16 807	17 055	17 099	44	21	0,3	0,1
15-24 years	1 102	1 018	1 043	1 177	1 143	-33	41	-2,8	3,7
25-34 years	4 719	4 651	4 656	4 787	4 707	-80	-12	-1,7	-0,3
35-44 years	5 334	5 247	5 222	5 234	5 294	60	-40	1,2	-0,7
45-54 years	4 148	4 099	4 119	4 102	4 115	13	-33	0,3	-0,8
55-64 years	1 775	1 772	1 766	1 755	1 840	84	65	4,8	3,7
Age group of the unemployed	7 991	8 228	8 367	8 007	7 836	-172	-155	-2,1	-1,9
15-24 years	1 629	1 692	1 715	1 657	1 513	-143	-115	-8,7	-7,1
25-34 years	3 064	3 151	3 167	2 978	3 038	60	-26	2,0	-0,8
35-44 years	1 994	2 022	2 104	2 017	2 000	-17	5	-0,8	0,3
45-54 years	1 075	1 118	1 123	1 093	1 052	-40	-23	-3,7	-2,1
55-64 years	228	245	259	263	232	-31	4	-11,7	1,7
Age group of Outside the Labour Force	16 492	16 676	16 648	16 886	17 134	248	642	1,5	3,9
15-24 years	7 555	7 589	7 554	7 491	7 680	189	126	2,5	1,7
25-34 years	2 830	2 815	2 798	2 857	2 874	17	44	0,6	1,5
35-44 years	1 890	1 987	1 969	2 082	2 072	-9	182	-0,4	9,6
45-54 years	1 752	1 803	1 824	1 914	1 982	68	230	3,5	13,1
55-64 years	2 465	2 481	2 503	2 543	2 526	-17	61	-0,7	2,5
Highest level of education of the employed	17 078	16 787	16 807	17 055	17 099	44	21	0,3	0,1
No schooling	190	169	153	154	169	16	-21	10,3	-10,9
Less than primary completed	662	651	603	635	586	-49	-76	-7,8	-11,5
Primary completed	491	466	432	436	443	7	-48	1,6	-9,8
Secondary not completed	5 188	4 979	5 087	5 134	5 000	-135	-188	-2,6	-3,6
Secondary completed	6 280	6 167	6 230	6 381	6 439	58	159	0,9	2,5
Tertiary	3 996	4 046	4 016	4 007	4 190	184	195	4,6	4,9
Other	271	310	287	309	272	-37	1	-12,0	0,4

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.

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

Table 6: Socio-demographic characteristics - South Africa (continued)									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Highest level of education of the unemployed	7 991	8 228	8 367	8 007	7 836	-172	-155	-2,1	-1,9
No schooling	65	56	52	66	52	-14	-13	-21,4	-19,9
Less than primary completed	306	321	298	282	280	-2	-25	-0,7	-8,3
Primary completed	242	234	234	240	202	-38	-40	-15,8	-16,5
Secondary not completed	3 413	3 381	3 493	3 292	3 195	-97	-217	-2,9	-6,4
Secondary completed	3 203	3 313	3 385	3 294	3 274	-20	71	-0,6	2,2
Tertiary	697	856	844	766	769	4	73	0,5	10,4
Other	67	68	61	68	63	-5	-4	-7,1	-5,7
Highest level of education of Outside the Labour Force	16 492	16 676	16 648	16 886	17 134	248	642	1,5	3,9
No schooling	454	478	495	470	454	-16	0	-3,4	0,0
Less than primary completed	1 165	1 074	1 098	1 161	1 115	-46	-50	-4,0	-4,3
Primary completed	904	791	875	920	981	61	77	6,6	8,5
Secondary not completed	8 689	8 579	8 562	8 844	8 963	119	273	1,3	3,1
Secondary completed	4 244	4 705	4 604	4 446	4 538	92	294	2,1	6,9
Tertiary	803	810	805	834	844	11	41	1,3	5,2
Other	232	239	209	213	240	26	7	12,4	3,2
Employed	17 078	16 787	16 807	17 055	17 099	44	21	0,3	0,1
Attending educational institution	301	332	343	339	302	-36	1	-10,7	0,4
Not attending educational institution	16 777	16 456	16 464	16 716	16 797	80	20	0,5	0,1
Unemployed	7 991	8 228	8 367	8 007	7 836	-172	-155	-2,1	-1,9
Attending educational institution	147	139	143	117	117	0	-29	-0,1	-20,0
Not attending educational institution	7 844	8 089	8 225	7 890	7 718	-171	-126	-2,2	-1,6
Outside the Labour Force	16 492	16 676	16 648	16 886	17 134	248	642	1,5	3,9
Attending educational institution	6 023	5 734	5 949	5 977	5 994	17	-29	0,3	-0,5
Not attending educational institution	10 469	10 942	10 699	10 909	11 140	231	671	2,1	6,4

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.
Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 6b: Socio-demographic characteristics - South Africa (concluded)

	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Current marital status of the employed	17 078	16 787	16 807	17 055	17 099	44	21	0,3	0,1
Married	6 031	5 896	5 826	5 766	5 834	68	-197	1,2	-3,3
Living together like husband and wife	2 091	2 169	2 111	2 110	2 240	130	149	6,2	7,1
Widow/widower	390	364	373	381	366	-15	-24	-4,0	-6,2
Divorced or separated	486	472	470	479	460	-19	-26	-4,0	-5,4
Never married	8 079	7 887	8 026	8 318	8 199	-120	119	-1,4	1,5
Current marital status of the unemployed	7 991	8 228	8 367	8 007	7 836	-172	-155	-2,1	-1,9
Married	956	974	958	994	912	-82	-44	-8,2	-4,6
Living together like husband and wife	809	851	821	751	729	-23	-81	-3,1	-10,0
Widow/widower	71	83	72	62	57	-5	-13	-7,8	-19,0
Divorced or separated	114	152	118	113	124	11	10	10,0	8,5
Never married	6 041	6 169	6 398	6 087	6 014	-73	-27	-1,2	-0,4
Current marital status of Outside the Labour Force	16 492	16 676	16 648	16 886	17 134	248	642	1,5	3,9
Married	2 566	2 498	2 563	2 586	2 451	-135	-114	-5,2	-4,5
Living together like husband and wife	967	1 016	982	982	1 068	86	101	8,8	10,5
Widow/widower	605	567	580	537	554	18	-50	3,3	-8,3
Divorced or separated	286	264	273	317	308	-9	21	-2,9	7,4
Never married	12 068	12 331	12 250	12 464	12 752	288	684	2,3	5,7

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.

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

Table 7: Profile of Youth (15-24 years) not in Employment Education or Training (NEET) - South Africa									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Both sexes	3 450	3 825	3 625	3 497	3 515	17	65	0,5	1,9
Women	1 770	1 927	1 880	1 828	1 850	22	80	1,2	4,5
Men	1 680	1 897	1 745	1 669	1 665	-5	-16	-0,3	-0,9
Population groups	3 450	3 825	3 625	3 497	3 515	17	65	0,5	1,9
Black/African	3 019	3 378	3 152	3 069	3 096	27	77	0,9	2,5
Coloured	304	315	331	310	306	-3	2	-1,1	0,6
Indian/Asian	41	44	48	45	43	-2	2	-5,4	3,7
White	85	88	95	73	70	-3	-15	-4,6	-18,1
South Africa	3 450	3 825	3 625	3 497	3 515	17	65	0,5	1,9
Western Cape	325	314	361	344	321	-23	-4	-6,6	-1,1
Eastern Cape	441	508	477	481	465	-16	24	-3,3	5,4
Northern Cape	81	87	90	81	87	6	5	6,9	6,5
Free State	169	186	171	163	163	0	-6	0,0	-3,3
KwaZulu-Natal	731	840	733	715	733	19	3	2,6	0,4
North West	285	351	333	314	319	5	34	1,6	11,9
Gauteng	781	829	777	778	805	27	24	3,5	3,1
Mpumalanga	316	328	316	277	284	6	-32	2,3	-10,3
Limpopo	321	382	368	345	338	-7	17	-2,0	5,2

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.

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

Table 7b: NEET Rate Among Youth (15-24 years) Not in Employment, Education or Training - South Africa									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Both sexes	33,5	37,1	35,2	33,9	34,0	0,1	0,5		
Women	34,5	37,5	36,6	35,5	35,9	0,4	1,4		
Men	32,6	36,7	33,7	32,2	32,1	-0,1	-0,5		
Population group	33,5	37,1	35,2	33,9	34,0	0,1	0,5		
Black/African	34,7	38,7	36,1	35,0	35,3	0,3	0,6		
Coloured	35,3	36,6	38,6	36,1	35,8	-0,3	0,5		
Indian/Asian	21,2	22,2	24,2	23,1	21,8	-1,3	0,6		
White	16,4	17,1	18,4	14,2	13,6	-0,6	-2,8		
South Africa	33,5	37,1	35,2	33,9	34,0	0,1	0,5		
Western Cape	29,3	29,0	32,2	30,3	29,3	-1,0	0,0		
Eastern Cape	33,5	37,1	34,5	35,6	35,0	-0,6	1,5		
Northern Cape	37,0	42,8	42,6	40,5	44,5	4,0	7,5		
Free State	33,8	36,2	34,1	32,5	33,0	0,5	-0,8		
KwaZulu-Natal	35,8	40,9	36,4	35,7	36,0	0,3	0,2		
North West	37,4	45,9	42,8	39,9	39,7	-0,2	2,3		
Gauteng	32,0	34,4	32,5	31,5	32,1	0,6	0,1		
Mpumalanga	36,1	38,6	37,7	34,4	35,2	0,8	-0,9		
Limpopo	31,4	36,3	34,1	31,9	31,7	-0,2	0,3		

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.

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

Table 8: Involvement in non-market activities and labour market status by province

	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
South Africa									
Subsistence farming	2 269	2 456	2 007	2 014	2 364	350	95	17,4	4,2
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	3 878	3 652	3 766	4 383	3 982	-401	104	-9,2	2,7
Produce other goods for household use	280	284	293	358	296	-62	16	-17,4	5,7
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	292	364	306	301	265	-36	-27	-12,0	-9,2
Hunting or fishing for household use	25	41	39	32	32	1	8	1,8	31,6
Involvement in at least one activity	5 623	5 507	5 300	5 934	5 688	-246	65	-4,1	1,2
Employed	1 619	1 467	1 448	1 524	1 492	-32	-128	-2,1	-7,9
Unemployed	1 351	1 357	1 263	1 506	1 323	-183	-28	-12,1	-2,1
Outside the Labour Force	2 652	2 683	2 590	2 904	2 873	-31	221	-1,1	8,3
Western Cape									
Subsistence farming	96	78	82	73	75	3	-21	3,5	-21,4
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	140	150	117	99	119	19	-21	19,3	-15,3
Produce other goods for household use	1			11	4	-6	3	-61,0	337,4
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	3	3	10	3					
Involvement in at least one activity	237	224	208	180	185	5	-52	2,7	-21,9
Employed	136	117	95	95	92	-3	-45	-3,6	-32,8
Unemployed	54	45	49	43	36	-8	-18	-18,0	-34,0
Outside the Labour Force	47	62	64	42	58	16	11	39,0	24,0
Eastern Cape									
Subsistence farming	620	681	417	477	596	119	-25	24,9	-4,0
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	869	700	771	913	813	-100	-56	-10,9	-6,4
Produce other goods for household use	107	105	48	50	8	-42	-98	-83,4	-92,2
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	109	132	92	99	67	-31	-42	-31,9	-38,4
Hunting or fishing for household use	3	7	9	9	12	3	9	39,0	336,2
Involvement in at least one activity	1 409	1 280	1 120	1 210	1 243	33	-166	2,7	-11,8
Employed	298	230	235	182	195	13	-103	7,0	-34,5
Unemployed	366	359	325	419	421	2	55	0,4	14,9
Outside the Labour Force	745	691	560	609	627	19	-118	3,1	-15,9

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.

