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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 July to September 2026 (Q3: 2026) based on the Q3: 2025 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. (Please refer to concepts and definitions on page 16).

2. Highlights of the results

Table A – Key labour market indicators

	Jul-Sep 2025	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Thousand					%	
Population 15-64 years	**41 948**	**42 310**	**42 427**	**117**	**478**	**0,3**	**1,1**
Labour Force	**25 062**	**25 220**	**25 418**	**198**	**356**	**0,8**	**1,4**
Employed	**17 055**	**16 739**	**16 840**	**101**	**-215**	**0,6**	**-1,3**
Formal sector*	11 983	12 073	12 340	268	357	2,2	3,0
Informal sector*	3 961	3 574	3 476	-98	-485	-2,7	-12,2
Household sector	1 111	1 092	1 024	-68	-87	-6,2	-7,9
Unemployed	**8 007**	**8 481**	**8 578**	**97**	**571**	**1,1**	**7,1**
Outside the Labour Force	**16 886**	**17 090**	**17 008**	**-82**	**122**	**-0,5**	**0,7**
Potential Labour Force	4 529	4 571	4 640	69	110	1,5	2,4
Available job-seekers	4 446	4 527	4 596	69	150	1,5	3,4
Discouraged job-seekers	3 481	3 665	3 735	70	255	1,9	7,3
Other (available job-seekers)	965	861	860	-1	-105	-0,1	-10,9
Unavailable job-seekers	83	44	44	0	-40	1,1	-47,4
Other (Outside the labour force)	12 357	12 519	12 369	-150	12	-1,2	0,1
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)							
Labour force participation rate	59,7	59,6	59,9	0,3	0,2		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	40,7	39,6	39,7	0,1	-1,0		
Inactivity rate	40,3	40,4	40,1	-0,3	-0,2		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)							
LU1- Unemployment rate	31,9	33,6	33,7	0,1	1,8		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	34,9	36,6	36,5	-0,1	1,6		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	42,4	43,8	44,0	0,2	1,6		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	44,9	46,3	46,3	0,0	1,4		

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 Q3:2025 to Q3:2026 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 117 000 (0,3%) in the third quarter of 2026 compared with the previous quarter. During the same period, the number of employed individuals increased by 101 000 to 16,8 million, and the number of unemployed persons grew by 97 000 to reach 8,6 million. Consequently, the labour force increased by 198 000 (0,8%) between the second quarter of 2026 and the third quarter of 2026. Employment in the informal and household sectors declined by 98 000 and 68 000 persons, respectively, while the formal sector grew by 268 000.

Between Q2: 2026 and Q3: 2026, the number of persons outside the labour force decreased by 82 000 (0,5%) to 17,0 million. This drop was mainly driven by a loss of 150 000 among those classified as other outside the labour force. The number of available job-seekers increased by 69 000 (1,5%), while unavailable job-seekers remained unchanged, leading to a net increase of 69 000 in the potential labour force. Among available job-seekers, discouraged work-seekers increased by 70 000 (1,9%), while other available job-seekers decreased by 1 000, resulting in an overall increase of 69 000 in this category.

An increase in employment and unemployment resulted in an increase of 0,1 of a percentage point in the unemployment rate to 33,7% in the third quarter of 2026. The labour force participation rate increased by 0,3 of a percentage point to 59,9%, and the absorption rate increased by 0,1 of a percentage point to 39,7% between Q2: 2026 and Q3: 2026.

In addition to the unemployment rate (LU1), other indicators of labour underutilisation were measured: 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 persons in different situations with different degrees of attachment to the labour market.

The combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment (LU2) was recorded at 36,5%, and the combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force (LU3) stood at 44,0% in the third quarter of 2026. The labour underutilisation rate (which is the composite measure of labour underutilisation) remained unchanged at 46,3% compared with Q2: 2026, but it increased by 1,4 percentage points in Q3:2026 compared with the same quarter of the previous year.

Compared with Q3: 2025, the working-age population increased by 478 000 (or 1,1%). Total employment decreased by 215 000 persons (or 1,3%), while the number of unemployed persons increased by 571 000 (or 7,1%), and the number of persons who were outside the labour force increased by 122 000 (or 0,7%) during the same period.

3. Employment

Figure 1: Quarter-to-quarter changes in employment, Q3: 2021 to Q3: 2026

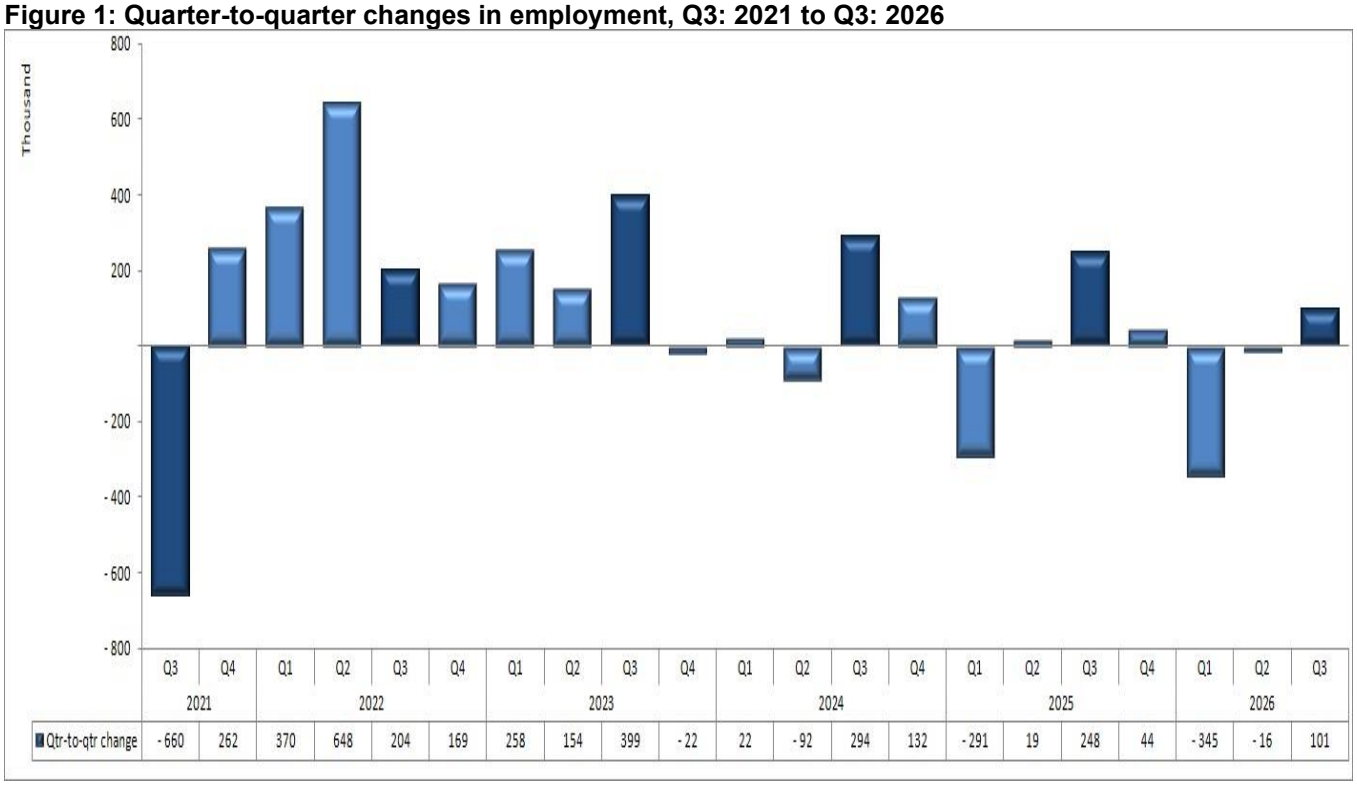


Figure 1 shows that following a decrease of 16 000 in the previous quarter, employment increased by 101 000 in the third quarter of 2026. Employment has always increased in the third quarter of each year except for a decline observed in 2021 during COVID-19 pandemic.

Table B – Employment by industry

Industry	Jul-Sep 2025	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	Qtr-to-Qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-Qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand					%	
Total*	**17 055**	**16 739**	**16 840**	**101**	**-215**	**0,6**	**-1,3**
Agriculture	920	944	911	-34	-9	-3,6	-1,0
Mining	449	450	481	31	32	6,8	7,0
Manufacturing	1 610	1 571	1 604	33	-6	2,1	-0,3
Utilities	109	103	106	4	-3	3,5	-2,5
Construction	1 390	1 354	1 345	-8	-44	-0,6	-3,2
Trade	3 424	3 389	3 391	2	-33	0,1	-1,0
Transport	1 113	1 108	1 124	16	11	1,4	1,0
Finance	2 930	2 950	3 062	111	132	3,8	4,5
Community and social services	3 988	3 771	3 792	20	-197	0,5	-4,9
Private households	1 111	1 092	1 024	-68	-87	-6,2	-7,9

**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 Q2: 2026 and Q3: 2026, the number of employed persons increased in seven of the ten industries. The largest increases in employment were recorded in the Finance industry (111 000), followed by the Manufacturing (33 000), Mining (31 000) and Community and social services (20 000) industries. Decreases in employment were recorded in Private households (68 000), followed by the Agriculture (34 000) and Construction (8 000) industries.

Compared with the same period last year, a net decrease of 215 000 in total employment was largely due to decreases in the number of persons employed in the Community and social services (197 000), Private households (87 000), Construction (44 000) and Trade (33 000) industries. Gains in employment were recorded in Finance (132 000), followed by the Mining (32 000) and Transport (11 000) industries.

Figure 2a: Employment by sector – (based on 21st ICLS resolution), Q2: 2026 and Q3: 2026

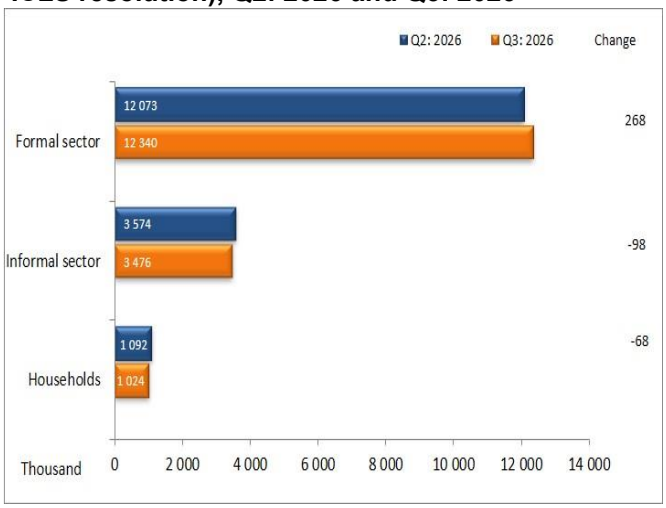
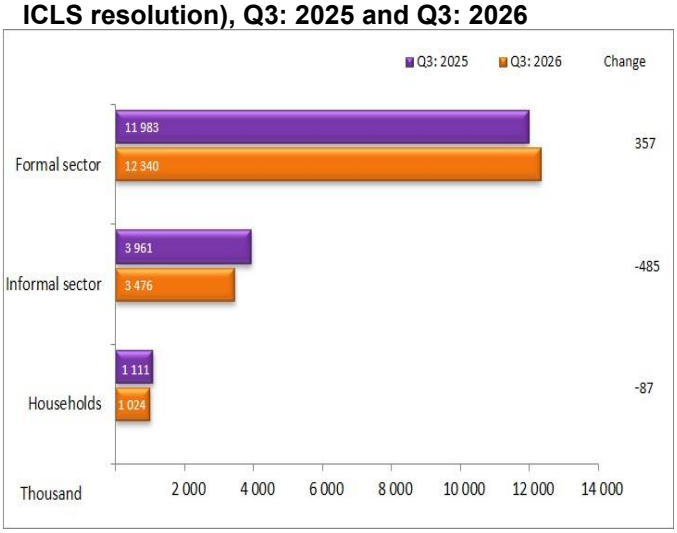


Figure 2b: Employment by sector – (based on 21st ICLS resolution), Q3: 2025 and Q3: 2026



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 Q3:2025 to Q3:2026 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 above figures illustrate the results of Q2: 2026 and Q3: 2026 employment by sector based on the 21st ICLS resolution as well as the results of Q3: 2025 and Q3: 2026 which recommends the three sector categories, namely the formal sector (including Agriculture), informal sector (including Agriculture) and households' sector. Between Q2: 2026 and Q3: 2026, employment in the formal sector increased by 268 000 persons, while the informal and households' sectors decreased by 98 000 and 68 000 persons, respectively (as depicted by Figure 2a).

Compared to a year ago, employment in the formal sector increased by 357 000 persons, while the informal and households' sectors decreased by 485 000 and 87 000 persons, respectively (as depicted by Figure 2b).

Table C – Employment by occupation

Occupation	Jul-Sep 2025	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	Qtr-to-Qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-Qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand					%	
Total*	**17 055**	**16 739**	**16 840**	**101**	**-215**	**0,6**	**-1,3**
Manager	1 453	1 459	1 537	78	84	5,4	5,8
Professional	909	916	951	36	42	3,9	4,6
Technician	1 488	1 460	1 367	-92	-121	-6,3	-8,1
Clerk	1 856	1 788	1 818	31	-37	1,7	-2,0
Sales and services	3 073	3 037	3 168	131	95	4,3	3,1
Skilled agriculture	97	81	51	-30	-46	-37,4	-47,5
Craft and related trade	1 991	1 930	1 923	-7	-68	-0,4	-3,4
Plant and machine operator	1 413	1 381	1 410	29	-3	2,1	-0,2
Elementary	3 903	3 846	3 814	-32	-89	-0,8	-2,3
Domestic worker	848	831	800	-31	-48	-3,7	-5,6

**Note: Total includes 'Other' occupations.*
Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.

Five out of ten occupational categories recorded employment gains in Q3: 2026 compared with Q2: 2026. Increases in employment were observed in Sales and services occupations (131 000), followed by Managers (78 000), Professionals (36 000), Clerks (31 000) and Plant and machine operators (29 000) occupations. During the same period, employment losses were recorded in Technician occupations (92 000), followed by Elementary (32 000), Domestic worker (31 000), Skilled agriculture (30 000) and Craft and related trade (7 000) occupations.

Year-on-year losses in employment were mainly driven by Technician occupations (121 000), followed by Elementary (89 000), Craft and related trade (68 000), Domestic worker (48 000), Skilled agriculture (46 000) and Clerical (37 000) occupations. Gains in employment were recorded among Sales and services (95 000), Managerial (84 000) and Professional (42 000) occupations.

Table D – Employment by province

Province	Jul-Sep 2025	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	Qtr-to-Qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-Qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand					%	
South Africa	**17 055**	**16 739**	**16 840**	**101**	**-215**	**0,6**	**-1,3**
Western Cape	2 814	2 835	2 883	48	69	1,7	2,5
Eastern Cape	1 408	1 346	1 383	36	-26	2,7	-1,8
Northern Cape	319	309	313	4	-6	1,2	-2,0
Free State	782	769	735	-34	-47	-4,5	-6,0
KwaZulu-Natal	2 757	2 725	2 731	6	-26	0,2	-0,9
North West	937	878	923	45	-14	5,1	-1,5
Gauteng	5 237	5 094	5 119	25	-117	0,5	-2,2
Mpumalanga	1 246	1 270	1 240	-30	-6	-2,4	-0,5
Limpopo	1 555	1 512	1 513	1	-42	0,1	-2,7

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

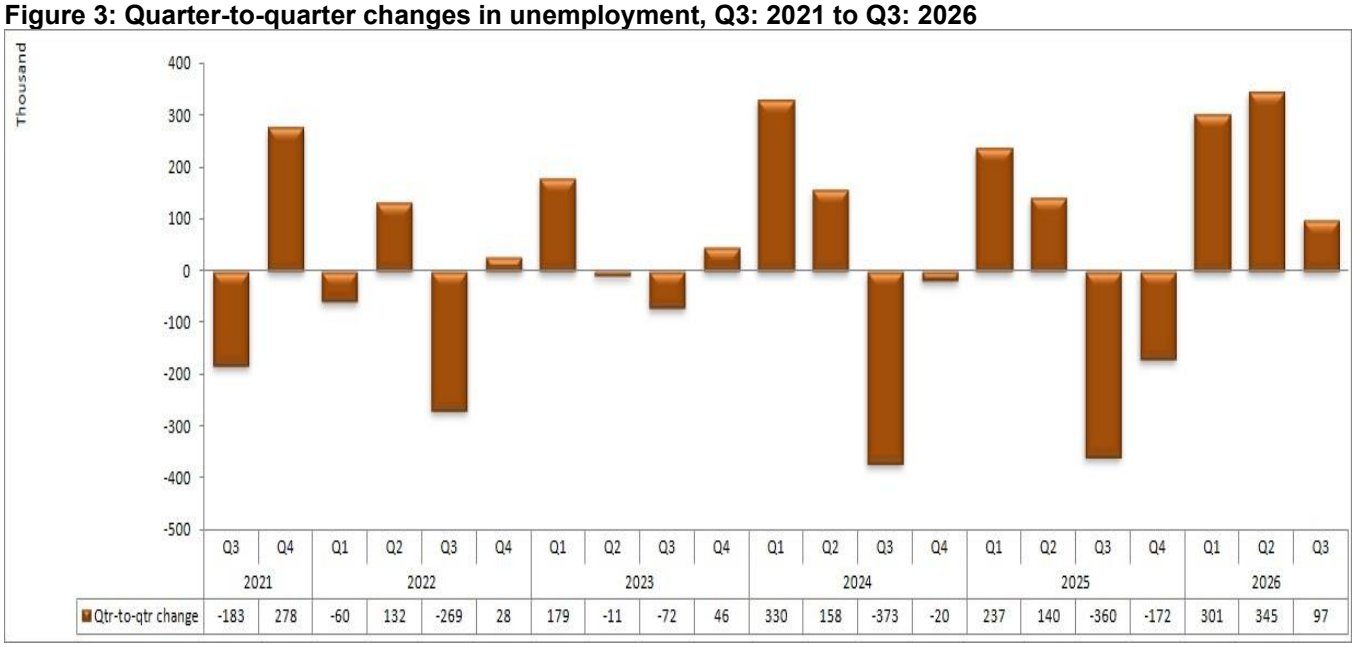
Table D shows that the number of employed persons increased in seven provinces between Q2: 2026 and Q3: 2026. The largest employment gains were recorded in Western Cape (48 000), North West (45 000), Eastern Cape (36 000) and Gauteng (25 000). During the same period, employment losses were recorded in Free State (34 000) and Mpumalanga (30 000).

Compared with Q3: 2025, the largest decreases in employment were recorded in Gauteng (117 000), followed by Free State (47 000) and Limpopo (42 000). An increase in employment was only recorded in Western Cape (69 000).

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

4.1 Unemployment

Figure 3: Quarter-to-quarter changes in unemployment, Q3: 2021 to Q3: 2026



	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
	2021		2022				2023				2024				2025				2026		
Qtr-to-qtr change	-183	278	-60	132	-269	28	179	-11	-72	46	330	158	-373	-20	237	140	-360	-172	301	345	97

The number of unemployed persons increased by 97 000 in Q3: 2026 following an increase of 345 000 in the previous quarter. Notably, Figure 3 shows that this is the first increase in unemployment in the third quarter of the year since 2021.

Figure 4a: Unemployment rate by education level, Q2: 2026 and Q3: 2026

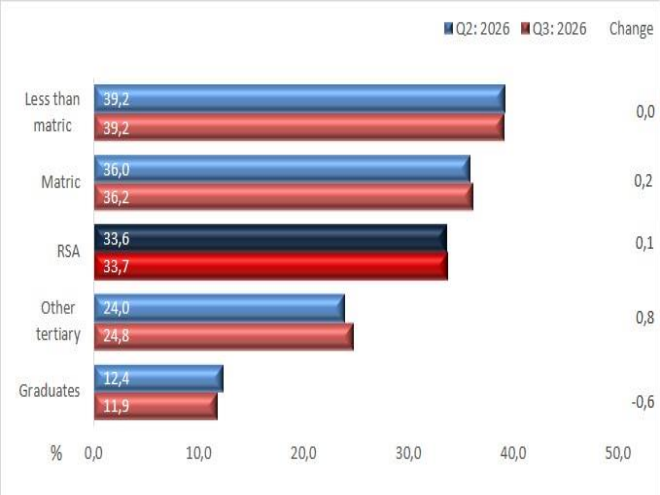
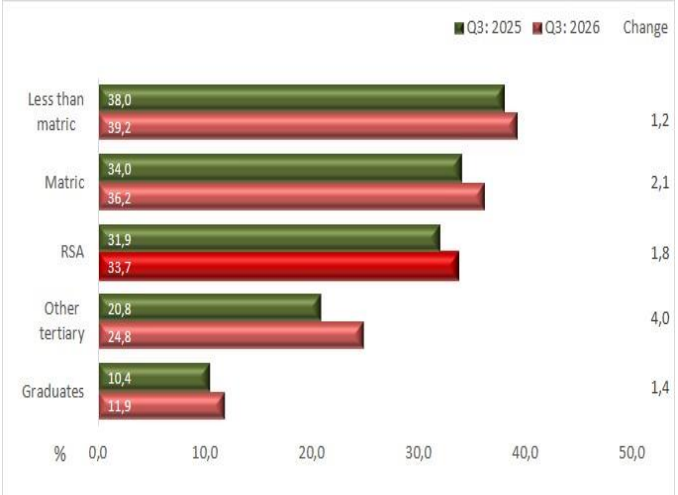


Figure 4b: Unemployment rate by education level, Q3: 2025 and Q3: 2026



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

Figures 4a and 4b show that in Q3: 2026, individuals without matric recorded an unemployment rate of 39,2% (unchanged), while graduates had a rate of 11,9% (down by 0,6 of a percentage point) compared with the previous quarter. Unemployment rates for those with matric and less than matric 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 increased among all educational levels.

Table E – Unemployment rate by province

	Official unemployment rate					Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force (LU3)				
	Jul-Sep 2025	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	Qtr-to-Qtr change	Year-on-year change	Jul-Sep 2025	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	Qtr-to-Qtr change	Year-on-year change
	%			Percentage points		%			Percentage points	
South Africa	**31,9**	**33,6**	**33,7**	**0,1**	**1,8**	**42,4**	**43,8**	**44,0**	**0,2**	**1,6**
Western Cape	19,7	19,5	19,4	-0,1	-0,3	25,8	26,1	25,2	-0,9	-0,6
Eastern Cape	41,2	47,5	44,3	-3,2	3,1	50,2	54,1	51,8	-2,3	1,6
Northern Cape	31,2	28,7	30,0	1,3	-1,2	46,5	47,1	48,1	1,0	1,6
Free State	36,2	37,3	39,1	1,8	2,9	42,7	44,0	46,5	2,5	3,8
KwaZulu-Natal	31,7	32,5	33,3	0,8	1,6	46,6	47,8	49,2	1,4	2,6
North West	38,1	38,1	38,1	0,0	0,0	52,5	56,0	55,0	-1,0	2,5
Gauteng	33,1	34,6	35,7	1,1	2,6	39,6	40,5	41,0	0,5	1,4
Mpumalanga	34,0	36,6	37,8	1,2	3,8	47,5	48,3	49,2	0,9	1,7
Limpopo	29,8	32,0	30,2	-1,8	0,4	45,1	46,7	46,1	-0,6	1,0

The official unemployment rate increased by 0,1 of a percentage point to 33,7% in Q3: 2026 compared with Q2: 2026. The official unemployment rate increased in five of the nine provinces. The largest increases were recorded in Free State (1,8 percentage points), followed by Northern Cape (1,3 percentage points) and Mpumalanga (1,2 percentage points). Decreases in the unemployment rate were recorded in Eastern Cape (3,2 percentage points), Limpopo (1,8 percentage points) and Western Cape (0,1 of a percentage point).

Year-on-year, the official unemployment rate increased by 1,8 percentage points. The largest increases in the unemployment rate were recorded in Mpumalanga (3,8 percentage points), followed by Eastern Cape (3,1 percentage points), Free State (2,9 percentage points) and Gauteng (2,6 percentage points). Decreases in the unemployment rate were recorded in Northern Cape (1,2 percentage points) and Western Cape (0,3 of a percentage point), while North West remained unchanged.

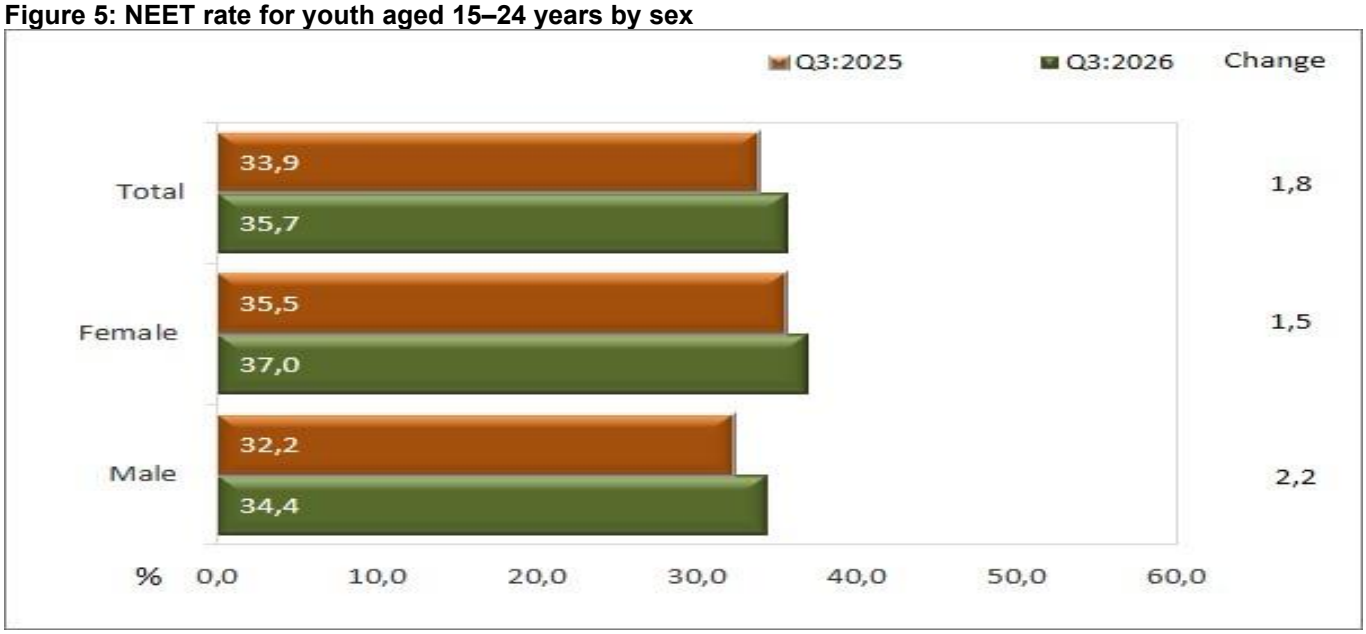
The combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force increased by 0,2 of a percentage point in Q3: 2026 compared with Q2: 2026. Increases were recorded in Free State (2,5 percentage points), followed by KwaZulu-Natal (1,4 percentage points), Northern Cape (1,0 percentage point), Mpumalanga (0,9 of a percentage point) and Gauteng (0,5 of a percentage point). Decreases were observed in Eastern Cape (2,3 percentage points), followed by North West (1,0 percentage point), Western Cape (0,9 of a percentage point) and Limpopo (0,6 of a percentage point).

Compared with the same period last year, the combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force increased by 1,6 percentage points in Q3: 2026. The largest increases in the combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force were recorded in Free State (3,8 percentage points), followed by KwaZulu-Natal (2,6 percentage points), North West (2,5 percentage point), Mpumalanga (1,7 percentage points) and Eastern Cape and Northern Cape (1,6 percentage points each). A decrease in the combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force was recorded in Western Cape (0,6 of a percentage point).

4.2 Not in employment, education or training (NEET)

Some young persons 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 persons.

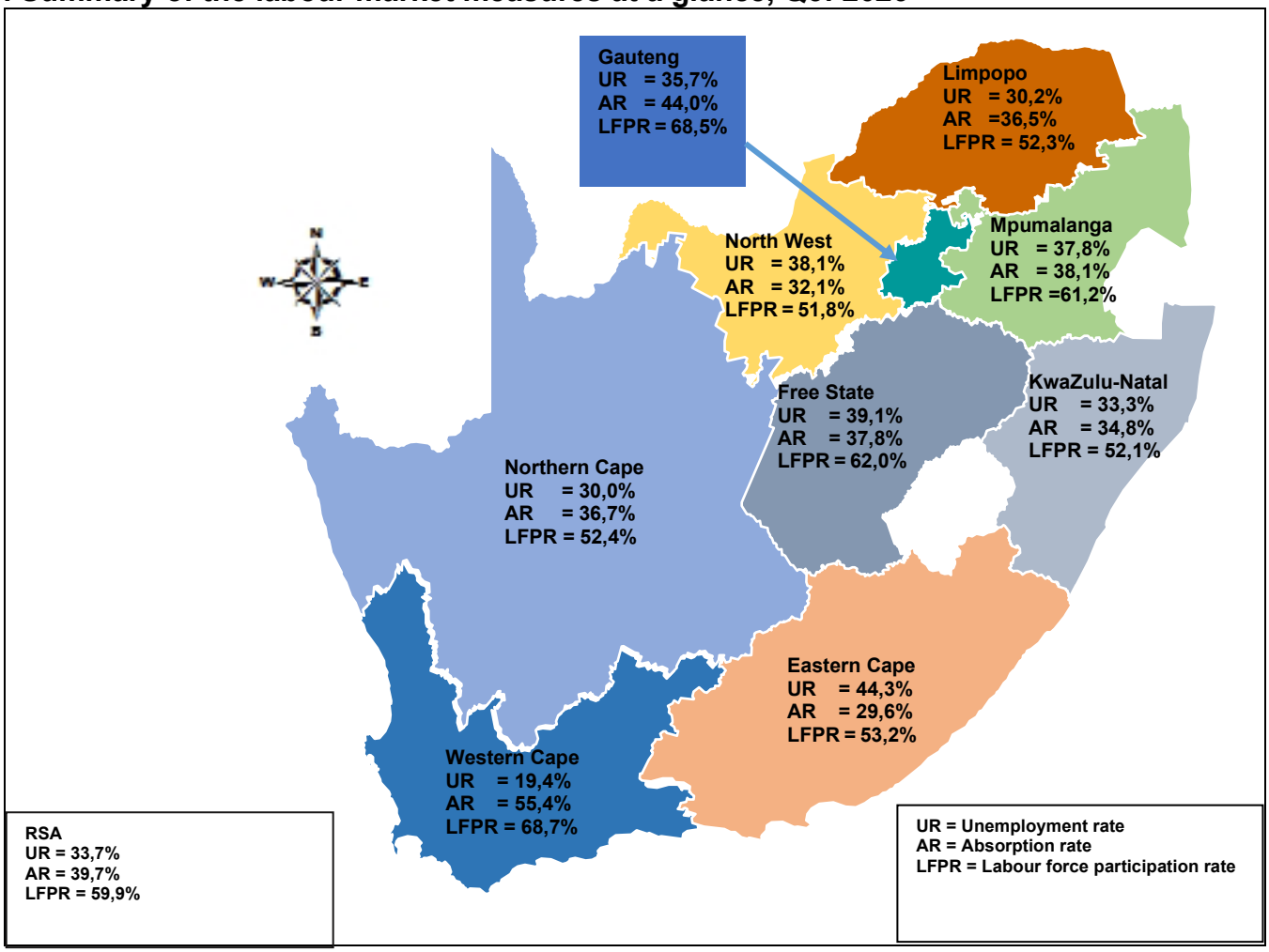
Figure 5: NEET rate for youth aged 15–24 years by sex



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

There were about 10,4 million young persons aged 15–24 years in Q3: 2026, of which 35,7% were not in employment, education or training. This is 1,8 percentage points higher than the NEET rate in Q3: 2025. In this age group, the NEET rate for females increased by 1,5 percentage points and the rate for males increased by 2,2 percentage points. 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, Q3: 2026