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

Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Quarter 4: 2025

Table 8: Involvement in non-market activities and labour market status by province (continued)									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Northern Cape									
Subsistence farming	32	41	32	14	10	-3	-22	-24,3	-68,1
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	138	125	128	123	135	11	-3	9,2	-2,2
Produce other goods for household use	2	3	4	4					
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	2	2	0	4	3	-1	1	-34,6	48,7
Hunting or fishing for household use	1	1	2	1	1	0	1	14,4	108,2
Involvement in at least one activity	163	154	153	136	143	8	-20	5,6	-12,2
Employed	52	49	36	33	34	1	-18	3,1	-33,8
Unemployed	34	33	33	31	27	-4	-6	-13,0	-19,3
Outside the Labour Force	77	72	84	71	82	11	4	14,8	5,4
Free State									
Subsistence farming	142	118	110	106	120	14	-22	13,4	-15,3
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	60	61	64	105	49	-56	-12	-53,6	-19,3
Produce other goods for household use	8	8	5	5	1	-4	-7	-77,4	-86,0
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	30	28	35	30	14	-15	-16	-51,4	-52,7
Hunting or fishing for household use	6	7	6	9	8	-1	3	-6,1	44,8
Involvement in at least one activity	204	180	175	207	165	-42	-39	-20,4	-19,0
Employed	78	81	85	82	62	-21	-16	-25,2	-20,8
Unemployed	61	47	53	63	50	-13	-11	-20,3	-17,8
Outside the Labour Force	65	52	37	62	53	-9	-11	-14,1	-17,8
KwaZulu-Natal									
Subsistence farming	937	999	912	880	979	100	42	11,3	4,5
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	1 425	1 410	1 437	1 474	1 490	16	65	1,1	4,6
Produce other goods for household use	139	157	188	254	251	-2	113	-0,8	81,5
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	111	133	116	102	132	30	21	29,2	18,6
Hunting or fishing for household use	9	13	10	10	9	-1	0	-8,2	-1,5
Involvement in at least one activity	2 047	2 074	2 058	2 162	2 116	-46	68	-2,1	3,3
Employed	586	544	542	541	523	-19	-63	-3,5	-10,8
Unemployed	460	510	468	511	425	-86	-35	-16,9	-7,6
Outside the Labour Force	1 002	1 020	1 048	1 110	1 168	59	167	5,3	16,6

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.
Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 8: Involvement in non-market activities and labour market status by province (continued)									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
North West									
Subsistence farming	47	35	61	39	67	28	20	72,3	42,8
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	363	394	381	460	403	-57	40	-12,5	10,9
Produce other goods for household use	1	3	4	1	4	2	3	161,5	371,5
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	1	3		2					
Involvement in at least one activity	402	422	414	487	445	-42	43	-8,7	10,6
Employed	97	77	78	122	135	13	38	10,9	39,8
Unemployed	74	46	58	55	42	-12	-32	-22,4	-42,8
Outside the Labour Force	232	298	278	311	267	-43	36	-13,9	15,5
Gauteng									
Subsistence farming	38	34	34	49	34	-14	-3	-29,2	-8,9
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	92	86	68	239	140	-98	48	-41,2	52,7
Produce other goods for household use	5		6	2	1	-1	-4	-32,5	-79,6
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	10	16	12	13	7	-6	-3	-49,0	-33,3
Hunting or fishing for household use	2	1	6						
Involvement in at least one activity	135	126	116	291	175	-116	39	-39,9	29,2
Employed	53	65	59	113	80	-33	27	-29,1	50,6
Unemployed	44	45	39	99	48	-52	4	-52,2	8,8
Outside the Labour Force	38	16	19	78	47	-31	9	-40,0	22,4
Mpumalanga									
Subsistence farming	115	122	120	160	189	29	74	18,3	64,2
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	355	396	408	452	420	-33	65	-7,3	18,2
Produce other goods for household use	15	4	28	24	20	-4	5	-16,9	34,6
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	11	4	4	5	9	4	-2	75,6	-18,8
Hunting or fishing for household use	2	8	1	0	2	1	-1	606,0	-25,9
Involvement in at least one activity	457	481	505	580	585	4	128	0,8	27,9
Employed	130	123	122	151	156	5	26	3,4	20,3
Unemployed	125	140	131	172	139	-33	13	-19,2	10,8
Outside the Labour Force	202	218	252	258	290	32	88	12,5	43,5

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.
Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Table 8: Involvement in non-market activities and labour market status by province (concluded)									
	Oct-Dec 2024	Jan-Mar 2025	Apr-Jun 2025	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Percent	Percent
Limpopo									
Subsistence farming	242	347	239	218	293	75	51	34,6	21,0
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	436	329	392	517	414	-102	-22	-19,8	-5,0
Produce other goods for household use	3	3	10	7	6	-1	3	-17,6	109,4
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	15	42	38	44	34	-10	19	-22,8	127,6
Hunting or fishing for household use	2	3	5	3					
Involvement in at least one activity	568	567	552	680	631	-49	64	-7,2	11,2
Employed	190	182	196	203	215	12	25	5,7	13,2
Unemployed	133	130	109	112	136	24	2	21,2	1,8
Outside the Labour Force	244	254	247	365	281	-84	36	-23,0	14,9

For all values of 10 000 or lower, the sample size is too small for reliable estimates.

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

Appendix 2

Table 2A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by sex						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025				
Both sexes						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,6	0,6	-128	-376	121	0,31
Employed	0,8	0,8	44	-161	249	0,67
Formal sector (non-agriculture)*	1,0	1,0	320	113	526	0,00
Informal sector (non-agriculture)*	2,4	2,3	-293	-458	-128	0,00
Household sector	3,9	3,7	18	-54	89	0,63
Unemployed	1,7	1,7	-172	-398	55	0,14
Outside the Labour Force	0,9	0,9	248	0	496	0,05
Potential Labour Force	2,6	2,7	82	-122	286	0,43
Discouraged work-seekers	3,2	3,2	233	48	419	0,01
Other Potential Labour Force	4,4	4,6	-151	-244	-59	0,00
Other (Outside the Labour Force)	0,9	0,9	165	-31	362	0,10
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	0,6	0,6	-0,5	-1,1	0,1	0,12
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,8	0,8	0,0	-0,5	0,5	0,96
Inactivity rate	0,9	0,9	0,5	-0,1	1,1	0,12
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,4	1,4	-0,5	-1,3	0,2	0,17
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,3	1,4	-0,7	-1,4	0,1	0,08
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	0,9	0,9	-0,2	-0,9	0,4	0,45
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	0,9	0,9	-0,4	-1,0	0,3	0,25

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 2A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by sex (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025				
Women						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,9	0,8	-31	-196	135	0,72
Employed	1,1	1,1	41	-94	175	0,55
Formal sector (non-agriculture)*	1,4	1,4	147	22	272	0,02
Informal sector (non-agriculture)*	3,6	3,4	-131	-220	-41	0,00
Household sector	4,0	3,7	24	-34	83	0,41
Unemployed	2,1	2,2	-71	-225	83	0,36
Outside the Labour Force	1,0	1,0	86	-79	251	0,31
Potential Labour Force	3,2	3,0	15	-120	149	0,83
Discouraged work-seekers	3,9	3,7	99	-22	220	0,11
Other Potential Labour Force	5,3	5,0	-84	-156	-12	0,02
Other (Outside the Labour Force)	1,1	1,1	71	-67	210	0,31
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	0,9	0,8	-0,3	-1,1	0,5	0,47
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,1	1,1	0,1	-0,5	0,7	0,76
Inactivity rate	1,0	1,0	0,3	-0,5	1,1	0,47
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,7	1,8	-0,5	-1,6	0,6	0,34
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,6	1,7	-0,7	-1,8	0,4	0,23
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	1,1	1,1	-0,4	-1,3	0,6	0,45
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	1,1	1,1	-0,5	-1,4	0,4	0,30

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 2A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by sex (concluded)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025				
Men						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,6	0,7	-97	-243	49	0,19
Employed	1,0	0,9	3	-150	157	0,97
Formal sector (non-agriculture)*	1,2	1,3	173	27	319	0,02
Informal sector (non-agriculture)*	2,6	2,5	-163	-282	-43	0,01
Household sector	6,3	7,2	-7	-43	30	0,71
Unemployed	2,0	2,0	-100	-254	54	0,20
Outside the Labour Force	1,2	1,2	161	15	307	0,03
Potential Labour Force	3,1	3,1	67	-54	188	0,27
Discouraged work-seekers	3,6	3,5	135	23	247	0,02
Other Potential Labour Force	5,7	7,3	-67	-119	-16	0,01
Other (Outside the Labour Force)	1,2	1,2	94	-21	209	0,11
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	0,6	0,7	-0,7	-1,4	0,0	0,06
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,0	0,9	-0,1	-0,9	0,6	0,73
Inactivity rate	1,2	1,2	0,7	0,0	1,4	0,06
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,9	1,8	-0,5	-1,6	0,5	0,31
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,7	1,7	-0,7	-1,7	0,4	0,20
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	1,4	1,3	-0,1	-1,0	0,8	0,76
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	1,3	1,3	-0,3	-1,2	0,7	0,55