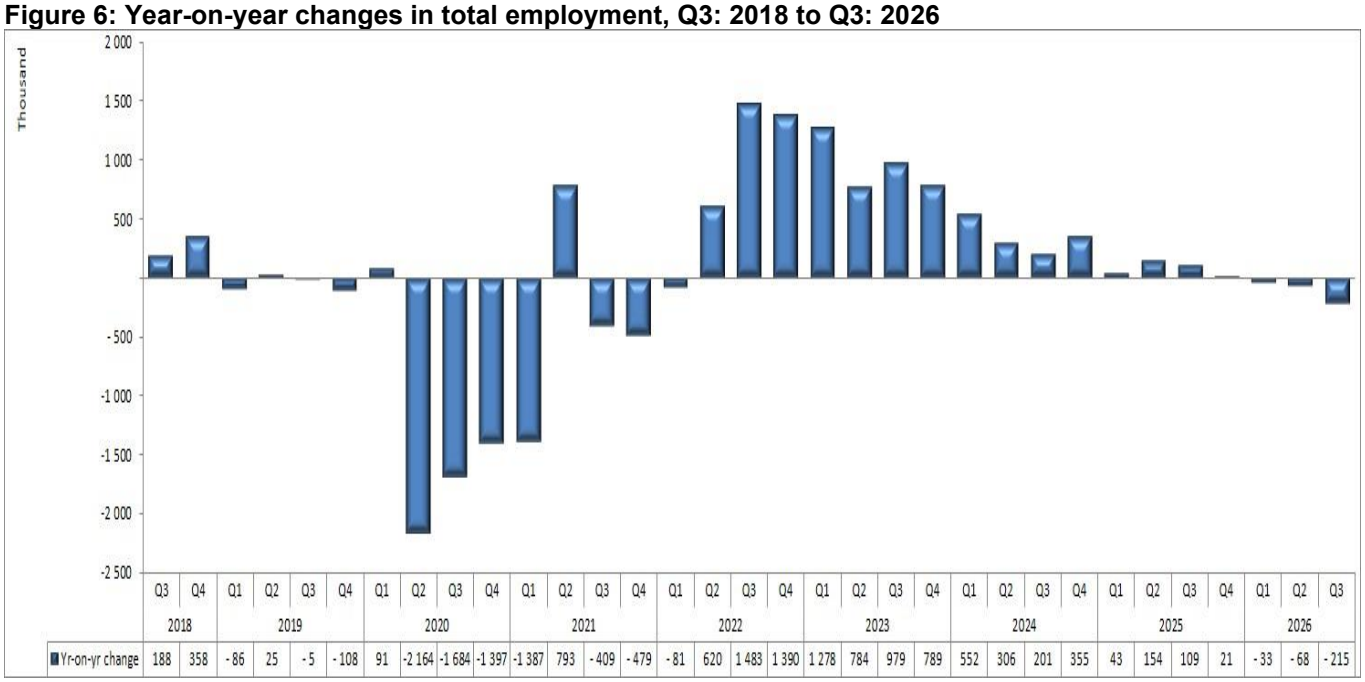


Risenga Maluleke
Statistician-General

6. Other labour market trends

6.1 Year-on-year changes

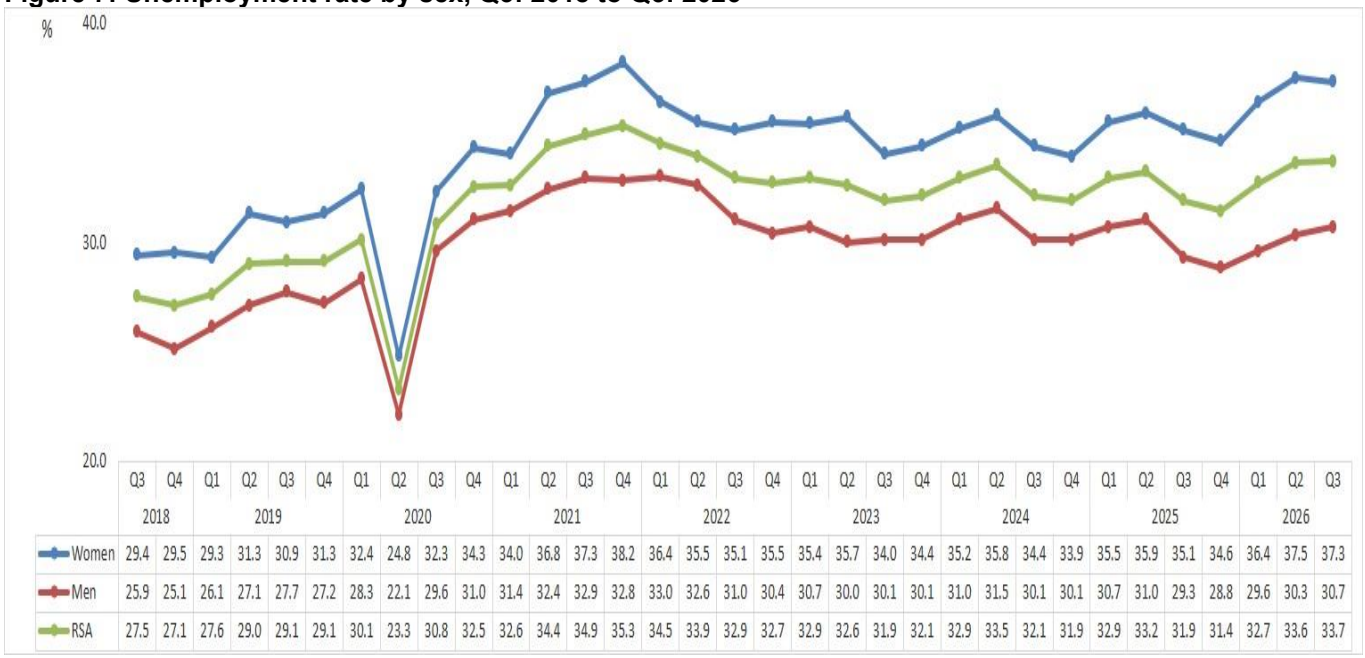
Figure 6: Year-on-year changes in total employment, Q3: 2018 to Q3: 2026



	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Q2 2026	Q3 2026
Yr-on-yr change	188	358	-86	25	-5	-108	91	-2 164	-1 684	-1 397	-1 387	793	-409	-479	-81	620	1 483	1 390	1 278	784	979	789	552	306	201	355	43	154	109	21	-33	-68	-215

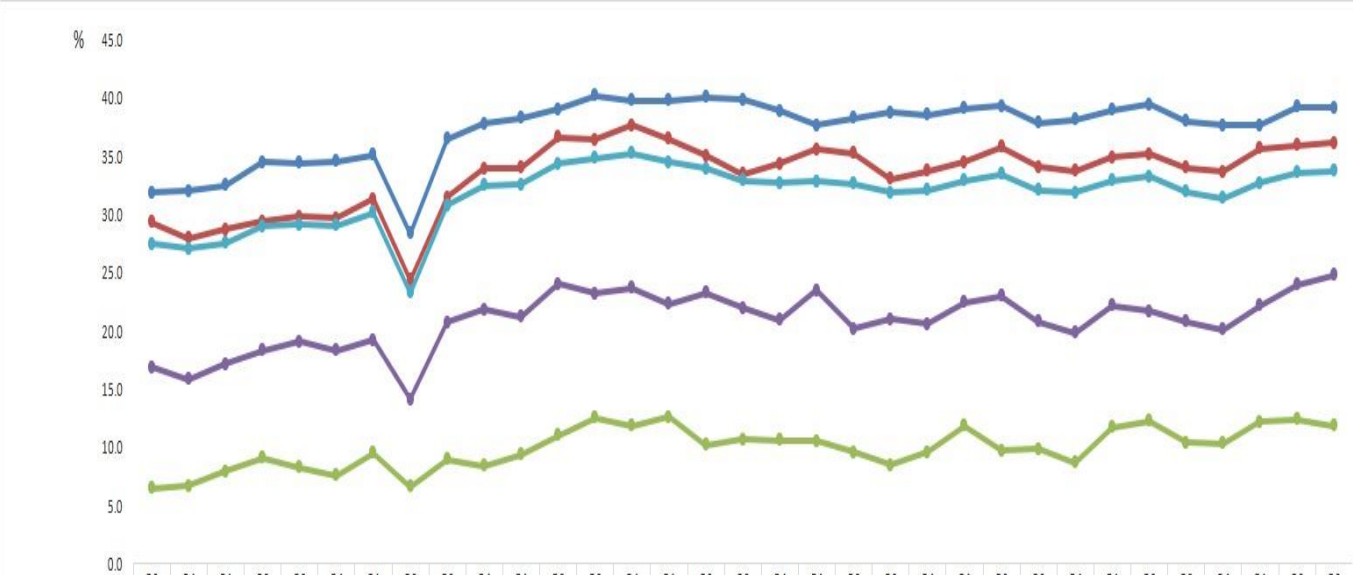
6.2 Trends in the unemployment rate

Figure 7: Unemployment rate by sex, Q3: 2018 to Q3: 2026



	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Q2 2026	Q3 2026
Women	29.4	29.5	29.3	31.3	30.9	31.3	32.4	24.8	32.3	34.3	34.0	36.8	37.3	38.2	36.4	35.5	35.1	35.5	35.4	35.7	34.0	34.4	35.2	35.8	34.4	33.9	35.5	35.9	35.1	34.6	36.4	37.5	37.3
Men	25.9	25.1	26.1	27.1	27.7	27.2	28.3	22.1	29.6	31.0	31.4	32.4	32.9	32.8	33.0	32.6	31.0	30.4	30.7	30.0	30.1	30.1	31.0	31.5	30.1	30.1	30.7	31.0	29.3	28.8	29.6	30.3	30.7
RSA	27.5	27.1	27.6	29.0	29.1	29.1	30.1	23.3	30.8	32.5	32.6	34.4	34.9	35.3	34.5	33.9	32.9	32.7	32.9	32.6	31.9	32.1	32.9	33.5	32.1	31.9	32.9	33.2	31.9	31.4	32.7	33.6	33.7

Figure 8: Unemployment rate by education status, Q3: 2018 to Q3: 2026



	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Q3 2025	Q4 2025	Q1 2026	Q2 2026	Q3 2026
Less than matric	31.9	32.0	32.5	34.5	34.4	34.6	35.2	28.4	36.5	37.8	38.3	39.1	40.2	39.8	39.8	40.1	39.9	38.9	37.6	38.3	38.8	38.6	39.1	39.3	37.8	38.2	39.0	39.4	38.0	37.6	37.6	39.2	39.2
Matric	29.4	28.0	28.7	29.4	29.8	29.7	31.4	24.4	31.5	33.9	34.0	36.6	36.5	37.7	36.5	35.0	33.4	34.4	35.6	35.2	33.0	33.7	34.5	35.8	34.1	33.8	34.9	35.2	34.0	33.7	35.7	36.0	36.2
Graduates	6.4	6.7	7.9	9.1	8.2	7.6	9.5	6.6	8.9	8.4	9.3	11.0	12.5	11.8	12.6	10.2	10.7	10.6	10.6	9.6	8.5	9.6	11.8	9.7	9.8	8.7	11.7	12.2	10.4	10.3	12.2	12.4	11.9
Other tertiary	16.9	15.9	17.2	18.3	19.1	18.3	19.2	14.1	20.7	21.8	21.2	24.0	23.2	23.7	22.3	23.3	22.0	21.0	23.5	20.2	21.0	20.6	22.5	23.0	20.8	19.8	22.1	21.7	20.8	20.1	22.2	24.0	24.8
RSA	27.5	27.1	27.6	29.0	29.1	29.1	30.1	23.3	30.8	32.5	32.6	34.4	34.9	35.3	34.5	33.9	32.9	32.7	32.9	32.6	31.9	32.1	32.9	33.5	32.1	31.9	32.9	33.2	31.9	31.4	32.7	33.6	33.7

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 which 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 which 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	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026
National	**86,9**	**87,1**
Western Cape	**80,9**	**82,6**
Non-metro	88,2	88,4
City of Cape Town	77,4	80,0
Eastern Cape	**95,0**	**95,1**
Non-metro	95,5	95,4
Buffalo City	95,2	97,1
Nelson Mandela Bay	93,2	92,4
Northern Cape	**79,6**	**85,8**
Free State	**92,2**	**91,5**
Non-metro	94,7	93,0
Mangaung	86,3	87,8
KwaZulu-Natal	**92,0**	**91,7**
Non-metro	92,9	93,4
eThekwini	90,6	88,9
North West	**89,5**	**87,9**
Gauteng	**76,3**	**76,2**
Non-metro	85,8	85,8
Ekurhuleni	76,7	78,0
City of Johannesburg	69,8	65,6
City of Tshwane	81,7	81,7
Mpumalanga	**94,9**	**94,0**
Limpopo	**96,6**	**97,4**

8.2 Survey requirements and design

QLFS uses the master sample frame (MSF) 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 Census 2011 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 have 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*** $\left(cv\right)$ 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.

[1]Wolter, K.M. 2007. *Introduction to Variance Estimation, 2nd Edition.* New York: Springer-Verlag.

9. Concepts and definitions

Available potential job-seekers: 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: These 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)

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**41 948**	**42 068**	**42 189**	**42 310**	**42 427**	**117**	**478**	**0,3**	**1,1**
Women	21 103	21 158	21 214	21 270	21 323	53	221	0,3	1,0
Men	20 846	20 910	20 975	21 040	21 103	63	257	0,3	1,2
Population groups	**41 948**	**42 068**	**42 189**	**42 310**	**42 427**	**117**	**478**	**0,3**	**1,1**
Black/African	34 532	34 656	34 779	34 903	35 022	120	490	0,3	1,4
Coloured	3 629	3 633	3 637	3 641	3 644	4	16	0,1	0,4
Indian/Asian	1 064	1 066	1 068	1 069	1 071	2	8	0,2	0,7
White	2 724	2 715	2 706	2 697	2 688	-9	-35	-0,3	-1,3
South Africa	**41 948**	**42 068**	**42 189**	**42 310**	**42 427**	**117**	**478**	**0,3**	**1,1**
Western Cape	5 143	5 160	5 176	5 193	5 209	16	65	0,3	1,3
Eastern Cape	4 618	4 629	4 641	4 653	4 665	12	48	0,3	1,0
Northern Cape	847	849	850	852	853	1	6	0,2	0,7
Free State	1 944	1 944	1 944	1 945	1 945	0	1	0,0	0,1
KwaZulu Natal	7 756	7 779	7 802	7 825	7 848	23	92	0,3	1,2
North West	2 843	2 851	2 860	2 868	2 876	8	33	0,3	1,2
Gauteng	11 480	11 518	11 557	11 595	11 631	35	151	0,3	1,3
Mpumalanga	3 219	3 228	3 237	3 247	3 256	9	37	0,3	1,2
Limpopo	4 098	4 110	4 121	4 133	4 144	12	46	0,3	1,1

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

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

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**41 948**	**42 068**	**42 189**	**42 310**	**42 427**	**117**	**478**	**0,3**	**1,1**
Labour Force	**25 062**	**24 935**	**24 891**	**25 220**	**25 418**	**198**	**356**	**0,8**	**1,4**
Employed	**17 055**	**17 099**	**16 754**	**16 739**	**16 840**	**101**	**-215**	**0,6**	**-1,3**
Formal sector*	11 983	12 303	12 113	12 073	12 340	268	357	2,2	3,0
Informal sector*	3 961	3 667	3 540	3 574	3 476	-98	-485	-2,7	-12,2
Household sector*	1 111	1 129	1 101	1 092	1 024	-68	-87	-6,2	-7,9
Unemployed	**8 007**	**7 836**	**8 137**	**8 481**	**8 578**	**97**	**571**	**1,1**	**7,1**
Outside the Labour Force	**16 886**	**17 134**	**17 298**	**17 090**	**17 008**	**-82**	**122**	**-0,5**	**0,7**
Potential Labour Force	4 529	4 611	4 851	4 571	4 640	69	110	1,5	2,4
Available potential job-seekers	4 446	4 569	4 802	4 527	4 596	69	150	1,5	3,4
Discouraged job-seekers	3 481	3 714	3 893	3 665	3 735	70	255	1,9	7,3
Other (available potential job-seekers)	965	855	910	861	860	-1	-105	-0,1	-10,9
Unavailable job-seekers	83	42	49	44	44	0	-40	-1,1	-47,4
Other (Outside the labour force)	12 357	12 522	12 447	12 519	12 369	-150	12	-1,2	0,1
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	59,7	59,3	59,0	59,6	59,9	0,3	0,2		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	40,7	40,6	39,7	39,6	39,7	0,1	-1,0		
Inactivity rate	40,3	40,7	41,0	40,4	40,1	-0,3	-0,2		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	31,9	31,4	32,7	33,6	33,7	0,1	1,8		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	34,9	34,3	35,9	36,6	36,5	-0,1	1,6		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	42,4	42,1	43,7	43,8	44,0	0,2	1,6		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	44,9	44,5	46,3	46,3	46,3	0,0	1,4		