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 2.1A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by population group						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025				
South Africa						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,6	0,6	-128	-376	121	0,31
Employed	0,8	0,8	44	-161	249	0,67
Unemployed	1,7	1,7	-172	-398	55	0,14
Outside the Labour Force	0,9	0,9	248	0	496	0,05
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	0,6	0,6	-0,5	-1,1	0,1	0,12
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,8	0,8	0,0	-0,5	0,5	0,96
Inactivity rate	0,9	0,9	0,5	-0,1	1,1	0,12
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,4	1,4	-0,5	-1,3	0,2	0,17
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,3	1,4	-0,7	-1,4	0,1	0,08
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	0,9	0,9	-0,2	-0,9	0,4	0,45
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	0,9	0,9	-0,4	-1,0	0,3	0,25
Black/African						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,7	0,7	-191	-421	38	0,10
Employed	0,9	0,9	-23	-204	157	0,80
Unemployed	1,7	1,8	-168	-381	46	0,12
Outside the Labour Force	1,0	1,0	314	85	544	0,01
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	0,7	0,7	-0,8	-1,4	-0,1	0,02
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,9	0,9	-0,2	-0,7	0,3	0,45
Inactivity rate	1,0	1,0	0,8	0,1	1,4	0,02
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,4	1,4	-0,5	-1,3	0,3	0,25
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,3	1,4	-0,6	-1,5	0,2	0,16
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	1,0	0,9	-0,1	-0,8	0,6	0,85
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	0,9	0,9	-0,2	-0,9	0,5	0,62

Table 2.1A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by population group (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025				
Coloured						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,6	1,9	48	-16	112	0,14
Employed	2,1	2,4	58	2	115	0,04
Unemployed	6,0	6,2	-10	-63	43	0,70
Outside the Labour Force	2,3	2,9	-44	-109	20	0,18
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,6	1,9	1,3	-0,5	3,0	0,16
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,1	2,4	1,6	0,0	3,1	0,05
Inactivity rate	2,3	2,9	-1,3	-3,0	0,5	0,16
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	5,7	5,8	-0,9	-3,1	1,2	0,39
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,9	4,9	-1,4	-3,5	0,8	0,22
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,6	3,7	-1,7	-3,6	0,3	0,09
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,4	3,5	-2,0	-3,8	-0,2	0,03
Indian/Asian						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	3,1	3,0	28	-3	58	0,07
Employed	3,3	4,0	19	-6	45	0,14
Unemployed	16,4	15,8	8	-21	38	0,58
Outside the Labour Force	3,9	4,2	-26	-56	5	0,10
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	3,1	3,0	2,5	-0,4	5,4	0,09
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,3	4,0	1,7	-0,7	4,1	0,16
Inactivity rate	3,9	4,2	-2,5	-5,4	0,4	0,09
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	15,1	15,4	0,7	-3,7	5,1	0,75
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	14,4	15,6	-0,6	-5,0	3,8	0,79
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	9,7	12,1	-0,4	-5,2	4,4	0,88
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	10,8	12,6	-1,5	-6,5	3,5	0,55

Table 2.1A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by population group (concluded)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025				
White						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,6	1,7	-12	-64	39	0,64
Employed	2,1	1,8	-11	-71	50	0,73
Unemployed	13,7	10,7	-2	-43	39	0,93
Outside the Labour Force	3,9	4,1	3	-48	55	0,90
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,6	1,7	-0,2	-2,1	1,7	0,82
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,1	1,8	-0,2	-2,4	2,1	0,88
Inactivity rate	3,9	4,1	0,2	-1,7	2,1	0,82
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	13,8	10,4	0,0	-2,1	2,1	0,97
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	13,1	9,5	0,1	-2,1	2,4	0,90
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	11,9	8,8	-0,3	-2,5	1,9	0,77
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	11,7	8,2	-0,2	-2,5	2,2	0,90

Table 2.3A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025				
South Africa						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,6	0,6	-128	-376	121	0,31
Employed	0,8	0,8	44	-161	249	0,67
Unemployed	1,7	1,7	-172	-398	55	0,14
Outside the Labour Force	0,9	0,9	248	0	496	0,05
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	0,6	0,6	-0,5	-1,1	0,1	0,12
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,8	0,8	0,0	-0,5	0,5	0,96
Inactivity rate	0,9	0,9	0,5	-0,1	1,1	0,12
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,4	1,4	-0,5	-1,3	0,2	0,17
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,3	1,4	-0,7	-1,4	0,1	0,08
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	0,9	0,9	-0,2	-0,9	0,4	0,45
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	0,9	0,9	-0,4	-1,0	0,3	0,25
Western Cape						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,2	1,4	43	-42	128	0,32
Employed	1,6	1,5	93	2	185	0,05
Unemployed	5,0	6,3	-50	-128	27	0,20
Outside the Labour Force	2,6	3,1	-26	-111	58	0,54
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,2	1,4	0,6	-1,0	2,3	0,46
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,6	1,5	1,6	-0,1	3,4	0,07
Inactivity rate	2,6	3,1	-0,6	-2,3	1,0	0,46
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,7	5,7	-1,7	-3,7	0,4	0,12
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,9	4,7	-1,6	-3,9	0,7	0,17
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,1	4,0	-2,1	-4,2	-0,1	0,04
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,6	3,3	-2,1	-4,2	0,1	0,06

Table 2.3A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025				
Western Cape - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,7	3,1	10	-43	64	0,71
Employed	2,6	2,0	25	-8	57	0,14
Unemployed	13,2	12,5	-14	-70	42	0,61
Outside the Labour Force	4,6	5,4	-4	-58	49	0,88
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,7	3,1	0,3	-2,5	3,2	0,81
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,6	2,0	1,1	-0,6	2,9	0,20
Inactivity rate	4,6	5,4	-0,3	-3,2	2,5	0,81
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	11,7	9,9	-1,3	-5,6	2,9	0,53
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	10,5	8,2	-1,2	-6,0	3,7	0,64
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	7,8	4,4	-1,0	-4,2	2,2	0,54
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	7,2	3,8	-0,8	-4,2	2,6	0,64
Western Cape - City of Cape Town						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,3	1,5	33	-32	97	0,32
Employed	2,0	2,2	69	-16	154	0,11
Unemployed	4,9	7,4	-36	-90	18	0,19
Outside the Labour Force	3,3	3,8	-22	-87	42	0,50
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,3	1,5	0,8	-1,2	2,7	0,44
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,0	2,2	1,9	-0,7	4,5	0,15
Inactivity rate	3,3	3,8	-0,8	-2,7	1,2	0,44
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,9	7,1	-1,8	-4,2	0,6	0,14
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,7	5,9	-1,8	-4,3	0,6	0,15
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,5	6,3	-2,8	-5,4	-0,2	0,03
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,5	5,1	-2,8	-5,5	-0,1	0,04

Table 2.3A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025				
Eastern Cape						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,1	1,7	0	-76	76	1,00
Employed	3,0	3,5	-32	-103	40	0,38
Unemployed	4,1	4,5	31	-39	101	0,38
Outside the Labour Force	2,2	1,9	12	-64	88	0,76
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,1	1,7	-0,1	-1,8	1,5	0,88
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,0	3,5	-0,8	-2,3	0,8	0,33
Inactivity rate	2,2	1,9	0,1	-1,5	1,8	0,88
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	3,4	4,1	1,3	-1,2	3,8	0,30
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,3	4,1	0,6	-2,1	3,4	0,66
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,5	2,8	1,2	-1,0	3,3	0,28
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,5	2,8	0,6	-1,7	2,9	0,62
Eastern Cape - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,8	2,2	-10	-72	52	0,75
Employed	3,5	4,0	-37	-96	22	0,22
Unemployed	5,1	5,0	27	-26	80	0,32
Outside the Labour Force	2,6	2,0	17	-45	78	0,60
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,8	2,2	-0,4	-2,4	1,5	0,68
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,5	4,0	-1,2	-3,1	0,6	0,20
Inactivity rate	2,6	2,0	0,4	-1,5	2,4	0,68
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	3,4	3,9	2,1	-1,0	5,2	0,18
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,2	4,0	0,4	-3,0	3,9	0,81
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,3	2,4	1,8	-0,9	4,5	0,18
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,2	2,5	0,5	-2,4	3,4	0,75

Table 2.3A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025				
Eastern Cape - Buffalo City						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	4,7	2,8	9	-31	49	0,67
Employed	6,5	7,5	10	-28	48	0,60
Unemployed	8,9	18,1	-1	-44	41	0,95
Outside the Labour Force	9,2	5,9	-7	-47	33	0,74
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	4,7	2,8	1,3	-5,7	8,4	0,71
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	6,5	7,5	1,6	-5,1	8,3	0,64
Inactivity rate	9,2	5,9	-1,3	-8,4	5,7	0,71
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	9,1	18,4	-0,9	-10,6	8,7	0,85
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	9,2	15,3	2,0	-8,2	12,1	0,71
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	9,9	16,4	-2,3	-9,2	4,6	0,52
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	9,3	13,7	0,5	-6,8	7,9	0,88
Eastern Cape - Nelson Mandela Bay						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	4,1	4,5	1	-20	22	0,92
Employed	7,8	8,8	-5	-19	10	0,53
Unemployed	7,0	11,9	6	-12	24	0,53
Outside the Labour Force	5,1	5,5	2	-19	23	0,84
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	4,1	4,5	-0,1	-2,3	2,2	0,95
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	7,8	8,8	-0,7	-2,3	1,0	0,42
Inactivity rate	5,1	5,5	0,1	-2,2	2,3	0,95
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	10,7	14,0	1,1	-1,8	4,0	0,46
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	10,4	13,1	0,7	-2,3	3,6	0,65
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	9,9	11,0	1,9	-1,0	4,7	0,21
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	9,6	10,7	1,4	-1,9	4,8	0,40

Table 2.3A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025				
Northern cape						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	4,4	3,7	-2	-18	13	0,78
Employed	7,2	5,3	17	-7	42	0,16
Unemployed	7,5	5,0	-20	-34	-5	0,01
Outside the Labour Force	5,3	4,4	4	-12	19	0,64
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	4,4	3,7	-0,4	-2,2	1,5	0,70
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	7,2	5,3	2,0	-0,9	4,9	0,18
Inactivity rate	5,3	4,4	0,4	-1,5	2,2	0,70
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	8,7	6,0	-4,1	-7,7	-0,5	0,03
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	8,3	6,2	-5,0	-8,6	-1,4	0,01
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	6,6	4,6	-3,6	-8,1	1,0	0,12
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	6,3	4,3	-4,2	-8,9	0,5	0,08
Free State						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,9	1,9	1	-50	53	0,96
Employed	3,0	3,3	-11	-56	34	0,64
Unemployed	6,1	5,3	12	-41	65	0,65
Outside the Labour Force	3,3	3,3	-1	-53	51	0,97
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,9	1,9	0,1	-2,6	2,7	0,97
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,0	3,3	-0,6	-2,9	1,8	0,63
Inactivity rate	3,3	3,3	-0,1	-2,7	2,6	0,97
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	5,2	4,8	1,0	-2,6	4,5	0,60
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,6	4,5	1,2	-2,3	4,7	0,50
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,6	4,3	1,4	-1,3	4,1	0,32
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,2	4,0	1,5	-1,2	4,3	0,27

Table 2.3A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025				
Free State - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,0	2,5	2	-34	38	0,91
Employed	4,0	4,5	9	-35	53	0,70
Unemployed	5,9	6,8	-7	-40	27	0,69
Outside the Labour Force	3,5	4,5	-2	-37	34	0,93
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,0	2,5	0,1	-2,4	2,7	0,92
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	4,0	4,5	0,6	-2,6	3,8	0,70
Inactivity rate	3,5	4,5	-0,1	-2,7	2,4	0,92
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	5,5	6,2	-0,8	-4,6	2,9	0,66
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,6	5,7	-0,6	-4,2	3,1	0,75
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,6	5,5	0,1	-3,3	3,4	0,97
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,9	5,0	0,2	-3,1	3,6	0,89
Free State - Mangaung						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	4,8	2,3	-1	-39	38	0,97
Employed	3,8	3,0	-19	-32	-7	0,00
Unemployed	18,6	4,9	19	-23	61	0,38
Outside the Labour Force	7,2	3,4	1	-38	39	0,97
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	4,8	2,3	-0,1	-7,0	6,8	0,97
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,8	3,0	-3,5	-5,7	-1,3	0,00
Inactivity rate	7,2	3,4	0,1	-6,8	7,0	0,97
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	14,8	4,1	5,7	-3,7	15,0	0,23
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	12,9	5,1	5,9	-3,4	15,1	0,21
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,2	5,8	4,6	0,3	9,0	0,04
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	5,0	6,6	4,8	-0,1	9,7	0,05

Table 2.3A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025				
KwaZulu-Natal						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,9	2,1	-25	-155	105	0,71
Employed	2,3	2,3	-41	-124	41	0,33
Unemployed	5,1	5,6	16	-90	122	0,76
Outside the Labour Force	2,0	2,2	48	-82	178	0,47
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,9	2,1	-0,5	-2,2	1,2	0,58
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,3	2,3	-0,6	-1,7	0,4	0,24
Inactivity rate	2,0	2,2	0,5	-1,2	2,2	0,58
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,2	4,4	0,6	-1,3	2,5	0,54
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,0	3,9	-0,3	-2,0	1,5	0,77
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,3	2,3	0,5	-0,8	1,8	0,48
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,2	2,3	-0,2	-1,7	1,3	0,78
KwaZulu-Natal - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,9	3,4	-27	-143	90	0,65
Employed	3,4	3,3	-103	-166	-40	0,00
Unemployed	7,3	7,6	76	-21	174	0,12
Outside the Labour Force	2,6	2,9	40	-76	157	0,50
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,9	3,4	-0,7	-3,0	1,7	0,58
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,4	3,3	-2,1	-3,4	-0,9	0,00
Inactivity rate	2,6	2,9	0,7	-1,7	3,0	0,58
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	5,8	5,3	3,7	0,9	6,4	0,01
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	5,2	4,5	3,1	0,9	5,2	0,01
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,8	2,6	2,4	0,9	4,0	0,00
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,7	2,7	2,0	0,4	3,6	0,02

Table 2.3A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025				
KwaZulu-Natal - eThekweni						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,8	1,8	2	-59	63	0,96
Employed	2,8	3,0	62	9	115	0,02
Unemployed	5,9	6,7	-60	-103	-17	0,01
Outside the Labour Force	2,9	2,9	8	-53	69	0,80
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,8	1,8	-0,2	-2,4	2,1	0,89
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,8	3,0	2,1	0,2	4,0	0,03
Inactivity rate	2,9	2,9	0,2	-2,1	2,4	0,89
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	5,6	6,7	-3,6	-5,8	-1,5	0,00
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	5,6	6,4	-4,9	-7,4	-2,3	0,00
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,1	4,5	-2,2	-4,4	-0,1	0,04
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,8	4,3	-3,3	-5,7	-0,8	0,01
North West						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	3,8	2,5	-13	-77	51	0,69
Employed	3,6	4,2	36	-27	100	0,26
Unemployed	10,8	8,8	-49	-120	21	0,17
Outside the Labour Force	4,3	2,7	21	-42	85	0,51
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	3,8	2,5	-0,6	-2,9	1,6	0,59
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,6	4,2	1,2	-1,0	3,4	0,30
Inactivity rate	4,3	2,7	0,6	-1,6	2,9	0,59
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	7,9	7,8	-3,0	-6,9	1,0	0,14
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	7,4	6,9	-1,2	-4,9	2,6	0,54
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,1	3,7	-1,6	-4,8	1,6	0,32
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,0	3,3	-0,3	-3,3	2,8	0,87

Table 2.3A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025				
Gauteng						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,0	1,1	-84	-215	48	0,21
Employed	1,3	1,4	-54	-158	51	0,31
Unemployed	2,7	3,0	-30	-146	86	0,61
Outside the Labour Force	2,2	2,3	122	-9	254	0,07
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,0	1,1	-1,0	-2,1	0,2	0,10
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,3	1,4	-0,6	-1,5	0,3	0,18
Inactivity rate	2,2	2,3	1,0	-0,2	2,1	0,10
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	2,2	2,5	0,0	-1,2	1,2	0,96
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	2,1	2,6	-0,1	-1,4	1,2	0,89
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	1,7	2,0	-0,2	-1,2	0,9	0,77
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	1,7	2,1	-0,2	-1,3	0,9	0,72
Gauteng - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	4,1	4,4	-24	-90	41	0,47
Employed	4,6	3,9	5	-37	47	0,82
Unemployed	6,4	10,5	-29	-81	22	0,27
Outside the Labour Force	9,5	9,3	30	-36	95	0,37
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	4,1	4,4	-1,8	-6,2	2,5	0,40
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	4,6	3,9	0,2	-2,6	2,9	0,91
Inactivity rate	9,5	9,3	1,8	-2,5	6,2	0,40
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,6	7,5	-2,0	-5,7	1,7	0,28
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	5,4	7,4	-4,2	-7,8	-0,6	0,02
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,0	5,5	-2,1	-4,4	0,2	0,07
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	4,2	6,0	-4,0	-6,7	-1,3	0,00

Table 2.3A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025				
Gauteng - Ekurhuleni						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,8	2,2	19	-34	72	0,47
Employed	2,0	2,4	13	-30	57	0,55
Unemployed	5,2	6,3	6	-42	54	0,80
Outside the Labour Force	3,1	3,8	-10	-63	43	0,72
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,8	2,2	0,5	-1,4	2,3	0,62
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,0	2,4	0,3	-1,2	1,8	0,68
Inactivity rate	3,1	3,8	-0,5	-2,3	1,4	0,62
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,1	5,0	0,0	-2,1	2,1	1,00
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,5	5,0	-0,6	-3,2	2,1	0,68
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,8	3,3	-0,7	-2,7	1,2	0,46
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,2	3,3	-1,2	-3,4	1,0	0,28
Gauteng - City of Johannesburg						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,7	1,8	-109	-202	-17	0,02
Employed	2,7	3,0	-49	-125	28	0,21
Unemployed	4,4	4,7	-61	-141	20	0,14
Outside the Labour Force	4,1	3,9	123	31	216	0,01
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,7	1,8	-2,8	-5,0	-0,6	0,01
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,7	3,0	-1,3	-3,1	0,5	0,16
Inactivity rate	4,1	3,9	2,8	0,6	5,0	0,01
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,0	4,4	-0,8	-3,1	1,5	0,49
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,6	4,7	0,4	-2,1	2,8	0,77
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,5	4,2	-0,3	-2,5	1,9	0,80
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,2	4,3	0,8	-1,5	3,0	0,50

Table 2.3A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025				
Gauteng - City of Tshwane						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,1	2,1	30	-22	83	0,26
Employed	2,1	2,3	-23	-61	15	0,23
Unemployed	6,0	5,8	53	4	103	0,03
Outside the Labour Force	4,6	4,8	-21	-74	32	0,43
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,1	2,1	0,8	-1,0	2,7	0,37
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,1	2,3	-1,0	-2,3	0,4	0,15
Inactivity rate	4,6	4,8	-0,8	-2,7	1,0	0,37
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,7	4,6	2,2	0,3	4,2	0,03
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,6	4,7	2,0	-0,2	4,2	0,07
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,3	3,5	1,7	0,2	3,3	0,03
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,7	3,7	1,5	-0,3	3,4	0,10
Mpumalanga						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,7	2,0	6	-84	96	0,90
Employed	3,3	2,5	37	-25	100	0,24
Unemployed	6,4	4,4	-31	-106	44	0,41
Outside the Labour Force	3,8	2,8	3	-87	94	0,94
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,7	2,0	0,0	-2,8	2,8	0,99
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,3	2,5	1,0	-0,9	3,0	0,29
Inactivity rate	3,8	2,8	0,0	-2,8	2,8	0,99
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	5,2	3,7	-1,8	-4,8	1,2	0,25
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,6	3,5	-2,9	-5,5	-0,2	0,03
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,7	2,5	-1,2	-3,7	1,2	0,32
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,5	2,4	-2,1	-4,3	0,0	0,05

Table 2.3A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (concluded)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025				
Limpopo						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,3	2,3	-54	-129	22	0,17
Employed	2,9	2,7	-3	-57	50	0,90
Unemployed	5,2	5,2	-50	-114	14	0,12
Outside the Labour Force	2,7	2,6	65	-11	141	0,09
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,3	2,3	-1,5	-3,3	0,4	0,12
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,9	2,7	-0,2	-1,5	1,1	0,78
Inactivity rate	2,7	2,6	1,5	-0,4	3,3	0,12
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,5	4,4	-1,6	-3,9	0,7	0,18
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,6	4,8	-1,0	-3,7	1,6	0,44
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,3	2,8	1,0	-0,6	2,7	0,23
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,9	3,0	1,3	-0,3	2,9	0,12

Table 3.1A: Sampling variability for the employed by industry and sex						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025				
Both sexes	0,8	0,8	44	-161	249	0,67
Agriculture	4,4	4,5	30	-48	108	0,45
Mining	9,7	9,1	-5	-37	27	0,75
Manufacturing	3,0	3,2	-61	-155	32	0,20
Utilities	13,4	13,5	24	0	49	0,05
Construction	3,8	3,2	35	-56	126	0,45
Trade	2,2	2,2	-98	-236	40	0,16
Transport	3,9	3,6	28	-41	96	0,43
Finance	2,5	2,4	32	-86	150	0,59
Community and social services	2,0	2,0	46	-94	186	0,52
Private households	3,9	3,7	18	-54	89	0,63
Women	1,1	1,1	41	-94	175	0,55
Agriculture	7,4	6,9	9	-41	59	0,72
Mining	16,2	19,6	9	-12	30	0,38
Manufacturing	4,5	4,7	-1	-50	49	0,98
Utilities	20,9	23,8	4	-9	18	0,52
Construction	9,0	9,7	7	-25	39	0,68
Trade	3,0	2,7	-46	-134	41	0,30
Transport	9,1	8,5	-6	-40	27	0,71
Finance	3,7	3,3	-4	-81	74	0,92
Community and social services	2,3	2,2	44	-52	139	0,37
Private households	4,0	3,7	24	-34	83	0,41
Men	1,0	0,9	3	-150	157	0,97
Agriculture	5,1	5,3	21	-40	82	0,50
Mining	10,6	9,9	-15	-44	15	0,32
Manufacturing	3,9	4,1	-61	-139	18	0,13
Utilities	14,8	14,2	20	-1	41	0,06
Construction	3,9	3,3	28	-56	113	0,51
Trade	2,9	2,9	-52	-156	52	0,33
Transport	4,0	3,7	34	-27	95	0,27
Finance	3,2	2,9	36	-61	132	0,46
Community and social services	3,1	3,2	2	-85	90	0,96
Private households	6,3	7,2	-7	-43	30	0,71