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 Q3:2025 to Q3:2026 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)									
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**21 103**	**21 158**	**21 214**	**21 270**	**21 323**	**53**	**221**	**0,3**	**1,0**
Labour Force	**11 450**	**11 419**	**11 418**	**11 667**	**11 706**	**39**	**257**	**0,3**	**2,2**
Employed	**7 429**	**7 470**	**7 264**	**7 294**	**7 341**	**47**	**-89**	**0,6**	**-1,2**
Formal sector*	5 318	5 465	5 350	5 344	5 398	54	80	1,0	1,5
Informal sector*	1 292	1 161	1 096	1 138	1 157	19	-135	1,7	-10,5
Household sector*	819	844	818	812	786	-26	-33	-3,2	-4,1
Unemployed	**4 020**	**3 949**	**4 154**	**4 373**	**4 365**	**-8**	**345**	**-0,2**	**8,6**
Outside the Labour Force	**9 653**	**9 739**	**9 796**	**9 602**	**9 617**	**15**	**-36**	**0,2**	**-0,4**
Potential Labour Force	2 554	2 569	2 723	2 529	2 612	83	58	3,3	2,3
Available potential job-seekers	2 504	2 541	2 693	2 504	2 594	90	89	3,6	3,6
Discouraged job-seekers	1 884	1 982	2 112	1 975	2 029	54	146	2,7	7,7
Other (available potential job-seekers)	621	558	581	529	565	36	-56	6,8	-9,1
Unavailable job-seekers	49	28	30	25	18	-7	-31	-28,2	-63,3
Other (Outside the Labour Force)	7 099	7 171	7 072	7 074	7 005	-69	-94	-1,0	-1,3
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	54,3	54,0	53,8	54,9	54,9	0,0	0,6		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	35,2	35,3	34,2	34,3	34,4	0,1	-0,8		
Inactivity rate	45,7	46,0	46,2	45,1	45,1	0,0	-0,6		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	35,1	34,6	36,4	37,5	37,3	-0,2	2,2		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	38,6	37,9	40,3	41,0	40,5	-0,5	1,9		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	46,9	46,6	48,6	48,6	48,7	0,1	1,8		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	49,8	49,3	51,8	51,5	51,4	-0,1	1,6		

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 Q3:2025 to Q3:2026 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)									
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**20 846**	**20 910**	**20 975**	**21 040**	**21 103**	**63**	**257**	**0,3**	**1,2**
Labour Force	**13 613**	**13 516**	**13 473**	**13 553**	**13 712**	**159**	**99**	**1,2**	**0,7**
Employed	**9 625**	**9 629**	**9 490**	**9 445**	**9 499**	**55**	**-126**	**0,6**	**-1,3**
Formal sector*	6 665	6 838	6 763	6 728	6 942	214	277	3,2	4,2
Informal sector*	2 668	2 506	2 443	2 436	2 319	-117	-349	-4,8	-13,1
Household sector*	292	285	283	280	238	-42	-54	-15,0	-18,5
Unemployed	**3 987**	**3 887**	**3 983**	**4 108**	**4 213**	**105**	**225**	**2,5**	**5,7**
Outside the Labour Force	**7 233**	**7 395**	**7 502**	**7 487**	**7 391**	**-96**	**158**	**-1,3**	**2,2**
Potential Labour Force	1 975	2 043	2 128	2 042	2 028	-14	52	-0,7	2,6
Available potential job-seekers	1 941	2 028	2 109	2 023	2 002	-21	61	-1,0	3,1
Discouraged job-seekers	1 597	1 732	1 781	1 690	1 706	16	109	0,9	6,8
Other (available potential job-seekers)	344	296	328	333	296	-37	-48	-11,1	-14,1
Unavailable job-seekers	34	15	18	19	26	7	-8	34,5	-24,2
Other (Outside the Labour Force)	5 258	5 352	5 375	5 445	5 364	-82	106	-1,5	2,0
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	65,3	64,6	64,2	64,4	65,0	0,6	-0,3		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	46,2	46,0	45,2	44,9	45,0	0,1	-1,2		
Inactivity rate	34,7	35,4	35,8	35,6	35,0	-0,6	0,3		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	29,3	28,8	29,6	30,3	30,7	0,4	1,4		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	31,9	31,2	32,1	32,7	33,2	0,5	1,3		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	38,3	38,1	39,2	39,4	39,6	0,2	1,3		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	40,5	40,2	41,4	41,5	41,8	0,3	1,3		

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 Q3:2025 to Q3:2026 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

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**41 948**	**42 068**	**42 189**	**42 310**	**42 427**	**117**	**478**	**0,3**	**1,1**
Labour Force	**25 062**	**24 935**	**24 891**	**25 220**	**25 418**	**198**	**356**	**0,8**	**1,4**
Employed	17 055	17 099	16 754	16 739	16 840	101	-215	0,6	-1,3
Unemployed	8 007	7 836	8 137	8 481	8 578	97	571	1,1	7,1
Outside the Labour Force	16 886	17 134	17 298	17 090	17 008	-82	122	-0,5	0,7
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	59,7	59,3	59,0	59,6	59,9	0,3	0,2		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	40,7	40,6	39,7	39,6	39,7	0,1	-1,0		
Inactivity rate	40,3	40,7	41,0	40,4	40,1	-0,3	-0,2		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	31,9	31,4	32,7	33,6	33,7	0,1	1,8		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	34,9	34,3	35,9	36,6	36,5	-0,1	1,6		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	42,4	42,1	43,7	43,8	44,0	0,2	1,6		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	44,9	44,5	46,3	46,3	46,3	0,0	1,4		
Black/African									
Population 15-64 years	**34 532**	**34 656**	**34 779**	**34 903**	**35 022**	**120**	**490**	**0,3**	**1,4**
Labour Force	**20 370**	**20 179**	**20 172**	**20 497**	**20 697**	**199**	**326**	**1,0**	**1,6**
Employed	13 082	13 058	12 823	12 795	12 937	142	-144	1,1	-1,1
Unemployed	7 289	7 121	7 349	7 702	7 759	57	470	0,7	6,5
Outside the Labour Force	14 162	14 476	14 607	14 406	14 326	-80	164	-0,6	1,2
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	59,0	58,2	58,0	58,7	59,1	0,4	0,1		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	37,9	37,7	36,9	36,7	36,9	0,2	-1,0		
Inactivity rate	41,0	41,8	42,0	41,3	40,9	-0,4	-0,1		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	35,8	35,3	36,4	37,6	37,5	-0,1	1,7		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	39,1	38,5	40,0	40,8	40,5	-0,3	1,4		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	46,4	46,3	47,8	48,0	48,0	0,0	1,6		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	49,1	49,0	50,7	50,6	50,5	-0,1	1,4		

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)									
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**3 629**	**3 633**	**3 637**	**3 641**	**3 644**	**4**	**16**	**0,1**	**0,4**
Labour Force	**2 167**	**2 215**	**2 221**	**2 173**	**2 209**	**37**	**43**	**1,7**	**2,0**
Employed	1 687	1 746	1 691	1 663	1 658	-5	-29	-0,3	-1,7
Unemployed	479	469	530	510	552	41	72	8,1	15,1
Outside the Labour Force	1 462	1 418	1 415	1 468	1 435	-33	-27	-2,2	-1,9
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	59,7	61,0	61,1	59,7	60,6	0,9	0,9		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	46,5	48,1	46,5	45,7	45,5	-0,2	-1,0		
Inactivity rate	40,3	39,0	38,9	40,3	39,4	-0,9	-0,9		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	22,1	21,2	23,9	23,5	25,0	1,5	2,9		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	24,8	23,4	26,1	26,1	27,0	0,9	2,2		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	33,4	31,7	33,5	34,8	35,2	0,4	1,8		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	35,6	33,6	35,5	37,1	37,0	-0,1	1,4		
Indian/Asian									
Population 15-64 years	**1 064**	**1 066**	**1 068**	**1 069**	**1 071**	**2**	**8**	**0,2**	**0,7**
Labour Force	**593**	**620**	**614**	**672**	**659**	**-14**	**66**	**-2,0**	**11,1**
Employed	510	529	530	573	560	-13	50	-2,3	9,9
Unemployed	83	91	84	99	98	-1	16	-0,6	18,9
Outside the Labour Force	471	445	454	397	413	16	-58	3,9	-12,3
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	55,7	58,2	57,5	62,9	61,5	-1,4	5,8		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	48,0	49,7	49,7	53,6	52,3	-1,3	4,3		
Inactivity rate	44,3	41,8	42,5	37,1	38,5	1,4	-5,8		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	13,9	14,7	13,6	14,7	14,9	0,2	1,0		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	15,5	15,0	14,5	15,8	15,6	-0,2	0,1		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	24,0	23,6	22,2	20,0	19,8	-0,2	-4,2		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	25,4	23,9	22,9	21,0	20,5	-0,5	-4,9		

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 (concluded)									
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**2 724**	**2 715**	**2 706**	**2 697**	**2 688**	**-9**	**-35**	**-0,3**	**-1,3**
Labour Force	**1 932**	**1 920**	**1 884**	**1 878**	**1 853**	**-24**	**-79**	**-1,3**	**-4,1**
Employed	1 776	1 765	1 710	1 707	1 684	-23	-91	-1,4	-5,1
Unemployed	157	155	174	170	169	-1	12	-0,6	7,9
Outside the Labour Force	791	795	822	820	835	15	44	1,9	5,5
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	71,0	70,7	69,6	69,6	68,9	-0,7	-2,1		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	65,2	65,0	63,2	63,3	62,6	-0,7	-2,6		
Inactivity rate	29,0	29,3	30,4	30,4	31,1	0,7	2,1		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	8,1	8,1	9,2	9,1	9,1	0,0	1,0		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	8,8	8,9	10,6	10,3	10,8	0,5	2,0		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	10,3	10,0	12,0	11,4	11,8	0,4	1,5		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	10,9	10,8	13,3	12,6	13,4	0,8	2,5		

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

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**41 948**	**42 068**	**42 189**	**42 310**	**42 427**	**117**	**478**	**0,3**	**1,1**
Labour Force	**25 062**	**24 935**	**24 891**	**25 220**	**25 418**	**198**	**356**	**0,8**	**1,4**
Employed	17 055	17 099	16 754	16 739	16 840	101	-215	0,6	-1,3
Unemployed	8 007	7 836	8 137	8 481	8 578	97	571	1,1	7,1
Outside the Labour Force	16 886	17 134	17 298	17 090	17 008	-82	122	-0,5	0,7
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	59,7	59,3	59,0	59,6	59,9	0,3	0,2		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	40,7	40,6	39,7	39,6	39,7	0,1	-1,0		
Inactivity rate	40,3	40,7	41,0	40,4	40,1	-0,3	-0,2		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	31,9	31,4	32,7	33,6	33,7	0,1	1,8		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	34,9	34,3	35,9	36,6	36,5	-0,1	1,6		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	42,4	42,1	43,7	43,8	44,0	0,2	1,6		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	44,9	44,5	46,3	46,3	46,3	0,0	1,4		
15-24 years									
Population 15-24 yrs	**10 325**	**10 337**	**10 349**	**10 361**	**10 371**	**10**	**46**	**0,1**	**0,4**
Labour Force	**2 833**	**2 657**	**2 681**	**2 808**	**2 796**	**-12**	**-37**	**-0,4**	**-1,3**
Employed	1 177	1 143	1 049	1 044	1 017	-27	-160	-2,6	-13,6
Unemployed	1 657	1 513	1 632	1 764	1 779	16	123	0,9	7,4
Outside the Labour Force	7 491	7 680	7 668	7 553	7 575	22	84	0,3	1,1
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	27,4	25,7	25,9	27,1	27,0	-0,1	-0,4		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	11,4	11,1	10,1	10,1	9,8	-0,3	-1,6		
Inactivity rate	72,6	74,3	74,1	72,9	73,0	0,1	0,4		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	58,5	57,0	60,9	62,8	63,6	0,8	5,1		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	60,7	58,8	62,5	64,7	65,5	0,8	4,8		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	69,3	68,3	71,9	72,4	72,7	0,3	3,4		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	70,9	69,6	73,1	73,8	74,1	0,3	3,2		

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 (continued)

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**10 622**	**10 619**	**10 616**	**10 613**	**10 608**	**-4**	**-13**	**0,0**	**-0,1**
Labour Force	**7 765**	**7 745**	**7 644**	**7 741**	**7 724**	**-16**	**-41**	**-0,2**	**-0,5**
Employed	4 787	4 707	4 543	4 508	4 530	22	-257	0,5	-5,4
Unemployed	2 978	3 038	3 101	3 233	3 194	-38	216	-1,2	7,3
Outside the Labour Force	2 857	2 874	2 972	2 872	2 884	12	28	0,4	1,0
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	73,1	72,9	72,0	72,9	72,8	-0,1	-0,3		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	45,1	44,3	42,8	42,5	42,7	0,2	-2,4		
Inactivity rate	26,9	27,1	28,0	27,1	27,2	0,1	0,3		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	38,4	39,2	40,6	41,8	41,4	-0,4	3,0		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	41,1	41,7	43,5	43,9	43,9	0,0	2,8		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	48,2	49,1	50,7	51,1	51,1	0,0	2,9		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	50,5	51,2	53,1	52,9	53,3	0,4	2,8		
35-44 years									
Population 35-44 yrs	**9 332**	**9 366**	**9 400**	**9 435**	**9 467**	**33**	**135**	**0,3**	**1,5**
Labour Force	**7 250**	**7 294**	**7 295**	**7 309**	**7 398**	**89**	**147**	**1,2**	**2,0**
Employed	5 234	5 294	5 208	5 175	5 200	25	-34	0,5	-0,6
Unemployed	2 017	2 000	2 088	2 134	2 198	63	181	3,0	9,0
Outside the Labour Force	2 082	2 072	2 105	2 126	2 070	-56	-12	-2,6	-0,6
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	77,7	77,9	77,6	77,5	78,1	0,6	0,4		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	56,1	56,5	55,4	54,8	54,9	0,1	-1,2		
Inactivity rate	22,3	22,1	22,4	22,5	21,9	-0,6	-0,4		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	27,8	27,4	28,6	29,2	29,7	0,5	1,9		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	30,8	30,2	31,7	32,4	32,5	0,1	1,7		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	37,1	37,0	38,2	38,6	39,2	0,6	2,1		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	39,6	39,3	40,9	41,4	41,7	0,3	2,1		

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)

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**7 109**	**7 149**	**7 190**	**7 231**	**7 270**	**39**	**161**	**0,5**	**2,3**
Labour Force	**5 195**	**5 168**	**5 205**	**5 311**	**5 379**	**68**	**185**	**1,3**	**3,6**
Employed	4 102	4 115	4 150	4 223	4 250	27	148	0,6	3,6
Unemployed	1 093	1 052	1 055	1 088	1 130	41	37	3,8	3,4
Outside the Labour Force	1 914	1 982	1 985	1 920	1 891	-29	-23	-1,5	-1,2
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	73,1	72,3	72,4	73,5	74,0	0,5	0,9		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	57,7	57,6	57,7	58,4	58,5	0,1	0,8		
Inactivity rate	26,9	27,7	27,6	26,5	26,0	-0,5	-0,9		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	21,0	20,4	20,3	20,5	21,0	0,5	0,0		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	24,8	24,0	24,6	24,7	24,4	-0,3	-0,4		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	30,9	31,0	31,4	30,3	30,8	0,5	-0,1		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	34,3	34,2	35,1	34,0	33,8	-0,2	-0,5		
55-64 years									
Population 55-64 yrs	**4 562**	**4 598**	**4 634**	**4 671**	**4 710**	**39**	**148**	**0,8**	**3,2**
Labour Force	**2 019**	**2 072**	**2 066**	**2 051**	**2 121**	**70**	**102**	**3,4**	**5,1**
Employed	1 755	1 840	1 805	1 789	1 844	55	88	3,1	5,0
Unemployed	263	232	261	263	277	15	14	5,6	5,3
Outside the Labour Force	2 543	2 526	2 568	2 619	2 589	-30	46	-1,2	1,8
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	44,3	45,1	44,6	43,9	45,0	1,1	0,7		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	38,5	40,0	38,9	38,3	39,1	0,8	0,6		
Inactivity rate	55,7	54,9	55,4	56,1	55,0	-1,1	-0,7		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	13,0	11,2	12,6	12,8	13,1	0,3	0,1		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	16,1	14,7	16,4	16,1	16,0	-0,1	-0,1		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	22,2	21,3	22,1	22,0	22,4	0,4	0,2		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	24,9	24,4	25,4	25,0	25,0	0,0	0,1		

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

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**41 948**	**42 068**	**42 189**	**42 310**	**42 427**	**117**	**478**	**0,3**	**1,1**
Labour Force	**25 062**	**24 935**	**24 891**	**25 220**	**25 418**	**198**	**356**	**0,8**	**1,4**
Employed	17 055	17 099	16 754	16 739	16 840	101	-215	0,6	-1,3
Unemployed	8 007	7 836	8 137	8 481	8 578	97	571	1,1	7,1
Outside the Labour Force	16 886	17 134	17 298	17 090	17 008	-82	122	-0,5	0,7
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	59,7	59,3	59,0	59,6	59,9	0,3	0,2		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	40,7	40,6	39,7	39,6	39,7	0,1	-1,0		
Inactivity rate	40,3	40,7	41,0	40,4	40,1	-0,3	-0,2		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	31,9	31,4	32,7	33,6	33,7	0,1	1,8		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	34,9	34,3	35,9	36,6	36,5	-0,1	1,6		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	42,4	42,1	43,7	43,8	44,0	0,2	1,6		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	44,9	44,5	46,3	46,3	46,3	0,0	1,4		
Western Cape									
Population 15-64 years	**5 143**	**5 160**	**5 176**	**5 193**	**5 209**	**16**	**65**	**0,3**	**1,3**
Labour Force	**3 505**	**3 548**	**3 587**	**3 520**	**3 576**	**56**	**71**	**1,6**	**2,0**
Employed	2 814	2 907	2 883	2 835	2 883	48	69	1,7	2,5
Unemployed	692	641	703	685	693	8	1	1,2	0,2
Outside the Labour Force	1 638	1 612	1 590	1 673	1 633	-41	-5	-2,4	-0,3
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	68,1	68,8	69,3	67,8	68,7	0,9	0,6		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	54,7	56,3	55,7	54,6	55,4	0,8	0,7		
Inactivity rate	31,9	31,2	30,7	32,2	31,3	-0,9	-0,6		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	19,7	18,1	19,6	19,5	19,4	-0,1	-0,3		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	22,0	20,4	22,6	22,8	22,3	-0,5	0,3		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	25,8	23,7	24,8	26,1	25,2	-0,9	-0,6		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	27,9	25,9	27,6	29,2	28,0	-1,2	0,1		

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)

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**1 866**	**1 872**	**1 878**	**1 884**	**1 890**	**6**	**23**	**0,3**	**1,2**
Labour Force	**1 174**	**1 184**	**1 218**	**1 161**	**1 203**	**43**	**29**	**3,7**	**2,5**
Employed	987	1 012	1 021	992	1 038	46	51	4,6	5,1
Unemployed	187	173	197	169	165	-3	-22	-2,0	-11,5
Outside the Labour Force	692	688	660	723	686	-37	-6	-5,1	-0,8
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	62,9	63,3	64,8	61,6	63,7	2,1	0,8		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	52,9	54,0	54,4	52,6	54,9	2,3	2,0		
Inactivity rate	37,1	36,7	35,2	38,4	36,3	-2,1	-0,8		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	15,9	14,6	16,2	14,5	13,7	-0,8	-2,2		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	18,5	17,3	19,3	17,9	16,9	-1,0	-1,6		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	28,1	27,1	27,3	29,3	26,4	-2,9	-1,7		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	30,3	29,4	30,0	32,1	29,0	-3,1	-1,3		
Western Cape - City of Cape Town									
Population 15-64 years	**3 277**	**3 288**	**3 298**	**3 309**	**3 319**	**10**	**42**	**0,3**	**1,3**
Labour Force	**2 331**	**2 364**	**2 369**	**2 359**	**2 373**	**14**	**41**	**0,6**	**1,8**
Employed	1 826	1 895	1 863	1 843	1 845	2	19	0,1	1,0
Unemployed	505	469	506	516	527	11	23	2,2	4,5
Outside the Labour Force	946	924	929	950	947	-3	0	-0,4	0,1
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	71,1	71,9	71,8	71,3	71,5	0,2	0,4		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	55,7	57,6	56,5	55,7	55,6	-0,1	-0,1		
Inactivity rate	28,9	28,1	28,2	28,7	28,5	-0,2	-0,4		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	21,6	19,8	21,4	21,9	22,2	0,3	0,6		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	23,8	22,0	24,3	25,1	25,1	0,0	1,3		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	24,5	21,7	23,3	24,3	24,6	0,3	0,1		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	26,6	23,8	26,2	27,4	27,4	0,0	0,8		

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

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

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**4 618**	**4 629**	**4 641**	**4 653**	**4 665**	**12**	**48**	**0,3**	**1,0**
Labour Force	**2 393**	**2 393**	**2 405**	**2 565**	**2 481**	**-84**	**87**	**-3,3**	**3,7**
Employed	1 408	1 377	1 333	1 346	1 383	36	-26	2,7	-1,8
Unemployed	985	1 016	1 072	1 219	1 098	-120	113	-9,9	11,5
Outside the Labour Force	2 224	2 236	2 236	2 088	2 184	97	-40	4,6	-1,8
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	51,8	51,7	51,8	55,1	53,2	-1,9	1,4		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	30,5	29,7	28,7	28,9	29,6	0,7	-0,9		
Inactivity rate	48,2	48,3	48,2	44,9	46,8	1,9	-1,4		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	41,2	42,5	44,6	47,5	44,3	-3,2	3,1		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	44,1	44,7	48,4	50,8	46,9	-3,9	2,8		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	50,2	51,4	54,4	54,1	51,8	-2,3	1,6		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	52,7	53,2	57,6	57,0	54,1	-2,9	1,4		
Eastern Cape - Non Metro									
Population 15-64 years	**3 141**	**3 148**	**3 154**	**3 161**	**3 168**	**7**	**27**	**0,2**	**0,9**
Labour Force	**1 517**	**1 507**	**1 520**	**1 625**	**1 537**	**-88**	**20**	**-5,4**	**1,3**
Employed	768	731	708	707	749	41	-20	5,8	-2,5
Unemployed	749	776	812	918	789	-129	39	-14,1	5,3
Outside the Labour Force	1 624	1 640	1 634	1 536	1 631	95	7	6,2	0,4
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	48,3	47,9	48,2	51,4	48,5	-2,9	0,2		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	24,5	23,2	22,5	22,4	23,6	1,2	-0,9		
Inactivity rate	51,7	52,1	51,8	48,6	51,5	2,9	-0,2		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	49,4	51,5	53,4	56,5	51,3	-5,2	1,9		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	52,8	53,2	57,6	60,4	54,4	-6,0	1,6		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	59,4	61,2	63,1	63,2	59,3	-3,9	-0,1		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	62,1	62,6	66,4	66,5	62,0	-4,5	-0,1		

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)

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**569**	**571**	**573**	**575**	**577**	**2**	**8**	**0,3**	**1,3**
Labour Force	**376**	**385**	**366**	**385**	**367**	**-18**	**-9**	**-4,7**	**-2,4**
Employed	276	286	261	268	244	-24	-32	-9,1	-11,8
Unemployed	101	99	105	118	124	6	23	5,3	23,2
Outside the Labour Force	193	186	207	190	209	20	17	10,5	8,6
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	66,1	67,4	63,9	67,0	63,7	-3,3	-2,4		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	48,5	50,1	45,6	46,6	42,2	-4,4	-6,3		
Inactivity rate	33,9	32,6	36,1	33,0	36,3	3,3	2,4		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	26,7	25,7	28,7	30,5	33,7	3,2	7,0		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	27,3	29,3	35,3	35,1	35,7	0,6	8,4		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	30,6	28,4	36,7	35,3	39,6	4,3	9,0		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	31,2	31,8	42,5	39,5	41,4	1,9	10,2		
Eastern Cape - Nelson Mandela Bay									
Population 15-64 years	**907**	**910**	**913**	**917**	**920**	**3**	**13**	**0,4**	**1,4**
Labour Force	**500**	**501**	**518**	**554**	**576**	**22**	**77**	**4,0**	**15,3**
Employed	364	360	364	371	391	20	26	5,3	7,2
Unemployed	135	141	154	183	186	2	50	1,3	37,2
Outside the Labour Force	407	410	395	362	344	-19	-64	-5,1	-15,7
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	55,1	55,0	56,7	60,5	62,6	2,1	7,5		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	40,2	39,5	39,8	40,5	42,5	2,0	2,3		
Inactivity rate	44,9	45,0	43,3	39,5	37,4	-2,1	-7,5		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	27,1	28,2	29,8	33,1	32,2	-0,9	5,1		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	30,2	30,9	30,8	33,4	33,8	0,4	3,6		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	32,4	34,3	38,7	38,1	37,8	-0,3	5,4		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	35,3	36,7	39,6	38,4	39,2	0,8	3,9		

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)

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**847**	**849**	**850**	**852**	**853**	**1**	**6**	**0.2**	**0,7**
Labour Force	**464**	**462**	**442**	**434**	**447**	**13**	**-17**	**3.1**	**-3,6**
Employed	319	337	308	309	313	4	-6	1.2	-2,0
Unemployed	145	125	134	125	134	10	-11	7.7	-7,3
Outside the Labour Force	383	387	408	418	406	-12	22	-2.9	5,9
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	54,8	54,4	52,0	51,0	52,4	1,4	-2,4		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	37,7	39,7	36,2	36,3	36,7	0,4	-1,0		
Inactivity rate	45,2	45,6	48,0	49,0	47,6	-1,4	2,4		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	31,2	27,1	30,4	28,7	30,0	1,3	-1,2		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	35,0	30,0	34,1	33,0	32,7	-0,3	-2,3		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	46,5	42,9	47,0	47,1	48,1	1,0	1,6		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	49,4	45,2	49,9	50,3	50,2	-0,1	0,8		
Free State									
Population 15-64 years	**1 944**	**1 944**	**1 944**	**1 945**	**1 945**	**0**	**1**	**0.0**	**0,1**
Labour Force	**1 226**	**1 227**	**1 221**	**1 227**	**1 206**	**-21**	**-21**	**-1.8**	**-1,7**
Employed	782	771	760	769	735	-34	-47	-4.5	-6,0
Unemployed	444	456	461	458	471	13	27	2.8	6,0
Outside the Labour Force	718	717	723	718	739	22	22	3.0	3,0
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	63,1	63,1	62,8	63,1	62,0	-1,1	-1,1		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	40,2	39,7	39,1	39,6	37,8	-1,8	-2,4		
Inactivity rate	36,9	36,9	37,2	36,9	38,0	1,1	1,1		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	36,2	37,2	37,8	37,3	39,1	1,8	2,9		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	39,7	40,9	41,4	41,0	43,5	2,5	3,8		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	42,7	44,1	44,3	44,0	46,5	2,5	3,8		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	45,8	47,3	47,5	47,3	50,4	3,1	4,6		

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

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

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**1 385**	**1 385**	**1 386**	**1 386**	**1 386**	**0**	**1**	**0,0**	**0,1**
Labour Force	**891**	**892**	**902**	**895**	**865**	**-30**	**-26**	**-3,4**	**-2,9**
Employed	540	548	537	547	507	-39	-32	-7,2	-6,0
Unemployed	351	344	364	348	357	9	6	2,6	1,8
Outside the Labour Force	494	493	484	491	521	30	27	6,2	5,4
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	64,3	64,4	65,1	64,6	62,4	-2,2	-1,9		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	39,0	39,6	38,8	39,4	36,6	-2,8	-2,4		
Inactivity rate	35,7	35,6	34,9	35,4	37,6	2,2	1,9		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	39,4	38,6	40,4	38,9	41,3	2,4	1,9		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	42,8	42,2	43,3	42,4	45,9	3,5	3,1		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	44,8	44,9	45,8	45,1	48,0	2,9	3,2		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	47,9	48,2	48,5	48,2	52,0	3,8	4,1		
Free State - Mangaung									
Population 15-64 years	**559**	**559**	**559**	**559**	**559**	**0**	**0**	**0,0**	**0,0**
Labour Force	**336**	**335**	**320**	**332**	**341**	**9**	**5**	**2,6**	**1,6**
Employed	242	223	223	223	227	5	-15	2,1	-6,2
Unemployed	93	112	97	110	114	4	20	3,6	21,9
Outside the Labour Force	223	224	239	227	218	-9	-5	-3,8	-2,3
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	60,1	59,9	57,2	59,4	61,0	1,6	0,9		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	43,4	39,9	39,9	39,8	40,7	0,9	-2,7		
Inactivity rate	39,9	40,1	42,8	40,6	39,0	-1,6	-0,9		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	27,8	33,5	30,3	33,0	33,3	0,3	5,5		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	31,4	37,2	36,0	37,1	37,5	0,4	6,1		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	37,3	41,9	40,3	41,2	42,8	1,6	5,5		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	40,4	45,2	45,1	44,8	46,4	1,6	6,0		

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 (continued)

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**7 756**	**7 779**	**7 802**	**7 825**	**7 848**	**23**	**92**	**0,3**	**1,2**
Labour Force	**4 035**	**4 010**	**3 956**	**4 035**	**4 091**	**57**	**56**	**1,4**	**1,4**
Employed	2 757	2 716	2 722	2 725	2 731	6	-26	0,2	-0,9
Unemployed	1 278	1 294	1 234	1 310	1 360	51	82	3,9	6,4
Outside the Labour Force	3 721	3 769	3 846	3 790	3 756	-34	35	-0,9	0,9
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	52,0	51,5	50,7	51,6	52,1	0,5	0,1		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	35,5	34,9	34,9	34,8	34,8	0,0	-0,7		
Inactivity rate	48,0	48,5	49,3	48,4	47,9	-0,5	-0,1		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	31,7	32,3	31,2	32,5	33,3	0,8	1,6		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	35,1	34,8	35,2	35,8	36,0	0,2	0,9		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	46,6	47,1	47,2	47,8	49,2	1,4	2,6		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	49,3	49,1	50,3	50,4	51,3	0,9	2,0		
KwaZulu-Natal - Non Metro									
Population 15-64 years	**5 032**	**5 046**	**5 059**	**5 073**	**5 086**	**13**	**54**	**0,3**	**1,1**
Labour Force	**2 365**	**2 338**	**2 335**	**2 398**	**2 457**	**58**	**92**	**2,4**	**3,9**
Employed	1 551	1 448	1 462	1 435	1 459	24	-91	1,7	-5,9
Unemployed	814	891	873	963	997	34	183	3,5	22,5
Outside the Labour Force	2 667	2 707	2 724	2 674	2 629	-45	-38	-1,7	-1,4
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	47,0	46,3	46,2	47,3	48,3	1,0	1,3		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	30,8	28,7	28,9	28,3	28,7	0,4	-2,1		
Inactivity rate	53,0	53,7	53,8	52,7	51,7	-1,0	-1,3		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	34,4	38,1	37,4	40,2	40,6	0,4	6,2		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	38,1	41,2	41,8	43,8	43,7	-0,1	5,6		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	50,1	52,5	52,4	54,3	55,5	1,2	5,4		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	52,9	54,9	55,7	57,1	57,8	0,7	4,9		

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)