Table 3.4 A: Sampling variability for the employed by province and sector						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025				
South Africa	0,8	0,8	44	-161	249	0,67
Formal sector*	1,0	1,0	320	113	526	0,00
Informal sector*	2,4	2,3	-293	-458	-128	0,00
Households	3,9	3,7	18	-54	89	0,63
Western Cape	1,6	1,5	93	2	185	0,05
Formal sector*	2,0	2,3	109	13	204	0,03
Informal sector*	7,2	7,2	-5	-65	56	0,88
Households	11,6	11,6	-11	-45	24	0,54
Western Cape – Non-metro	2,6	2,0	25	-8	57	0,14
Formal sector*	2,8	1,9	42	8	76	0,02
Informal sector*	10,6	8,5	-18	-59	22	0,37
Households	13,5	17,8	1	-21	23	0,94
Western Cape – City of Cape Town	2,0	2,2	69	-16	154	0,11
Formal sector*	2,6	3,3	67	-21	154	0,13
Informal sector*	9,6	10,2	14	-31	58	0,55
Households	16,4	14,8	-11	-38	15	0,39
Eastern Cape	3,0	3,5	-32	-103	40	0,38
Formal sector*	3,7	4,1	12	-44	68	0,67
Informal sector*	7,6	7,7	-45	-97	8	0,10
Households	12,5	11,2	1	-18	20	0,90
Eastern Cape – Non-metro	3,5	4,0	-37	-96	22	0,22
Formal sector*	4,7	5,2	-30	-73	13	0,17
Informal sector*	8,6	8,9	-9	-48	30	0,67
Households	18,1	13,3	2	-14	18	0,82
Eastern Cape – Buffalo City	6,5	7,5	10	-28	48	0,60
Formal sector*	8,5	9,4	33	3	63	0,03
Informal sector*	11,7	17,2	-26	-58	6	0,11
Households	18,9	30,0	3	-5	12	0,48

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 3.4A: Sampling variability for the employed by province and sector (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025				
Eastern Cape – Nelson Mandela Bay	7,8	8,8	-5	-19	10	0,53
Formal sector*	7,6	8,0	9	-13	30	0,42
Informal sector*	29,8	25,9	-10	-23	3	0,15
Households	14,2	25,7	-4	-10	3	0,25
Northern Cape	7,2	5,3	17	-7	42	0,16
Formal sector*	8,1	6,3	32	12	53	0,00
Informal sector*	14,8	18,4	-13	-30	5	0,16
Households	14,6	17,5	-2	-8	3	0,42
Free State	3,0	3,3	-11	-56	34	0,64
Formal sector*	4,0	5,3	-12	-54	30	0,57
Informal sector*	9,6	9,5	-6	-24	13	0,55
Households	8,9	12,1	7	-14	28	0,50
Free State – Non-metro	4,0	4,5	9	-35	53	0,70
Formal sector*	5,2	7,1	7	-34	48	0,74
Informal sector*	12,2	12,2	-3	-16	9	0,61
Households	11,9	14,3	5	-14	24	0,61
Free State – Mangaung	3,8	3,0	-19	-32	-7	0,00
Formal sector*	5,5	5,9	-19	-29	-9	0,00
Informal sector*	14,1	11,5	-2	-16	11	0,73
Households	8,6	22,6	2	-6	10	0,61
KwaZulu-Natal	2,3	2,3	-41	-124	41	0,33
Formal sector*	2,6	2,9	51	-47	149	0,31
Informal sector*	6,4	6,5	-81	-165	3	0,06
Households	8,7	8,6	-11	-44	22	0,51
KwaZulu-Natal – Non-metro	3,4	3,3	-103	-166	-40	0,00
Formal sector*	4,3	3,7	-25	-90	40	0,45
Informal sector*	9,1	8,7	-64	-137	9	0,09
Households	14,3	14,4	-14	-46	17	0,37

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 3.4A: Sampling variability for the employed by province and sector (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025				
KwaZulu-Natal – eThekweni	2,8	3,0	62	9	115	0,02
Formal sector*	2,5	4,5	76	3	148	0,04
Informal sector*	8,4	9,7	-17	-59	24	0,42
Households	9,1	10,0	3	-7	14	0,53
North West	3,6	4,2	36	-27	100	0,26
Formal sector*	4,5	5,2	8	-46	62	0,77
Informal sector*	10,5	7,5	17	-28	63	0,45
Households	13,5	9,4	11	-6	28	0,20
Gauteng	1,3	1,4	-54	-158	51	0,31
Formal sector*	2,0	2,1	71	-48	191	0,24
Informal sector*	4,6	4,5	-112	-190	-34	0,00
Households	8,2	7,5	-13	-41	16	0,38
Gauteng – Non-metro	4,6	3,9	5	-37	47	0,82
Formal sector*	4,7	4,0	17	-20	54	0,37
Informal sector*	12,3	10,8	-9	-35	16	0,48
Households	17,0	20,1	-3	-13	7	0,55
Gauteng – Ekurhuleni	2,0	2,4	13	-30	57	0,55
Formal sector*	3,6	3,4	21	-27	69	0,39
Informal sector*	12,0	10,0	-4	-33	25	0,78
Households	14,9	15,5	-4	-14	7	0,48
Gauteng – City of Johannesburg	2,7	3,0	-49	-125	28	0,21
Formal sector*	4,5	5,5	-13	-103	77	0,78
Informal sector*	6,2	6,7	-34	-96	28	0,28
Households	10,1	10,4	-2	-16	13	0,81
Gauteng – City of Tshwane	2,1	2,3	-23	-61	15	0,23
Formal sector*	3,2	2,6	46	-2	95	0,06
Informal sector*	10,4	10,3	-65	-92	-38	0,00
Households	21,7	17,4	-4	-23	15	0,68

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 3.4A: Sampling variability for the employed by province and sector (concluded)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025				
Mpumalanga	3,3	2,5	37	-25	100	0,24
Formal sector*	3,4	4,1	1	-46	48	0,96
Informal sector*	8,9	6,4	27	-6	60	0,11
Households	11,5	13,1	9	-14	33	0,42
Limpopo	2,9	2,7	-3	-57	50	0,90
Formal sector*	4,8	3,5	47	-2	97	0,06
Informal sector*	6,8	5,4	-76	-144	-9	0,03
Households	11,5	11,9	26	4	47	0,02

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 3.5A: Sampling variability for the employed by sex and occupation						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025				
Both sexes	0,8	0,8	44	-161	249	0,67
Manager	3,7	3,8	-20	-101	62	0,64
Professional	4,4	4,4	43	-41	127	0,32
Technician	3,2	2,7	87	-9	183	0,07
Clerk	2,9	2,8	-36	-131	60	0,46
Sales and services	2,2	2,3	7	-120	134	0,92
Skilled agriculture	10,7	14,7	-37	-61	-14	0,00
Craft and related trade	2,8	2,8	-48	-155	59	0,38
Plant and machine operator	3,6	3,5	14	-64	92	0,72
Elementary	2,0	1,8	14	-138	165	0,86
Domestic worker	3,9	3,5	7	-51	65	0,81
Women	1,1	1,1	41	-94	175	0,55
Manager	6,2	6,1	-12	-62	39	0,65
Professional	5,2	5,7	55	-3	112	0,06
Technician	4,2	3,5	81	17	145	0,01
Clerk	3,5	3,4	-29	-111	53	0,49
Sales and services	2,9	3,1	-4	-99	91	0,94
Skilled agriculture	25,9	21,3	-1	-16	14	0,90
Craft and related trade	7,2	7,4	-23	-58	13	0,21
Plant and machine operator	7,8	10,4	-15	-48	18	0,36
Elementary	2,9	2,9	-30	-127	66	0,54
Domestic worker	4,1	3,7	15	-44	73	0,62
Men	1,0	0,9	3	-150	157	0,97
Manager	3,9	4,1	-8	-69	54	0,80
Professional	6,0	5,7	-12	-62	38	0,64
Technician	4,2	3,9	6	-68	80	0,87
Clerk	4,7	5,1	-7	-61	48	0,81
Sales and services	3,0	3,1	11	-75	96	0,81
Skilled agriculture	12,1	19,7	-36	-55	-18	0,00
Craft and related trade	3,0	3,0	-25	-122	71	0,61
Plant and machine operator	3,9	3,7	29	-42	100	0,42
Elementary	2,4	2,3	44	-67	155	0,44
Domestic worker	14,8	17,8	-8	-25	9	0,37

Table 2B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by sex						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2024	Oct-Dec 2025				
Both sexes						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,6	0,6	-134	-470	202	0,43
Employed	0,8	0,8	21	-296	338	0,90
Formal sector (non-agriculture)*	-	1,0	-	-	-	-
Informal sector (non-agriculture)*	-	2,3	-	-	-	-
Household sector	-	3,7	-	-	-	-
Unemployed	1,9	1,7	-155	-450	140	0,30
Outside the Labour Force	0,9	0,9	642	306	978	0,00
Potential Labour Force	3,4	2,7	287	37	537	0,02
Discouraged work-seekers	3,8	3,2	249	22	475	0,03
Other Potential Labour Force	5,5	4,6	39	-68	146	0,47
Other (Outside the Labour Force)	1,0	0,9	355	66	644	0,02
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	0,6	0,6	-1,0	-1,9	-0,2	0,01
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,8	0,8	-0,4	-1,2	0,3	0,25
Inactivity rate	0,9	0,9	1,0	0,2	1,9	0,01
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,6	1,4	-0,5	-1,5	0,6	0,39
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,5	1,4	-0,8	-1,8	0,3	0,16
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	1,1	0,9	0,2	-0,7	1,2	0,64
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	1,0	0,9	-0,1	-1,1	0,9	0,90