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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 - eThekwini									
Population 15-64 years	**2 724**	**2 733**	**2 743**	**2 752**	**2 761**	**9**	**38**	**0,3**	**1,4**
Labour Force	**1 670**	**1 671**	**1 621**	**1 636**	**1 635**	**-1**	**-35**	**-0,1**	**-2,1**
Employed	1 206	1 268	1 259	1 290	1 272	-18	66	-1,4	5,4
Unemployed	464	403	362	347	363	17	-101	4,8	-21,7
Outside the Labour Force	1 054	1 062	1 122	1 116	1 127	11	73	1,0	6,9
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	61,3	61,2	59,1	59,5	59,2	-0,3	-2,1		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	44,3	46,4	45,9	46,9	46,0	-0,9	1,7		
Inactivity rate	38,7	38,8	40,9	40,5	40,8	0,3	2,1		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	27,8	24,1	22,3	21,2	22,2	1,0	-5,6		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	30,9	26,0	25,7	24,2	24,5	0,3	-6,4		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	41,5	39,2	39,6	37,8	39,2	1,4	-2,3		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	44,0	40,7	42,3	40,2	41,0	0,8	-3,0		
North West									
Population 15-64 years	**2 843**	**2 851**	**2 860**	**2 868**	**2 876**	**8**	**33**	**0,3**	**1,2**
Labour Force	**1 513**	**1 500**	**1 382**	**1 419**	**1 491**	**71**	**-22**	**5,0**	**-1,5**
Employed	937	973	894	878	923	45	-14	5,1	-1,5
Unemployed	576	527	489	541	568	26	-8	4,9	-1,4
Outside the Labour Force	1 330	1 352	1 477	1 448	1 385	-63	55	-4,4	4,2
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	53,2	52,6	48,3	49,5	51,8	2,3	-1,4		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	33,0	34,1	31,2	30,6	32,1	1,5	-0,9		
Inactivity rate	46,8	47,4	51,7	50,5	48,2	-2,3	1,4		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	38,1	35,1	35,3	38,1	38,1	0,0	0,0		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	39,3	38,1	37,7	40,6	41,9	1,3	2,6		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	52,5	50,9	54,8	56,0	55,0	-1,0	2,5		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	53,4	53,2	56,5	57,7	57,8	0,1	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)

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**11 480**	**11 518**	**11 557**	**11 595**	**11 631**	**35**	**151**	**0,3**	**1,3**
Labour Force	**7 823**	**7 739**	**7 760**	**7 791**	**7 966**	**175**	**143**	**2,2**	**1,8**
Employed	5 237	5 183	5 116	5 094	5 119	25	-117	0,5	-2,2
Unemployed	2 586	2 556	2 644	2 697	2 847	150	261	5,6	10,1
Outside the Labour Force	3 657	3 779	3 796	3 805	3 665	-140	8	-3,7	0,2
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	68,1	67,2	67,2	67,2	68,5	1,3	0,4		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	45,6	45,0	44,3	43,9	44,0	0,1	-1,6		
Inactivity rate	31,9	32,8	32,8	32,8	31,5	-1,3	-0,4		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	33,1	33,0	34,1	34,6	35,7	1,1	2,6		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	35,5	35,4	36,6	36,7	38,0	1,3	2,5		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	39,6	39,4	40,6	40,5	41,0	0,5	1,4		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	41,8	41,6	42,9	42,4	43,1	0,7	1,3		
Gauteng - Non Metro									
Population 15-64 years	**1 521**	**1 526**	**1 532**	**1 537**	**1 542**	**5**	**21**	**0,3**	**1,4**
Labour Force	**1 062**	**1 037**	**1 026**	**1 034**	**1 042**	**8**	**-19**	**0,8**	**-1,8**
Employed	702	707	719	705	658	-47	-44	-6,6	-6,2
Unemployed	359	330	308	329	384	55	25	16,8	6,9
Outside the Labour Force	459	489	505	503	500	-3	40	-0,7	8,8
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	69,8	68,0	67,0	67,3	67,6	0,3	-2,2		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	46,2	46,3	46,9	45,9	42,7	-3,2	-3,5		
Inactivity rate	30,2	32,0	33,0	32,7	32,4	-0,3	2,2		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	33,9	31,8	30,0	31,8	36,9	5,1	3,0		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	37,8	33,6	31,3	33,5	38,2	4,7	0,4		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	41,7	39,6	38,8	40,2	43,3	3,1	1,6		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	45,1	41,1	40,0	41,7	44,5	2,8	-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)

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**2 884**	**2 894**	**2 903**	**2 913**	**2 922**	**9**	**38**	**0,3**	**1,3**
Labour Force	**1 819**	**1 838**	**1 822**	**1 878**	**1 941**	**63**	**122**	**3,4**	**6,7**
Employed	1 235	1 248	1 231	1 228	1 208	-20	-26	-1,6	-2,1
Unemployed	584	590	591	650	733	83	149	12,8	25,4
Outside the Labour Force	1 065	1 055	1 081	1 035	981	-54	-84	-5,2	-7,9
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	63,1	63,5	62,8	64,5	66,4	1,9	3,3		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	42,8	43,1	42,4	42,2	41,4	-0,8	-1,4		
Inactivity rate	36,9	36,5	37,2	35,5	33,6	-1,9	-3,3		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	32,1	32,1	32,4	34,6	37,7	3,1	5,6		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	33,5	32,9	33,4	35,2	38,7	3,5	5,2		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	42,2	41,5	42,8	42,7	45,5	2,8	3,3		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	43,4	42,2	43,6	43,2	46,3	3,1	2,9		
Gauteng - City of Johannesburg									
Population 15-64 years	**4 256**	**4 270**	**4 284**	**4 298**	**4 311**	**13**	**55**	**0,3**	**1,3**
Labour Force	**3 001**	**2 891**	**2 967**	**2 977**	**3 073**	**96**	**72**	**3,2**	**2,4**
Employed	1 963	1 915	1 938	1 910	2 001	91	38	4,8	1,9
Unemployed	1 037	976	1 029	1 068	1 072	4	35	0,4	3,3
Outside the Labour Force	1 255	1 379	1 317	1 321	1 238	-83	-18	-6,3	-1,4
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	70,5	67,7	69,3	69,3	71,3	2,0	0,8		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	46,1	44,8	45,2	44,4	46,4	2,0	0,3		
Inactivity rate	29,5	32,3	30,7	30,7	28,7	-2,0	-0,8		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	34,6	33,8	34,7	35,9	34,9	-1,0	0,3		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	37,0	37,4	39,1	39,5	38,9	-0,6	1,9		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	39,2	38,9	39,8	40,1	38,2	-1,9	-1,0		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	41,5	42,2	43,9	43,5	41,9	-1,6	0,4		

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)

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**2 819**	**2 828**	**2 838**	**2 847**	**2 856**	**9**	**37**	**0,3**	**1,3**
Labour Force	**1 941**	**1 972**	**1 945**	**1 901**	**1 909**	**8**	**-32**	**0,4**	**-1,7**
Employed	1 336	1 313	1 229	1 251	1 251	1	-85	0,1	-6,4
Unemployed	605	659	717	651	658	7	53	1,1	8,7
Outside the Labour Force	878	856	893	946	947	1	69	0,1	7,9
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	68,9	69,7	68,5	66,8	66,9	0,1	-2,0		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	47,4	46,4	43,3	43,9	43,8	-0,1	-3,6		
Inactivity rate	31,1	30,3	31,5	33,2	33,1	-0,1	2,0		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	31,2	33,4	36,8	34,2	34,5	0,3	3,3		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	33,7	35,7	38,6	35,8	35,8	0,0	2,1		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	36,3	38,1	40,7	38,8	39,3	0,5	3,0		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	38,7	40,2	42,4	40,2	40,5	0,3	1,8		
Mpumalanga									
Population 15-64 years	**3 219**	**3 228**	**3 237**	**3 247**	**3 256**	**9**	**37**	**0,3**	**1,2**
Labour Force	**1 889**	**1 895**	**1 929**	**2 004**	**1 994**	**-10**	**105**	**-0,5**	**5,6**
Employed	1 246	1 283	1 229	1 270	1 240	-30	-6	-2,4	-0,5
Unemployed	643	611	700	734	753	20	111	2,7	17,2
Outside the Labour Force	1 330	1 333	1 308	1 243	1 262	20	-68	1,6	-5,1
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	58,7	58,7	59,6	61,7	61,2	-0,5	2,5		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	38,7	39,8	38,0	39,1	38,1	-1,0	-0,6		
Inactivity rate	41,3	41,3	40,4	38,3	38,8	0,5	-2,5		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	34,0	32,3	36,3	36,6	37,8	1,2	3,8		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	38,6	35,7	39,4	40,2	40,8	0,6	2,2		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	47,5	46,3	49,6	48,3	49,2	0,9	1,7		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	51,1	49,0	52,1	51,2	51,7	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 (concluded)

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**4 098**	**4 110**	**4 121**	**4 133**	**4 144**	**12**	**46**	**0,3**	**1,1**
Labour Force	**2 214**	**2 160**	**2 208**	**2 225**	**2 167**	**-59**	**-47**	**-2,6**	**-2,1**
Employed	1 555	1 552	1 509	1 512	1 513	1	-42	0,1	-2,7
Unemployed	659	609	699	713	654	-60	-5	-8,4	-0,8
Outside the Labour Force	1 884	1 949	1 913	1 907	1 977	70	93	3,7	4,9
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)									
Labour force participation rate	54,0	52,6	53,6	53,9	52,3	-1,6	-1,7		
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	37,9	37,8	36,6	36,6	36,5	-0,1	-1,4		
Inactivity rate	46,0	47,4	46,4	46,1	47,7	1,6	1,7		
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)									
LU1- Unemployment rate	29,8	28,2	31,7	32,0	30,2	-1,8	0,4		
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	34,4	33,3	35,6	35,2	33,0	-2,2	-1,4		
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	45,1	46,1	47,0	46,7	46,1	-0,6	1,0		
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	48,7	50,0	50,1	49,1	48,4	-0,7	-0,3		

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

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Table 3.1 – Employed by industry and sex - South Africa

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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**	**16 754**	**16 739**	**16 840**	**101**	**-215**	**0,6**	**-1,3**
Agriculture	920	950	960	944	911	-34	-9	-3,6	-1,0
Mining	449	444	476	450	481	31	32	6,8	7,0
Manufacturing	1 610	1 548	1 587	1 571	1 604	33	-6	2,1	-0,3
Utilities	109	134	113	103	106	4	-3	3,5	-2,5
Construction	1 390	1 425	1 314	1 354	1 345	-8	-44	-0,6	-3,2
Trade	3 424	3 326	3 320	3 389	3 391	2	-33	0,1	-1,0
Transport	1 113	1 140	1 111	1 108	1 124	16	11	1,4	1,0
Finance	2 930	2 962	2 939	2 950	3 062	111	132	3,8	4,5
Community and social services	3 988	4 034	3 828	3 771	3 792	20	-197	0,5	-4,9
Private households	1 111	1 129	1 101	1 092	1 024	-68	-87	-6,2	-7,9
Other	11	7	6	5					
Women	**7 429**	**7 470**	**7 264**	**7 294**	**7 341**	**47**	**-89**	**0,6**	**-1,2**
Agriculture	272	281	277	292	301	9	29	3,0	10,6
Mining	72	81	91	89	106	17	34	19,3	47,0
Manufacturing	543	543	531	552	537	-15	-6	-2,6	-1,1
Utilities	30	34	22	25	27	2	-2	8,3	-7,7
Construction	142	148	137	134	132	-3	-10	-1,9	-6,9
Trade	1 606	1 559	1 549	1 589	1 546	-44	-60	-2,7	-3,7
Transport	201	195	173	187	215	27	14	14,6	6,9
Finance	1 264	1 260	1 277	1 299	1 370	71	106	5,5	8,4
Community and social services	2 478	2 522	2 387	2 313	2 321	9	-157	0,4	-6,3
Private households	819	844	818	812	786	-26	-33	-3,2	-4,1
Other	3	3	4	2					

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)									
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**9 625**	**9 629**	**9 490**	**9 445**	**9 499**	**55**	**-126**	**0,6**	**-1,3**
Agriculture	648	669	683	652	610	-42	-38	-6,5	-5,9
Mining	377	363	385	361	375	14	-2	3,8	-0,6
Manufacturing	1 066	1 006	1 056	1 019	1 067	47	0	4,6	0,0
Utilities	79	100	91	78	79	1	0	1,9	-0,6
Construction	1 248	1 276	1 177	1 219	1 214	-6	-34	-0,5	-2,8
Trade	1 818	1 766	1 770	1 800	1 846	46	27	2,5	1,5
Transport	912	946	937	921	910	-12	-2	-1,3	-0,3
Finance	1 666	1 702	1 663	1 652	1 692	40	26	2,4	1,6
Community and social services	1 510	1 513	1 441	1 459	1 470	11	-40	0,8	-2,7
Private households	292	285	283	280	238	-42	-54	-15,0	-18,5
Other	8	4	3	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

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**920**	**950**	**960**	**944**	**911**	**-34**	**-9**	**-3,6**	**-1,0**
Western Cape	190	215	249	228	216	-12	25	-5,3	13,4
Eastern Cape	104	83	97	95	93	-2	-11	-2,4	-10,9
Northern Cape	42	59	38	44	40	-4	-2	-8,7	-4,9
Free State	71	92	91	71	71	0	0	0,0	-0,7
KwaZulu-Natal	122	139	123	126	112	-14	-9	-11,2	-7,8
North West	70	65	64	55	67	12	-3	21,9	-4,5
Gauteng	39	42	34	50	29	-21	-10	-41,6	-24,7
Mpumalanga	113	114	107	100	101	1	-12	0,8	-10,6
Limpopo	170	142	157	176	183	7	13	3,8	7,7
Mining	**449**	**444**	**476**	**450**	**481**	**31**	**32**	**6,8**	**7,0**
Western Cape	6	5	5	5	3	-2	-3	-37,8	-52,8
Eastern Cape					1				
Northern Cape	35	28	31	26	35	9	0	35,7	0,7
Free State	26	26	28	21	19	-2	-7	-9,2	-27,6
KwaZulu-Natal	10	10	7	6	12	6	2	89,4	18,8
North West	99	100	104	112	112	0	13	0,0	13,7
Gauteng	101	100	110	113	118	5	17	4,5	16,6
Mpumalanga	58	63	69	71	74	4	17	5,1	28,9
Limpopo	115	113	121	97	107	10	-8	10,7	-6,6

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)									
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**1 610**	**1 548**	**1 587**	**1 571**	**1 604**	**33**	**-6**	**2,1**	**-0,3**
Western Cape	296	320	300	308	301	-7	5	-2,3	1,8
Eastern Cape	118	112	109	126	133	7	15	5,8	12,7
Northern Cape	18	8	11	10	10	-1	-8	-6,7	-45,4
Free State	47	47	48	52	50	-1	3	-2,3	7,1
KwaZulu-Natal	364	344	351	347	355	8	-9	2,4	-2,4
North West	63	67	64	68	78	9	14	13,7	22,9
Gauteng	526	491	538	493	514	21	-12	4,2	-2,2
Mpumalanga	83	66	74	89	87	-2	3	-2,4	4,2
Limpopo	95	93	92	78	76	-2	-19	-2,6	-19,9
Utilities	**109**	**134**	**113**	**103**	**106**	**4**	**-3**	**3,5**	**-2,5**
Western Cape	9	13	13	9	5	-4	-4	-44,2	-46,7
Eastern Cape	4	10	6	7	5	-2	2	-29,7	44,8
Northern Cape	4	5	3	2	1	-1	-3	-61,4	-77,4
Free State	2	2	1	1	8	7	6	849,1	300,0
KwaZulu-Natal	7	12	8	9	10	1	2	10,9	29,4
North West	3	3	5	3	4	0	1	9,4	19,7
Gauteng	36	36	27	28	22	-6	-14	-21,8	-38,7
Mpumalanga	31	35	32	30	37	7	6	23,9	20,2
Limpopo	13	17	18	14	15	2	2	13,6	16,0

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)									
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**1 390**	**1 425**	**1 314**	**1 354**	**1 345**	**-8**	**-44**	**-0,6**	**-3,2**
Western Cape	259	267	258	232	292	61	33	26,2	12,7
Eastern Cape	117	117	110	127	144	17	27	13,7	22,9
Northern Cape	25	22	21	21	21	0	-4	2,3	-14,5
Free State	60	55	37	58	51	-7	-9	-11,4	-14,8
KwaZulu-Natal	235	235	211	225	203	-22	-32	-9,9	-13,7
North West	62	73	73	65	47	-18	-15	-27,1	-24,4
Gauteng	372	400	372	374	353	-21	-18	-5,5	-4,9
Mpumalanga	101	113	98	100	99	-1	-2	-0,9	-2,3
Limpopo	158	143	136	153	135	-19	-24	-12,3	-14,9
Trade	**3 424**	**3 326**	**3 320**	**3 389**	**3 391**	**2**	**-33**	**0,1**	**-1,0**
Western Cape	559	557	573	576	562	-14	3	-2,4	0,5
Eastern Cape	273	296	268	255	267	12	-6	4,6	-2,1
Northern Cape	52	56	48	46	50	4	-2	9,1	-3,8
Free State	152	157	152	153	157	4	5	2,4	3,5
KwaZulu-Natal	548	501	549	540	522	-18	-27	-3,3	-4,9
North West	170	172	157	169	178	9	8	5,3	4,7
Gauteng	1 059	986	951	1 023	1 074	50	15	4,9	1,4
Mpumalanga	265	286	274	277	253	-24	-12	-8,6	-4,6
Limpopo	346	315	348	351	329	-22	-17	-6,1	-4,9

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 (continued)									
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**1 113**	**1 140**	**1 111**	**1 108**	**1 124**	**16**	**11**	**1,4**	**1,0**
Western Cape	199	191	188	169	200	31	1	18,5	0,7
Eastern Cape	86	81	91	75	73	-2	-13	-2,8	-15,5
Northern Cape	7	10	11	14	13	-1	6	-7,2	80,8
Free State	42	36	35	41	33	-8	-9	-18,7	-21,7
KwaZulu-Natal	196	221	216	241	223	-18	27	-7,4	13,7
North West	28	28	35	26	18	-8	-9	-29,5	-33,9
Gauteng	409	430	411	396	422	26	12	6,5	3,0
Mpumalanga	62	55	71	83	76	-7	14	-8,4	22,7
Limpopo	84	88	53	65	67	2	-17	3,0	-20,3
Finance	**2 930**	**2 962**	**2 939**	**2 950**	**3 062**	**111**	**132**	**3,8**	**4,5**
Western Cape	569	573	588	591	594	3	25	0,6	4,4
Eastern Cape	193	172	174	193	194	1	1	0,5	0,5
Northern Cape	29	37	36	35	45	9	16	26,7	54,3
Free State	94	80	91	105	91	-13	-3	-12,8	-3,3
KwaZulu-Natal	395	416	444	429	474	45	79	10,5	19,9
North West	130	143	116	91	136	45	7	49,4	5,1
Gauteng	1 210	1 202	1 186	1 180	1 178	-2	-32	-0,1	-2,6
Mpumalanga	179	184	165	167	158	-10	-22	-5,9	-12,1
Limpopo	131	156	139	160	192	32	61	20,1	46,9

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 (concluded)									
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**3 988**	**4 034**	**3 828**	**3 771**	**3 792**	**20**	**-197**	**0,5**	**-4,9**
Western Cape	558	609	546	543	536	-7	-22	-1,4	-4,0
Eastern Cape	421	413	387	382	386	4	-35	1,1	-8,4
Northern Cape	88	94	87	93	82	-11	-6	-11,7	-7,1
Free State	222	205	202	190	196	6	-26	3,1	-11,9
KwaZulu-Natal	676	648	622	622	645	23	-31	3,7	-4,5
North West	256	254	219	223	221	-2	-35	-1,0	-13,7
Gauteng	1 139	1 166	1 175	1 136	1 142	5	2	0,5	0,2
Mpumalanga	271	275	254	259	268	9	-3	3,5	-1,2
Limpopo	357	371	338	323	317	-6	-40	-2,0	-11,2
Private households	**1 111**	**1 129**	**1 101**	**1 092**	**1 024**	**-68**	**-87**	**-6,2**	**-7,9**
Western Cape	164	153	162	175	174	-1	10	-0,6	6,3
Eastern Cape	92	93	92	87	88	1	-4	0,7	-4,0
Northern Cape	21	18	22	19	18	-2	-3	-9,5	-14,6
Free State	65	72	74	78	58	-20	-6	-25,5	-9,7
KwaZulu-Natal	202	191	190	180	176	-4	-26	-2,4	-13,0
North West	57	68	57	66	63	-3	6	-5,3	9,8
Gauteng	342	330	310	295	267	-28	-75	-9,4	-21,9
Mpumalanga	83	92	86	95	88	-7	5	-7,4	6,4
Limpopo	87	113	109	96	93	-3	5	-3,2	6,2

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

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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**	**16 754**	**16 739**	**16 840**	**101**	**-215**	**0,6**	**-1,3**
Formal and informal sector*	**15 944**	**15 970**	**15 653**	**15 647**	**15 816**	**169**	**-127**	**1,1**	**-0,8**
Agriculture	920	950	960	944	911	-34	-9	-3,6	-1,0
Mining	449	444	476	450	481	31	32	6,8	7,0
Manufacturing	1 610	1 548	1 587	1 571	1 604	33	-6	2,1	-0,3
Utilities	109	134	113	103	106	4	-3	3,5	-2,5
Construction	1 390	1 425	1 314	1 354	1 345	-8	-44	-0,6	-3,2
Trade	3 424	3 326	3 320	3 389	3 391	2	-33	0,1	-1,0
Transport	1 113	1 140	1 111	1 108	1 124	16	11	1,4	1,0
Finance	2 930	2 962	2 939	2 950	3 062	111	132	3,8	4,5
Community and social services	3 988	4 034	3 828	3 771	3 792	20	-197	0,5	-4,9
Other	11	7	6	5					
Formal sector*	**11 983**	**12 303**	**12 113**	**12 073**	**12 340**	**268**	**357**	**2,2**	**3,0**
Agriculture	575	683	677	675	667	-8	92	-1,2	16,1
Mining	434	435	470	441	469	28	34	6,3	7,9
Manufacturing	1 300	1 297	1 316	1 290	1 345	55	45	4,2	3,4
Utilities	106	131	110	101	106	5	-1	4,5	-0,6
Construction	711	738	714	733	780	47	70	6,5	9,8
Trade	2 136	2 138	2 145	2 185	2 209	24	73	1,1	3,4
Transport	678	703	679	724	716	-7	38	-1,0	5,6
Finance	2 547	2 618	2 627	2 629	2 718	89	171	3,4	6,7
Community and social services	3 490	3 553	3 371	3 290	3 330	40	-160	1,2	-4,6
Other	6	6	5	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 Q3:2025 to Q3:2026 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)									
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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**	**3 540**	**3 574**	**3 476**	**-98**	**-485**	**-2,7**	**-12,2**
Agriculture	346	267	283	269	244	-26	-102	-9,6	-29,5
Mining	15	9	6	9	12	3	-3	31,4	-19,1
Manufacturing	309	252	271	281	259	-22	-50	-7,8	-16,3
Utilities	3	3	3	2	1	-1	-2	-52,8	-70,4
Construction	679	686	601	621	565	-56	-114	-9,0	-16,8
Trade	1 288	1 188	1 175	1 204	1 182	-22	-105	-1,8	-8,2
Transport	435	438	432	385	408	23	-27	6,0	-6,2
Finance	383	343	312	321	344	23	-39	7,1	-10,2
Community and social services	498	481	457	482	461	-20	-37	-4,2	-7,3
Other	6	1	2						
Household sector	**1 111**	**1 129**	**1 101**	**1 092**	**1 024**	**-68**	**-87**	**-6,2**	**-7,9**

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 Q3:2025 to Q3:2026 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.*

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Table 3.4 – Employed by province, metro and sector

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**17 055**	**17 099**	**16 754**	**16 739**	**16 840**	**101**	**-215**	**0,6**	**-1,3**
Formal sector*	11 983	12 303	12 113	12 073	12 340	268	357	2,2	3,0
Informal sector*	3 961	3 667	3 540	3 574	3 476	-98	-485	-2,7	-12,2
Household sector	1 111	1 129	1 101	1 092	1 024	-68	-87	-6,2	-7,9
Western Cape	**2 814**	**2 907**	**2 883**	**2 835**	**2 883**	**48**	**69**	**1,7**	**2,5**
Formal sector*	2 165	2 274	2 254	2 179	2 254	75	88	3,4	4,1
Informal sector*	484	480	467	480	455	-25	-29	-5,3	-6,0
Household sector	164	153	162	175	174	-1	10	-0,6	6,3
Western Cape - Non-Metro	**987**	**1 012**	**1 021**	**992**	**1 038**	**46**	**51**	**4,6**	**5,1**
Formal sector*	741	783	785	731	780	49	39	6,7	5,3
Informal sector*	188	169	173	188	188	0	0	-0,1	0,0
Household sector	59	59	63	73	70	-3	11	-3,8	19,6
Western Cape - City of Cape Town	**1 826**	**1 895**	**1 863**	**1 843**	**1 845**	**2**	**19**	**0,1**	**1,0**
Formal sector*	1 424	1 491	1 469	1 448	1 473	26	49	1,8	3,4
Informal sector*	297	310	294	293	268	-25	-29	-8,6	-9,8
Household sector	105	94	99	102	104	2	-1	1,6	-1,1
Eastern Cape	**1 408**	**1 377**	**1 333**	**1 346**	**1 383**	**36**	**-26**	**2,7**	**-1,8**
Formal sector*	946	957	884	927	973	46	28	5,0	2,9
Informal sector*	371	327	357	332	321	-10	-50	-3,2	-13,4
Household sector	92	93	92	87	88	1	-4	0,7	-4,0

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 Q3:2025 to Q3:2026 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)									
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**768**	**731**	**708**	**707**	**749**	**41**	**-20**	**5,8**	**-2,5**
Formal sector*	472	442	391	416	447	31	-25	7,4	-5,4
Informal sector*	236	228	254	235	241	6	5	2,5	2,1
Household sector	60	62	64	56	61	4	1	8,0	1,6
Eastern Cape - Buffalo City	**276**	**286**	**261**	**268**	**244**	**-24**	**-32**	**-9,1**	**-11,8**
Formal sector*	185	218	191	203	190	-13	6	-6,2	3,2
Informal sector*	78	51	54	48	39	-9	-39	-19,3	-50,4
Household sector	14	17	16	17	15	-2	1	-14,2	6,1
Eastern Cape - Nelson Mandela bay	**364**	**360**	**364**	**371**	**391**	**20**	**26**	**5,3**	**7,2**
Formal sector*	289	298	302	308	336	28	47	9,2	16,3
Informal sector*	57	47	49	49	42	-7	-15	-14,6	-27,1
Household sector	18	14	12	14	13	-1	-5	-10,4	-30,1
Northern Cape	**319**	**337**	**308**	**309**	**313**	**4**	**-6**	**1,2**	**-2,0**
Formal sector*	255	287	251	235	262	27	8	11,5	3,0
Informal sector*	44	32	36	55	33	-21	-11	-39,3	-25,0
Household sector	21	18	22	19	18	-2	-3	-9,5	-14,6
Free State	**782**	**771**	**760**	**769**	**735**	**-34**	**-47**	**-4,5**	**-6,0**
Formal sector*	553	541	526	526	498	-28	-55	-5,3	-9,9
Informal sector*	164	159	161	165	178	13	14	8,0	8,5
Household sector	65	72	74	78	58	-20	-6	-25,5	-9,7

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 Q3:2025 to Q3:2026 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)

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**540**	**548**	**537**	**547**	**507**	**-39**	**-32**	**-7,2**	**-6,0**
Formal sector*	373	380	376	378	343	-35	-30	-9,2	-8,1
Informal sector*	120	117	116	114	123	9	3	7,9	2,7
Household sector	46	51	45	55	41	-14	-5	-24,9	-11,2
Free State - Mangaung	**242**	**223**	**223**	**223**	**227**	**5**	**-15**	**2,1**	**-6,2**
Formal sector*	180	161	149	148	155	7	-25	4,7	-13,7
Informal sector*	44	42	45	51	55	4	11	8,2	24,3
Household sector	18	20	29	24	17	-6	-1	-27,0	-5,9
KwaZulu Natal	**2 757**	**2 716**	**2 722**	**2 725**	**2 731**	**6**	**-26**	**0,2**	**-0,9**
Formal sector*	1 781	1 832	1 897	1 951	1 989	38	208	2,0	11,7
Informal sector*	774	693	634	593	566	-27	-208	-4,6	-26,9
Household sector	202	191	190	180	176	-4	-26	-2,4	-13,0
KwaZulu Natal - Non-Metro	**1 551**	**1 448**	**1 462**	**1 435**	**1 459**	**24**	**-91**	**1,7**	**-5,9**
Formal sector*	982	957	981	1 003	1 045	42	63	4,1	6,4
Informal sector*	463	399	370	333	331	-2	-131	-0,5	-28,4
Household sector	106	92	111	99	83	-16	-23	-15,9	-21,3
KwaZulu Natal - eThekwini	**1 206**	**1 268**	**1 259**	**1 290**	**1 272**	**-18**	**66**	**-1,4**	**5,4**
Formal sector*	799	875	916	948	945	-4	146	-0,4	18,2
Informal sector*	311	294	264	261	235	-26	-77	-9,9	-24,6
Household sector	96	99	79	81	92	11	-4	14,1	-3,8

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 Q3:2025 to Q3:2026 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)

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**937**	**973**	**894**	**878**	**923**	**45**	**-14**	**5,1**	**-1,5**
Formal sector*	649	657	634	602	648	46	-1	7,6	-0,2
Informal sector*	231	248	202	210	213	2	-18	1,1	-8,0
Household sector	57	68	57	66	63	-3	6	-5,3	9,8
Gauteng	**5 237**	**5 183**	**5 116**	**5 094**	**5 119**	**25**	**-117**	**0,5**	**-2,2**
Formal sector*	3 871	3 943	3 910	3 941	3 965	24	94	0,6	2,4
Informal sector*	1 023	911	895	858	887	29	-136	3,4	-13,3
Household sector	342	330	310	295	267	-28	-75	-9,4	-21,9
Gauteng - Non-Metro	**702**	**707**	**719**	**705**	**658**	**-47**	**-44**	**-6,6**	**-6,2**
Formal sector*	555	572	585	572	537	-34	-18	-6,0	-3,2
Informal sector*	108	98	100	92	88	-4	-19	-4,3	-18,0
Household sector	40	37	34	41	33	-8	-7	-20,5	-17,1
Gauteng - Ekurhuleni	**1 235**	**1 248**	**1 231**	**1 228**	**1 208**	**-20**	**-26**	**-1,6**	**-2,1**
Formal sector*	969	990	988	984	973	-11	4	-1,1	0,4
Informal sector*	211	207	197	199	193	-7	-19	-3,3	-8,8
Household sector	54	51	46	45	43	-3	-12	-5,9	-21,8
Gauteng - City of Johannesburg	**1 963**	**1 915**	**1 938**	**1 910**	**2 001**	**91**	**38**	**4,8**	**1,9**
Formal sector*	1 341	1 328	1 340	1 360	1 407	47	66	3,5	4,9
Informal sector*	473	439	449	416	463	47	-10	11,2	-2,2
Household sector	149	147	149	133	131	-3	-18	-1,9	-12,1

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 Q3:2025 to Q3:2026 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)									
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**1 336**	**1 313**	**1 229**	**1 251**	**1 251**	**1**	**-85**	**0,1**	**-6,4**
Formal sector*	1 006	1 053	997	1 026	1 047	22	41	2,1	4,1
Informal sector*	231	166	149	150	143	-7	-88	-4,6	-38,0
Household sector	99	95	82	75	61	-14	-38	-18,8	-38,5
Mpumalanga	**1 246**	**1 283**	**1 229**	**1 270**	**1 240**	**-30**	**-6**	**-2,4**	**-0,5**
Formal sector*	838	839	831	803	815	12	-22	1,5	-2,7
Informal sector*	326	353	313	372	337	-35	12	-9,5	3,5
Household sector	83	92	86	95	88	-7	5	-7,4	6,4
Limpopo	**1 555**	**1 552**	**1 509**	**1 512**	**1 513**	**1**	**-42**	**0,1**	**-2,7**
Formal sector*	925	973	925	908	935	27	10	3,0	1,1
Informal sector*	542	466	475	508	485	-23	-57	-4,5	-10,6
Household sector	87	113	109	96	93	-3	5	-3,2	6,2

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 Q3:2025 to Q3:2026 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