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 2B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by sex (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2024	Oct-Dec 2025				
Women						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,8	0,8	-138	-352	76	0,21
Employed	1,0	1,1	-165	-360	30	0,10
Formal sector (non-agriculture)*	-	1,4	-	-	-	-
Informal sector (non-agriculture)*	-	3,4	-	-	-	-
Household sector	-	3,7	-	-	-	-
Unemployed	2,1	2,2	27	-151	205	0,76
Outside the Labour Force	1,0	1,0	376	162	590	0,00
Potential Labour Force	3,7	3,0	173	15	331	0,03
Discouraged work-seekers	4,3	3,7	113	-32	259	0,13
Other Potential Labour Force	5,8	5,0	60	-16	135	0,12
Other (Outside the Labour Force)	1,1	1,1	203	3	403	0,05
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	0,8	0,8	-1,3	-2,3	-0,3	0,01
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,0	1,1	-1,2	-2,1	-0,3	0,01
Inactivity rate	1,0	1,0	1,3	0,3	2,3	0,01
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,7	1,8	0,6	-0,7	2,0	0,34
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,6	1,7	0,4	-1,0	1,8	0,55
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	1,1	1,1	1,3	0,1	2,5	0,03
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	1,1	1,1	1,1	-0,2	2,3	0,09

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 2B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by sex (concluded)

	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2024	Oct-Dec 2025				
Men						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,6	0,7	4	-219	227	0,97
Employed	1,0	0,9	186	-53	425	0,13
Formal sector (non-agriculture)*	-	1,3	-	-	-	-
Informal sector (non-agriculture)*	-	2,5	-	-	-	-
Household sector	-	7,2	-	-	-	-
Unemployed	2,2	2,0	-182	-374	9	0,06
Outside the Labour Force	1,2	1,2	266	43	489	0,02
Potential Labour Force	3,8	3,1	115	-40	270	0,15
Discouraged work-seekers	4,1	3,5	135	-4	275	0,06
Other Potential Labour Force	7,7	7,3	-21	-80	39	0,49
Other (Outside the Labour Force)	1,3	1,2	151	-7	310	0,06
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	0,6	0,7	-0,8	-1,9	0,2	0,13
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,0	0,9	0,3	-0,8	1,5	0,61
Inactivity rate	1,2	1,2	0,8	-0,2	1,9	0,13
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	2,0	1,8	-1,4	-2,7	0,0	0,05
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,9	1,7	-1,7	-3,1	-0,4	0,01
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	1,4	1,3	-0,7	-2,1	0,6	0,29
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	1,3	1,3	-1,1	-2,4	0,3	0,12

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 2.1A: Table 2.1B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by population group						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2024	Oct-Dec 2025				
South Africa						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,6	0,6	-134	-470	202	0,43
Employed	0,8	0,8	21	-296	338	0,90
Unemployed	1,9	1,7	-155	-450	140	0,30
Outside the Labour Force	0,9	0,9	642	306	978	0,00
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	0,6	0,6	-1,0	-1,9	-0,2	0,01
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,8	0,8	-0,4	-1,2	0,3	0,25
Inactivity rate	0,9	0,9	1,0	0,2	1,9	0,01
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,6	1,4	-0,5	-1,5	0,6	0,39
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,5	1,4	-0,8	-1,8	0,3	0,16
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	1,1	0,9	0,2	-0,7	1,2	0,64
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	1,0	0,9	-0,1	-1,1	0,9	0,90
Black/African						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,7	0,7	-144	-451	164	0,36
Employed	0,9	0,9	10	-270	291	0,94
Unemployed	2,0	1,8	-154	-429	121	0,27
Outside the Labour Force	1,1	1,0	662	355	969	0,00
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	0,7	0,7	-1,3	-2,2	-0,4	0,00
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,9	0,9	-0,5	-1,4	0,3	0,19
Inactivity rate	1,1	1,0	1,3	0,4	2,2	0,00
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,6	1,4	-0,5	-1,7	0,7	0,39
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,5	1,4	-0,8	-2,0	0,4	0,20
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	1,1	0,9	0,2	-0,9	1,3	0,77
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	1,0	0,9	-0,1	-1,2	1,0	0,88

Table 2.1A: Table 2.1B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by population group (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2024	Oct-Dec 2025				
Coloured						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,4	1,9	-22	-130	86	0,69
Employed	1,8	2,4	9	-84	101	0,85
Unemployed	7,1	6,2	-31	-118	57	0,49
Outside the Labour Force	2,2	2,9	39	-69	147	0,48
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,4	1,9	-0,9	-3,9	2,1	0,56
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,8	2,4	0,0	-2,5	2,6	0,99
Inactivity rate	2,2	2,9	0,9	-2,1	3,9	0,56
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	6,4	5,8	-1,2	-4,6	2,3	0,50
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	6,4	4,9	-1,2	-4,8	2,3	0,49
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,4	3,7	0,7	-2,0	3,4	0,61
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,5	3,5	0,6	-2,2	3,4	0,68
Indian/Asian						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,8	3,0	-41	-86	4	0,07
Employed	3,3	4,0	-39	-85	6	0,09
Unemployed	18,4	15,8	-1	-46	43	0,95
Outside the Labour Force	3,0	4,2	49	4	94	0,03
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,8	3,0	-4,3	-8,5	-0,1	0,05
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,3	4,0	-4,1	-8,4	0,2	0,06
Inactivity rate	3,0	4,2	4,3	0,1	8,5	0,05
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	18,1	15,4	0,7	-5,8	7,2	0,83
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	17,0	15,6	0,0	-6,7	6,7	0,99
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	10,5	12,1	1,1	-6,4	8,6	0,77
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	10,5	12,6	0,5	-7,4	8,5	0,90

Table 2.1A: Table 2.1B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by population group (concluded)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2024	Oct-Dec 2025				
White						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,2	1,7	72	-12	156	0,09
Employed	1,4	1,8	41	-45	128	0,35
Unemployed	11,9	10,7	31	-5	66	0,09
Outside the Labour Force	2,5	4,1	-108	-192	-23	0,01
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,2	1,7	3,5	0,4	6,6	0,03
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,4	1,8	2,3	-0,8	5,5	0,15
Inactivity rate	2,5	4,1	-3,5	-6,6	-0,4	0,03
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	11,7	10,4	1,4	-0,5	3,2	0,15
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	10,4	9,5	0,3	-1,9	2,5	0,78
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	8,6	8,8	0,8	-1,0	2,7	0,38
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	8,1	8,2	-0,2	-2,3	2,0	0,86

Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2024	Oct-Dec 2025				
South Africa						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,6	0,6	-134	-470	202	0,43
Employed	0,8	0,8	21	-296	338	0,90
Unemployed	1,9	1,7	-155	-450	140	0,30
Outside the Labour Force	0,9	0,9	642	306	978	0,00
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	0,6	0,6	-1,0	-1,9	-0,2	0,01
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,8	0,8	-0,4	-1,2	0,3	0,25
Inactivity rate	0,9	0,9	1,0	0,2	1,9	0,01
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,6	1,4	-0,5	-1,5	0,6	0,39
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,5	1,4	-0,8	-1,8	0,3	0,16
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	1,1	0,9	0,2	-0,7	1,2	0,64
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	1,0	0,9	-0,1	-1,1	0,9	0,90
Western Cape						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,4	1,4	50	-89	190	0,48
Employed	1,5	1,5	95	-24	214	0,12
Unemployed	6,9	6,3	-45	-142	53	0,37
Outside the Labour Force	3,0	3,1	19	-121	159	0,79
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,4	1,4	0,1	-2,7	2,8	0,97
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,5	1,5	1,1	-1,2	3,4	0,35
Inactivity rate	3,0	3,1	-0,1	-2,8	2,7	0,97
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	6,2	5,7	-1,5	-4,0	0,9	0,21
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	5,5	4,7	-1,9	-4,5	0,7	0,15
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,9	4,0	-1,2	-3,6	1,2	0,32
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,7	3,3	-1,6	-4,0	0,9	0,21

Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2024	Oct-Dec 2025				
Western Cape - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,7	3,1	-17	-131	96	0,76
Employed	2,4	2,0	-18	-84	48	0,59
Unemployed	15,0	12,5	1	-75	76	0,99
Outside the Labour Force	5,1	5,4	42	-71	156	0,47
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,7	3,1	-1,8	-7,9	4,3	0,56
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,4	2,0	-1,7	-5,2	1,8	0,35
Inactivity rate	5,1	5,4	1,8	-4,3	7,9	0,56
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	13,3	9,9	0,3	-5,0	5,5	0,92
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	12,7	8,2	0,2	-5,3	5,6	0,96
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,3	4,4	3,6	0,6	6,6	0,02
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	4,6	3,8	3,4	0,5	6,3	0,02
Western Cape - City of Cape Town						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,6	1,5	68	-19	155	0,13
Employed	2,0	2,2	113	12	214	0,03
Unemployed	7,6	7,4	-45	-102	12	0,12
Outside the Labour Force	3,8	3,8	-23	-110	64	0,60
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,6	1,5	1,1	-1,6	3,8	0,42
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,0	2,2	2,7	-0,4	5,8	0,09
Inactivity rate	3,8	3,8	-1,1	-3,8	1,6	0,42
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	6,9	7,1	-2,6	-5,1	0,0	0,05
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	5,8	5,9	-3,1	-5,8	-0,4	0,03
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	5,3	6,3	-3,9	-7,0	-0,8	0,01
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	5,0	5,1	-4,4	-7,7	-1,1	0,01

Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2024	Oct-Dec 2025				
Eastern Cape						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,0	1,7	97	8	185	0,03
Employed	2,9	3,5	-79	-189	32	0,16
Unemployed	4,7	4,5	175	75	276	0,00
Outside the Labour Force	2,1	1,9	-47	-135	42	0,30
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,0	1,7	1,5	-0,4	3,5	0,11
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,9	3,5	-2,0	-4,4	0,3	0,09
Inactivity rate	2,1	1,9	-1,5	-3,5	0,4	0,11
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,0	4,1	5,8	1,8	9,9	0,00
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,5	4,1	4,2	0,3	8,1	0,04
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,6	2,8	3,7	0,1	7,3	0,04
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,4	2,8	2,4	-1,2	6,0	0,19
Eastern Cape - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	3,1	2,2	135	55	216	0,00
Employed	4,7	4,0	-43	-120	34	0,27
Unemployed	6,3	5,0	178	95	261	0,00
Outside the Labour Force	2,5	2,0	-106	-187	-26	0,01
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	3,1	2,2	3,9	1,3	6,5	0,00
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	4,7	4,0	-1,6	-4,0	0,9	0,20
Inactivity rate	2,5	2,0	-3,9	-6,5	-1,3	0,00
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	5,1	3,9	7,9	3,2	12,6	0,00
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,7	4,0	6,9	2,2	11,6	0,00
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,1	2,4	4,0	-0,2	8,2	0,06
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,0	2,5	3,3	-1,0	7,6	0,13

Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2024	Oct-Dec 2025				
Eastern Cape - Buffalo City						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,4	2,8	-27	-47	-7	0,01
Employed	3,6	7,5	5	-42	53	0,83
Unemployed	5,6	18,1	-32	-70	5	0,09
Outside the Labour Force	3,7	5,9	35	15	55	0,00
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,4	2,8	-5,7	-9,2	-2,3	0,00
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,6	7,5	0,2	-8,1	8,6	0,95
Inactivity rate	3,7	5,9	5,7	2,3	9,2	0,00
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	6,0	18,4	-6,2	-16,3	4,0	0,23
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,2	15,3	-12,3	-21,4	-3,1	0,01
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	6,2	16,4	-6,1	-15,7	3,4	0,21
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,4	13,7	-12,0	-20,6	-3,5	0,01
Eastern Cape - Nelson Mandela Bay						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	3,6	4,5	-12	-38	15	0,39
Employed	4,9	8,8	-41	-103	21	0,20
Unemployed	8,2	11,9	29	-13	72	0,18
Outside the Labour Force	4,8	5,5	25	-2	52	0,07
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	3,6	4,5	-2,1	-5,0	0,8	0,16
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	4,9	8,8	-5,2	-12,0	1,7	0,14
Inactivity rate	4,8	5,5	2,1	-0,8	5,0	0,16
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	8,4	14,0	6,4	-3,2	16,0	0,19
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	6,9	13,1	6,8	-2,8	16,4	0,16
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	5,7	11,0	8,0	-0,1	16,2	0,05
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	5,0	10,7	8,4	0,1	16,6	0,05

Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2024	Oct-Dec 2025				
Northern cape						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	3,1	3,7	-26	-62	9	0,14
Employed	5,0	5,3	-18	-50	15	0,28
Unemployed	7,3	5,0	-9	-24	7	0,28
Outside the Labour Force	4,3	4,4	32	-3	68	0,07
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	3,1	3,7	-3,5	-7,7	0,6	0,10
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	5,0	5,3	-2,4	-6,2	1,4	0,22
Inactivity rate	4,3	4,4	3,5	-0,6	7,7	0,10
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	7,9	6,0	-0,3	-3,4	2,8	0,85
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	7,2	6,2	-0,9	-4,9	3,0	0,64
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	5,3	4,6	3,1	-2,3	8,5	0,26
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	5,6	4,3	2,4	-3,8	8,6	0,44
Free State						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,3	1,9	21	-24	66	0,36
Employed	2,2	3,3	21	-25	68	0,37
Unemployed	4,8	5,3	0	-47	46	0,98
Outside the Labour Force	2,2	3,3	-18	-63	27	0,43
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,3	1,9	1,0	-1,3	3,3	0,40
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,2	3,3	1,0	-1,3	3,4	0,39
Inactivity rate	2,2	3,3	-1,0	-3,3	1,3	0,40
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,1	4,8	-0,7	-4,0	2,7	0,69
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,6	4,5	-0,9	-4,4	2,7	0,62
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,9	4,3	-0,2	-3,9	3,4	0,90
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,8	4,0	-0,5	-4,3	3,4	0,82

Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2024	Oct-Dec 2025				
Free State - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,5	2,5	27	-6	61	0,11
Employed	3,0	4,5	44	2	85	0,04
Unemployed	5,4	6,8	-16	-55	23	0,41
Outside the Labour Force	2,5	4,5	-25	-59	8	0,13
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,5	2,5	1,9	-0,5	4,3	0,12
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,0	4,5	3,1	0,1	6,1	0,04
Inactivity rate	2,5	4,5	-1,9	-4,3	0,5	0,12
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,6	6,2	-3,1	-7,2	1,0	0,14
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,3	5,7	-3,4	-7,9	1,1	0,14
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,5	5,5	-3,1	-7,7	1,6	0,20
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,2	5,0	-3,3	-8,3	1,7	0,20
Free State - Mangaung						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,6	2,3	-7	-36	23	0,66
Employed	2,6	3,0	-23	-43	-3	0,03
Unemployed	10,7	4,9	16	-9	41	0,22
Outside the Labour Force	4,1	3,4	7	-22	37	0,62
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,6	2,3	-1,3	-6,6	4,1	0,64
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,6	3,0	-4,1	-7,7	-0,5	0,03
Inactivity rate	4,1	3,4	1,3	-4,1	6,6	0,64
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	8,8	4,1	5,3	-0,4	11,0	0,07
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	6,1	5,1	5,2	0,2	10,3	0,04
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,7	5,8	7,0	2,6	11,4	0,00
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	5,4	6,6	6,8	2,2	11,5	0,00

Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2024	Oct-Dec 2025				
KwaZulu-Natal						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,1	2,1	-41	-237	155	0,68
Employed	1,9	2,3	-176	-321	-32	0,02
Unemployed	5,7	5,6	135	2	268	0,05
Outside the Labour Force	2,4	2,2	138	-58	333	0,17
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,1	2,1	-1,2	-3,7	1,4	0,36
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,9	2,3	-2,7	-4,6	-0,9	0,00
Inactivity rate	2,4	2,2	1,2	-1,4	3,7	0,36
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,2	4,4	3,7	1,1	6,2	0,01
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,3	3,9	2,6	0,0	5,2	0,05
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,5	2,3	2,4	0,2	4,5	0,03
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,6	2,3	1,6	-0,5	3,7	0,14
KwaZulu-Natal - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	3,2	3,4	-105	-274	64	0,22
Employed	2,9	3,3	-111	-246	23	0,10
Unemployed	7,1	7,6	6	-105	117	0,92
Outside the Labour Force	3,1	2,9	163	-6	332	0,06
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	3,2	3,4	-2,6	-6,0	0,7	0,12
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,9	3,3	-2,6	-5,2	0,1	0,06
Inactivity rate	3,1	2,9	2,6	-0,7	6,0	0,12
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,9	5,3	1,9	-1,8	5,6	0,32
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	5,1	4,5	1,3	-2,4	4,9	0,50
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,1	2,6	1,8	-1,5	5,1	0,28
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,3	2,7	1,3	-1,9	4,5	0,42

Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2024	Oct-Dec 2025				
KwaZulu-Natal - eThekweni						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,3	1,8	64	-33	161	0,19
Employed	2,3	3,0	-65	-119	-11	0,02
Unemployed	6,9	6,7	129	57	201	0,00
Outside the Labour Force	3,4	2,9	-25	-122	72	0,61
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,3	1,8	1,5	-2,1	5,1	0,41
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,3	3,0	-3,1	-5,1	-1,1	0,00
Inactivity rate	3,4	2,9	-1,5	-5,1	2,1	0,41
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	5,8	6,7	7,1	3,6	10,6	0,00
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	5,7	6,4	5,5	1,7	9,4	0,00
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,9	4,5	3,6	1,2	5,9	0,00
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,7	4,3	2,4	-0,2	5,0	0,07
North West						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	3,5	2,5	-93	-196	10	0,08
Employed	4,5	4,2	38	-50	126	0,39
Unemployed	8,9	8,8	-131	-232	-30	0,01
Outside the Labour Force	4,5	2,7	128	25	231	0,02
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	3,5	2,5	-4,0	-7,6	-0,3	0,03
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	4,5	4,2	0,9	-2,2	4,0	0,56
Inactivity rate	4,5	2,7	4,0	0,3	7,6	0,03
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	6,8	7,8	-6,2	-11,4	-0,9	0,02
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	6,4	6,9	-4,4	-9,3	0,4	0,07
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,0	3,7	-1,9	-5,9	2,1	0,36
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,9	3,3	-0,6	-4,7	3,4	0,76

Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2024	Oct-Dec 2025				
Gauteng						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,1	1,1	-9	-174	155	0,91
Employed	1,6	1,4	102	-80	283	0,27
Unemployed	3,5	3,0	-111	-280	58	0,20
Outside the Labour Force	2,4	2,3	170	5	334	0,04
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,1	1,1	-1,0	-2,5	0,4	0,16
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,6	1,4	0,3	-1,3	1,8	0,75
Inactivity rate	2,4	2,3	1,0	-0,4	2,5	0,16
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	2,9	2,5	-1,4	-3,4	0,6	0,17
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	2,7	2,6	-1,5	-3,7	0,7	0,17
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,3	2,0	-0,5	-2,6	1,6	0,63
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,2	2,1	-0,6	-2,9	1,6	0,57
Gauteng - Non Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	5,2	4,4	-12	-69	45	0,67
Employed	4,1	3,9	100	58	142	0,00
Unemployed	11,7	10,5	-112	-161	-64	0,00
Outside the Labour Force	12,0	9,3	35	-22	92	0,23
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	5,2	4,4	-1,8	-5,6	2,0	0,34
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	4,1	3,9	6,0	3,2	8,8	0,00
Inactivity rate	12,0	9,3	1,8	-2,0	5,6	0,34
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	7,5	7,5	-10,3	-13,4	-7,2	0,00
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	7,5	7,4	-9,9	-13,1	-6,7	0,00
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,1	5,5	-9,0	-13,1	-4,9	0,00
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	4,4	6,0	-8,6	-13,2	-4,0	0,00

Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2024	Oct-Dec 2025				
Gauteng - Ekurhuleni						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,2	2,2	18	-92	129	0,74
Employed	2,6	2,4	-6	-93	80	0,88
Unemployed	8,5	6,3	25	-76	126	0,63
Outside the Labour Force	3,9	3,8	23	-88	133	0,69
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,2	2,2	-0,3	-4,1	3,6	0,89
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,6	2,4	-0,8	-3,9	2,2	0,58
Inactivity rate	3,9	3,8	0,3	-3,6	4,1	0,89
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	7,0	5,0	1,0	-3,5	5,5	0,65
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	6,7	5,0	0,7	-4,2	5,5	0,79
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,5	3,3	2,3	-1,7	6,2	0,27
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	4,3	3,3	1,9	-2,2	6,1	0,37
Gauteng - City of Johannesburg						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,2	1,8	-74	-174	26	0,15
Employed	2,3	3,0	-20	-140	99	0,74
Unemployed	3,8	4,7	-53	-146	39	0,26
Outside the Labour Force	2,9	3,9	132	32	232	0,01
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	1,2	1,8	-2,7	-5,0	-0,3	0,03
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,3	3,0	-1,1	-3,9	1,7	0,44
Inactivity rate	2,9	3,9	2,7	0,3	5,0	0,03
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	3,6	4,4	-1,0	-4,1	2,1	0,54
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,2	4,7	-0,7	-4,3	2,9	0,70
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,7	4,2	0,3	-3,5	4,2	0,86
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,5	4,3	0,5	-3,7	4,7	0,81

Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2024	Oct-Dec 2025				
Gauteng - City of Tshwane						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,4	2,1	59	-4	121	0,07
Employed	4,2	2,3	28	-70	127	0,57
Unemployed	7,3	5,8	30	-63	123	0,52
Outside the Labour Force	5,3	4,8	-19	-82	43	0,54
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,4	2,1	1,1	-1,1	3,4	0,32
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	4,2	2,3	0,4	-3,1	3,9	0,84
Inactivity rate	5,3	4,8	-1,1	-3,4	1,1	0,32
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	6,9	4,6	0,6	-4,1	5,2	0,81
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	6,0	4,7	-0,1	-4,8	4,7	0,97
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	5,6	3,5	0,2	-4,3	4,8	0,92
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	5,1	3,7	-0,3	-5,0	4,3	0,88
Mpumalanga						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,5	2,0	-26	-150	99	0,69
Employed	3,7	2,5	29	-71	128	0,57
Unemployed	6,0	4,4	-54	-143	35	0,23
Outside the Labour Force	3,8	2,8	65	-59	189	0,30
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,5	2,0	-1,5	-5,4	2,3	0,44
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,7	2,5	0,4	-2,7	3,5	0,80
Inactivity rate	3,8	2,8	1,5	-2,3	5,4	0,44
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	5,3	3,7	-2,4	-6,1	1,3	0,21
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,8	3,5	-2,4	-5,7	0,9	0,15
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,3	2,5	-0,9	-4,3	2,4	0,58
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,2	2,4	-1,0	-4,2	2,2	0,53

Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (concluded)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2024	Oct-Dec 2025				
Limpopo						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,1	2,3	-107	-168	-46	0,00
Employed	2,7	2,7	9	-65	82	0,81
Unemployed	4,5	5,2	-116	-181	-50	0,00
Outside the Labour Force	2,7	2,6	155	94	216	0,00
Key rates in relation to the working-age population						
Labour force participation rate	2,1	2,3	-3,3	-4,7	-1,8	0,00
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,7	2,7	-0,2	-2,0	1,6	0,80
Inactivity rate	2,7	2,6	3,3	1,8	4,7	0,00
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	3,8	4,4	-3,8	-6,6	-1,0	0,01
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,7	4,8	-3,7	-7,2	-0,1	0,04
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,5	2,8	-0,4	-2,5	1,7	0,70
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,2	3,0	-0,5	-3,2	2,2	0,72

Table 3.1B: Sampling variability for the employed by industry and sex						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2024	Oct-Dec 2025				
Both sexes	0,8	0,8	21	-296	338	0,90
Agriculture	5,1	4,5	26	-61	114	0,56
Mining	8,1	9,1	-22	-77	33	0,43
Manufacturing	3,1	3,2	-127	-259	5	0,06
Utilities	12,1	13,5	23	-13	59	0,21
Construction	3,6	3,2	65	-60	191	0,31
Trade	2,2	2,2	-95	-293	103	0,34
Transport	4,0	3,6	76	-35	188	0,18
Finance	2,6	2,4	14	-151	179	0,87
Community and social services	2,0	2,0	75	-110	261	0,42
Private households	3,7	3,7	-17	-129	94	0,76
Women	1,0	1,1	-165	-360	30	0,10
Agriculture	7,9	6,9	-15	-71	41	0,60
Mining	14,7	19,6	-7	-40	26	0,69
Manufacturing	4,2	4,7	-100	-172	-27	0,01
Utilities	19,9	23,8	1	-21	23	0,91
Construction	9,4	9,7	-4	-43	36	0,85
Trade	3,0	2,7	-75	-194	44	0,22
Transport	8,6	8,5	-5	-52	42	0,83
Finance	3,2	3,3	3	-92	98	0,95
Community and social services	2,3	2,2	44	-100	188	0,55
Private households	4,0	3,7	-12	-97	73	0,78
Men	1,0	0,9	186	-53	425	0,13
Agriculture	6,0	5,3	41	-34	117	0,28
Mining	8,7	9,9	-15	-60	29	0,50
Manufacturing	4,0	4,1	-27	-133	79	0,62
Utilities	14,8	14,2	22	-5	49	0,11
Construction	3,8	3,3	69	-51	189	0,26
Trade	2,8	2,9	-21	-167	126	0,78
Transport	4,1	3,7	82	-16	179	0,10
Finance	3,3	2,9	11	-120	142	0,87
Community and social services	3,0	3,2	31	-84	147	0,59
Private households	7,1	7,2	-6	-65	54	0,85

Table 3.4B: Sampling variability for the employed by province and sector						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2024	Oct-Dec 2025				
South Africa	0,8	0,8	21	-296	338	0,90
Formal sector*	-	1,0	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	2,3	-	-	-	-
Households	-	3,7	-	-	-	-
Western Cape	1,5	1,5	95	-24	214	0,12
Formal sector*	-	2,3	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	7,2	-	-	-	-
Households	-	11,6	-	-	-	-
Western Cape – Non-Metro	2,4	2,0	-18	-84	48	0,59
Formal sector*	-	1,9	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	8,5	-	-	-	-
Households	-	17,8	-	-	-	-
Western Cape – City of Cape Town	2,0	2,2	113	12	214	0,03
Formal sector*	-	3,3	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	10,2	-	-	-	-
Households	-	14,8	-	-	-	-
Eastern Cape	2,9	3,5	-79	-189	32	0,16
Formal sector*	-	4,1	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	7,7	-	-	-	-
Households	-	11,2	-	-	-	-
Eastern Cape – Non-Metro	4,7	4,0	-43	-120	34	0,27
Formal sector*	-	5,2	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	8,9	-	-	-	-
Households	-	13,3	-	-	-	-
Eastern Cape – Buffalo City	3,6	7,5	5	-42	53	0,83
Formal sector*	-	9,4	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	17,2	-	-	-	-
Households	-	30,0	-	-	-	-

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 3.4B: Sampling variability for the employed by province and sector (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2024	Oct-Dec 2025				
Eastern Cape - Nelson Mandela bay	4,9	8,8	-41	-103	21	0,20
Formal sector*	-	8,0	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	25,9	-	-	-	-
Households	-	25,7	-	-	-	-
Northern Cape	5,0	5,3	-18	-50	15	0,28
Formal sector*	-	6,3	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	18,4	-	-	-	-
Households	-	17,5	-	-	-	-
Free State	2,2	3,3	21	-25	68	0,37
Formal sector*	-	5,3	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	9,5	-	-	-	-
Households	-	12,1	-	-	-	-
Free State - Non-Metro	3,0	4,5	44	2	85	0,04
Formal sector*	-	7,1	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	12,2	-	-	-	-
Households	-	14,3	-	-	-	-
Free State - Mangaung	2,6	3,0	-23	-43	-3	0,03
Formal sector*	-	5,9	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	11,5	-	-	-	-
Households	-	22,6	-	-	-	-
KwaZulu-Natal	1,9	2,3	-176	-321	-32	0,02
Formal sector*	-	2,9	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	6,5	-	-	-	-
Households	-	8,6	-	-	-	-
KwaZulu-Natal - Non-Metro	2,9	3,3	-111	-246	23	0,10
Formal sector*	-	3,7	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	8,7	-	-	-	-
Households	-	14,4	-	-	-	-

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 3.4B: Sampling variability for the employed by province and sector (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2024	Oct-Dec 2025				
KwaZulu-Natal - eThekweni	2,3	3,0	-65	-119	-11	0,02
Formal sector*	-	4,5	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	9,7	-	-	-	-
Households	-	10,0	-	-	-	-
North West	4,5	4,2	38	-50	126	0,39
Formal sector*	-	5,2	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	7,5	-	-	-	-
Households	-	9,4	-	-	-	-
Gauteng	1,6	1,4	102	-80	283	0,27
Formal sector*	-	2,1	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	4,5	-	-	-	-
Households	-	7,5	-	-	-	-
Gauteng - Non-Metro	4,1	3,9	100	58	142	0,00
Formal sector*	-	4,0	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	10,8	-	-	-	-
Households	-	20,1	-	-	-	-
Gauteng - Ekurhuleni	2,6	2,4	-6	-93	80	0,88
Formal sector*	-	3,4	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	10,0	-	-	-	-
Households	-	15,5	-	-	-	-
Gauteng - City of Johannesburg	2,3	3,0	-20	-140	99	0,74
Formal sector*	-	5,5	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	6,7	-	-	-	-
Households	-	10,4	-	-	-	-
Gauteng - City of Tshwane	4,2	2,3	28	-70	127	0,57
Formal sector*	-	2,6	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	10,3	-	-	-	-
Households	-	17,4	-	-	-	-

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 3.4B: Sampling variability for the employed by province and sector (concluded)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2024	Oct-Dec 2025				
Mpumalanga	3,7	2,5	29	-71	128	0,57
Formal sector*	-	4,1	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	6,4	-	-	-	-
Households	-	13,1	-	-	-	-
Limpopo	2,7	2,7	9	-65	82	0,81
Formal sector*	-	3,5	-	-	-	-
Informal sector*	-	5,4	-	-	-	-
Households	-	11,9	-	-	-	-

* Definition of sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q4:2025 are not comparable with the previously produced estimates based on the old standards (i.e. 15th ICLS resolution on statistics of employment in the informal sector). However, estimates for the previous quarters on sector using the old definitions are available upon request.

Table 3.5B: Sampling variability for the employed by sex and occupation						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2024	Oct-Dec 2025				
Both sexes	0,8	0,8	21	-296	338	0,90
Manager	3,4	3,8	-62	-180	55	0,30
Professional	4,5	4,4	83	-30	196	0,15
Technician	3,4	2,7	177	46	308	0,01
Clerk	2,8	2,8	-77	-210	57	0,26
Sales and services	2,1	2,3	130	-57	317	0,17
Skilled agriculture	12,4	14,7	-12	-37	13	0,36
Craft and related trade	2,8	2,8	11	-132	155	0,88
Plant and machine operator	3,3	3,5	38	-86	162	0,54
Elementary	2,0	1,8	-299	-499	-99	0,00
Domestic worker	4,2	3,5	-7	-95	82	0,88
Women	1,0	1,1	-165	-360	30	0,10
Manager	5,0	6,1	-36	-116	45	0,38
Professional	5,7	5,7	71	-15	156	0,10
Technician	4,0	3,5	84	-2	170	0,06
Clerk	3,0	3,4	-68	-179	43	0,23
Sales and services	2,9	3,1	89	-45	223	0,19
Skilled agriculture	20,2	21,3	0	-14	14	0,97
Craft and related trade	6,2	7,4	-41	-88	6	0,09
Plant and machine operator	7,9	10,4	-27	-71	16	0,21
Elementary	2,7	2,9	-250	-374	-126	0,00
Domestic worker	4,2	3,7	0	-84	84	1,00
Men	1,0	0,9	186	-53	425	0,13
Manager	3,8	4,1	-27	-118	64	0,57
Professional	6,7	5,7	12	-54	78	0,71
Technician	4,4	3,9	93	5	182	0,04
Clerk	5,2	5,1	-9	-81	63	0,81
Sales and services	2,9	3,1	41	-85	168	0,52
Skilled agriculture	14,9	19,7	-11	-31	8	0,26
Craft and related trade	3,1	3,0	52	-87	191	0,46
Plant and machine operator	3,6	3,7	66	-49	181	0,26
Elementary	2,6	2,3	-49	-203	106	0,54
Domestic worker	18,3	17,8	-6	-29	16	0,58