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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**	**16 754**	**16 739**	**16 840**	**101**	**-215**	**0,6**	**-1,3**
Manager	1 453	1 433	1 499	1 459	1 537	78	84	5,4	5,8
Professional	909	952	950	916	951	36	42	3,9	4,6
Technician	1 488	1 575	1 484	1 460	1 367	-92	-121	-6,3	-8,1
Clerk	1 856	1 820	1 791	1 788	1 818	31	-37	1,7	-2,0
Sales and services	3 073	3 079	2 934	3 037	3 168	131	95	4,3	3,1
Skilled agriculture	97	60	95	81	51	-30	-46	-37,4	-47,5
Craft and related trade	1 991	1 943	1 851	1 930	1 923	-7	-68	-0,4	-3,4
Plant and machine operator	1 413	1 427	1 459	1 381	1 410	29	-3	2,1	-0,2
Elementary	3 903	3 916	3 844	3 846	3 814	-32	-89	-0,8	-2,3
Domestic worker	848	855	844	831	800	-31	-48	-3,7	-5,6
Other	25	39	3	12					
Women	**7 429**	**7 470**	**7 264**	**7 294**	**7 341**	**47**	**-89**	**0,6**	**-1,2**
Manager	508	497	518	514	573	58	64	11,3	12,6
Professional	495	550	513	532	540	8	44	1,4	9,0
Technician	726	807	760	737	676	-61	-51	-8,3	-7,0
Clerk	1 341	1 312	1 264	1 241	1 241	0	-100	0,0	-7,5
Sales and services	1 550	1 546	1 447	1 473	1 540	67	-10	4,5	-0,6
Skilled agriculture	25	24	22	23	21	-2	-3	-6,8	-13,1
Craft and related trade	257	234	211	232	233	2	-24	0,6	-9,2
Plant and machine operator	180	165	175	195	196	1	16	0,4	8,7
Elementary	1 539	1 509	1 562	1 552	1 564	12	25	0,7	1,6
Domestic worker	798	813	791	787	758	-29	-40	-3,7	-5,0
Other	10	14	2	7					

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)									
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**9 625**	**9 629**	**9 490**	**9 445**	**9 499**	**55**	**-126**	**0,6**	**-1,3**
Manager	945	937	981	944	965	20	20	2,2	2,1
Professional	414	402	437	384	411	28	-2	7,3	-0,5
Technician	762	768	725	722	692	-31	-70	-4,3	-9,2
Clerk	515	508	527	546	578	31	63	5,7	12,2
Sales and services	1 523	1 533	1 487	1 564	1 628	64	105	4,1	6,9
Skilled agriculture	72	36	72	58	30	-29	-43	-49,4	-59,1
Craft and related trade	1 734	1 709	1 641	1 698	1 690	-8	-44	-0,5	-2,5
Plant and machine operator	1 233	1 263	1 283	1 186	1 215	28	-19	2,4	-1,5
Elementary	2 363	2 407	2 282	2 293	2 250	-43	-113	-1,9	-4,8
Domestic worker	50	42	54	44	42	-2	-8	-4,2	-16,0
Other	15	25	1	5					

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

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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**	**16 754**	**16 739**	**16 840**	**101**	**-215**	**0,6**	**-1,3**
Employee	14 093	14 269	13 834	13 815	13 963	148	-131	1,1	-0,9
Employer	776	805	819	795	717	-78	-59	-9,9	-7,6
Own-account worker	2 069	1 931	1 995	2 047	2 046	-1	-23	-0,1	-1,1
Unpaid household member	117	94	106	81	115	33	-2	41,1	-1,5
Women	**7 429**	**7 470**	**7 264**	**7 294**	**7 341**	**47**	**-89**	**0,6**	**-1,2**
Employee	6 385	6 513	6 276	6 283	6 317	34	-67	0,5	-1,1
Employer	172	164	179	159	160	1	-12	0,4	-7,3
Own-account worker	816	748	758	807	817	10	2	1,3	0,2
Unpaid household member	57	45	51	45	46	1	-11	3,0	-18,5
Men	**9 625**	**9 629**	**9 490**	**9 445**	**9 499**	**55**	**-126**	**0,6**	**-1,3**
Employee	7 709	7 755	7 558	7 532	7 645	113	-63	1,5	-0,8
Employer	603	640	640	636	557	-79	-46	-12,4	-7,7
Own-account worker	1 254	1 183	1 237	1 240	1 228	-12	-25	-0,9	-2,0
Unpaid household member	60	50	55	36	68	32	9	88,5	14,8

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

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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**	**16 754**	**16 739**	**16 840**	**101**	**-215**	**0,6**	**-1,3**
Employers	788	825	838	808	727	-81	-61	-10,0	-7,7
Independent workers without employees	1 738	1 611	1 692	1 817	1 789	-28	51	-1,5	2,9
Dependent contractors	642	540	503	457	469	12	-173	2,6	-26,9
Employees	13 826	14 084	13 682	13 628	13 797	168	-30	1,2	-0,2
Contributing family workers	61	39	40	28	58	29	-3	103,9	-4,7
Women	**7 429**	**7 470**	**7 264**	**7 294**	**7 341**	**47**	**-89**	**0,6**	**-1,2**
Employers	179	177	191	168	167	0	-12	-0,2	-6,7
Independent workers without employees	704	640	660	723	719	-4	15	-0,6	2,1
Dependent contractors	208	176	164	168	165	-3	-43	-1,6	-20,5
Employees	6 311	6 460	6 229	6 224	6 276	52	-35	0,8	-0,5
Contributing family workers	28	17	20	12	14	2	-14	14,7	-50,4
Men	**9 625**	**9 629**	**9 490**	**9 445**	**9 499**	**55**	**-126**	**0,6**	**-1,3**
Employers	608	648	647	640	560	-80	-49	-12,6	-8,0
Independent workers without employees	1 034	971	1 032	1 094	1 071	-23	36	-2,1	3,5
Dependent contractors	434	363	339	289	304	15	-130	5,1	-29,9
Employees	7 516	7 624	7 453	7 405	7 520	116	5	1,6	0,1
Contributing family workers	33	22	19	16	44	28	11	169,8	33,9

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

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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**	**16 754**	**16 739**	**16 840**	**101**	**-215**	**0,6**	**-1,3**
Employers in corporations	195	173	198	171	156	-15	-38	-8,7	-19,6
Employers in household market units	593	652	640	637	571	-66	-22	-10,4	-3,8
Owners-operators of corporations without employees	96	78	61	71	70	-1	-25	-1,0	-26,4
Own-account workers in household market units	1 642	1 533	1 631	1 746	1 719	-27	76	-1,5	4,6
Dependent contractors	642	540	503	457	469	12	-173	2,6	-26,9
Permanent employees	11 616	12 022	11 845	11 979	12 136	157	520	1,3	4,5
Fixed-term employees	1 559	1 491	1 326	1 204	1 235	31	-324	2,6	-20,8
Short term and casual employees	291	291	282	220	172	-48	-119	-21,8	-40,8
Paid apprentices, trainees and interns	87	66	71	62	68	6	-19	9,3	-22,2
Employees not elsewhere classified	274	214	159	163	186	23	-88	14,2	-32,2
Contributing family workers	61	39	40	28	58	29	-3	103,9	-4,7
Women	**7 429**	**7 470**	**7 264**	**7 294**	**7 341**	**47**	**-89**	**0,6**	**-1,2**
Employers in corporations	49	55	59	46	52	6	3	12,9	6,0
Employers in household market units	131	122	132	122	116	-6	-15	-5,1	-11,4
Owners-operators of corporations without employees	28	21	24	23	23	0	-5	1,9	-18,5
Own-account workers in household market units	676	620	636	700	695	-5	20	-0,7	2,9
Dependent contractors	208	176	164	168	165	-3	-43	-1,6	-20,5
Permanent employees	5 257	5 478	5 362	5 447	5 510	64	253	1,2	4,8
Fixed-term employees	796	747	655	591	607	17	-189	2,8	-23,7
Short term and casual employees	99	121	108	97	65	-32	-34	-32,5	-34,0
Paid apprentices, trainees and interns	50	40	41	29	34	5	-16	16,0	-32,1
Employees not elsewhere classified	108	73	64	60	59	-1	-49	-1,4	-45,7
Contributing family workers	28	17	20	12	14	2	-14	14,7	-50,4

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 (concluded)									
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**9 625**	**9 629**	**9 490**	**9 445**	**9 499**	**55**	**-126**	**0,6**	**-1,3**
Employers in corporations	146	118	139	126	105	-21	-41	-16,5	-28,1
Employers in household market units	462	530	508	515	455	-60	-7	-11,6	-1,6
Owners-operators of corporations without employees	67	57	37	48	47	-1	-20	-2,3	-29,8
Own-account workers in household market units	967	914	994	1 045	1 023	-22	56	-2,1	5,8
Dependent contractors	434	363	339	289	304	15	-130	5,1	-29,9
Permanent employees	6 359	6 544	6 483	6 532	6 625	93	267	1,4	4,2
Fixed-term employees	762	744	670	613	628	14	-135	2,3	-17,7
Short term and casual employees	192	170	175	123	107	-16	-85	-13,3	-44,3
Paid apprentices, trainees and interns	37	25	30	33	34	1	-3	3,3	-8,9
Employees not elsewhere classified	166	141	95	103	127	24	-39	23,2	-23,4
Contributing family workers	33	22	19	16	44	28	11	169,8	33,9

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

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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**	**16 754**	**16 739**	**16 840**	**101**	**-215**	**0,6**	**-1,3**
Working less than 15 hours per week	585	433	461	456	430	-25	-155	-5,5	-26,5
Working 15-29 hours per week	1 111	1 073	1 095	1 138	1 063	-75	-48	-6,6	-4,3
Working 30-39 hours per week	1 176	1 168	1 097	1 091	1 068	-22	-108	-2,0	-9,2
Working 40-45 hours per week	9 556	9 858	9 542	9 525	9 602	78	46	0,8	0,5
Working more than 45 hours per week	4 626	4 566	4 559	4 530	4 676	146	50	3,2	1,1
Women	**7 429**	**7 470**	**7 264**	**7 294**	**7 341**	**47**	**-89**	**0,6**	**-1,2**
Working less than 15 hours per week	327	219	241	249	219	-30	-108	-12,2	-33,1
Working 15-29 hours per week	647	650	671	675	647	-27	0	-4,0	0,0
Working 30-39 hours per week	657	701	629	598	593	-5	-64	-0,9	-9,7
Working 40-45 hours per week	4 352	4 453	4 259	4 299	4 337	38	-15	0,9	-0,4
Working more than 45 hours per week	1 446	1 445	1 465	1 473	1 545	72	99	4,9	6,8
Men	**9 625**	**9 629**	**9 490**	**9 445**	**9 499**	**55**	**-126**	**0,6**	**-1,3**
Working less than 15 hours per week	258	214	221	207	212	5	-47	2,5	-18,1
Working 15-29 hours per week	464	424	424	463	415	-48	-48	-10,4	-10,4
Working 30-39 hours per week	519	466	468	492	475	-17	-44	-3,5	-8,4
Working 40-45 hours per week	5 204	5 405	5 284	5 225	5 266	40	62	0,8	1,2
Working more than 45 hours per week	3 180	3 120	3 094	3 057	3 131	75	-49	2,4	-1,5

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

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**14 093**	**14 269**	**13 834**	**13 815**	**13 963**	**148**	**-131**	**1,1**	**-0,9**
Yes	6 180	6 337	6 423	6 367	6 644	276	464	4,3	7,5
No	7 433	7 487	6 994	7 005	6 892	-114	-541	-1,6	-7,3
Don't know	481	445	418	442	427	-15	-54	-3,5	-11,2
Women	**6 385**	**6 513**	**6 276**	**6 283**	**6 317**	**34**	**-67**	**0,5**	**-1,1**
Yes	2 837	2 907	2 873	2 916	2 974	57	137	2,0	4,8
No	3 325	3 424	3 240	3 196	3 158	-39	-167	-1,2	-5,0
Don't know	222	183	163	170	186	16	-37	9,2	-16,5
Men	**7 709**	**7 755**	**7 558**	**7 532**	**7 645**	**113**	**-63**	**1,5**	**-0,8**
Yes	3 343	3 430	3 550	3 451	3 670	219	327	6,3	9,8
No	4 108	4 064	3 754	3 809	3 734	-75	-373	-2,0	-9,1
Don't know	258	262	255	272	241	-31	-17	-11,4	-6,6
Entitled to any paid leave									
Both sexes	**14 093**	**14 269**	**13 834**	**13 815**	**13 963**	**148**	**-131**	**1,1**	**-0,9**
Yes	9 166	9 562	9 481	9 334	9 435	101	268	1,1	2,9
No	4 722	4 498	4 204	4 297	4 349	52	-373	1,2	-7,9
Don't know	205	209	149	184	179	-5	-26	-2,8	-12,6
Women	**6 385**	**6 513**	**6 276**	**6 283**	**6 317**	**34**	**-67**	**0,5**	**-1,1**
Yes	4 260	4 438	4 323	4 297	4 307	10	47	0,2	1,1
No	2 021	1 997	1 892	1 927	1 941	14	-80	0,7	-3,9
Don't know	104	79	61	59	69	10	-34	16,5	-33,2
Men	**7 709**	**7 755**	**7 558**	**7 532**	**7 645**	**113**	**-63**	**1,5**	**-0,8**
Yes	4 906	5 124	5 158	5 037	5 128	91	222	1,8	4,5
No	2 702	2 501	2 312	2 371	2 408	37	-294	1,6	-10,9
Don't know	101	130	88	124	110	-15	9	-11,9	8,6

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 (concluded)									
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**14 093**	**14 269**	**13 834**	**13 815**	**13 963**	**148**	**-131**	**1,1**	**-0,9**
Yes	10 078	10 483	10 326	10 269	10 449	180	371	1,8	3,7
No	3 820	3 569	3 364	3 364	3 346	-17	-474	-0,5	-12,4
Don't know	196	217	144	183	168	-15	-28	-8,3	-14,3
Women	**6 385**	**6 513**	**6 276**	**6 283**	**6 317**	**34**	**-67**	**0,5**	**-1,1**
Yes	4 648	4 841	4 665	4 727	4 768	42	120	0,9	2,6
No	1 645	1 584	1 554	1 496	1 488	-8	-157	-0,5	-9,5
Don't know	92	89	56	60	61	1	-31	1,1	-33,4
Men	**7 709**	**7 755**	**7 558**	**7 532**	**7 645**	**113**	**-63**	**1,5**	**-0,8**
Yes	5 430	5 642	5 661	5 542	5 681	138	251	2,5	4,6
No	2 175	1 985	1 809	1 868	1 858	-9	-317	-0,5	-14,6
Don't know	104	128	88	122	107	-16	3	-12,9	2,5
Entitled to maternity/paternity leave									
Both sexes	**14 093**	**14 269**	**13 834**	**13 815**	**13 963**	**148**	**-131**	**1,1**	**-0,9**
Yes	7 892	8 131	8 094	8 001	8 281	280	389	3,5	4,9
No	5 807	5 697	5 394	5 416	5 283	-134	-524	-2,5	-9,0
Don't know	394	441	346	398	399	1	5	0,3	1,2
Women	**6 385**	**6 513**	**6 276**	**6 283**	**6 317**	**34**	**-67**	**0,5**	**-1,1**
Yes	3 874	3 971	3 889	3 903	4 009	106	135	2,7	3,5
No	2 343	2 369	2 263	2 250	2 170	-80	-173	-3,5	-7,4
Don't know	168	174	123	131	139	8	-29	6,1	-17,4
Men	**7 709**	**7 755**	**7 558**	**7 532**	**7 645**	**113**	**-63**	**1,5**	**-0,8**
Yes	4 019	4 160	4 205	4 098	4 272	174	254	4,2	6,3
No	3 464	3 328	3 131	3 167	3 113	-54	-351	-1,7	-10,1
Don't know	226	268	223	267	260	-7	34	-2,5	15,0

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 3: 2026

Table 3.8b – Conditions of employment based on ICSE-93 - South Africa

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**14 093**	**14 269**	**13 834**	**13 815**	**13 963**	**148**	**-131**	**1,1**	**-0,9**
Yes	8 737	8 937	8 808	8 823	9 023	200	286	2,3	3,3
No	4 993	4 962	4 749	4 667	4 622	-45	-370	-1,0	-7,4
Don't know	364	370	277	325	317	-7	-46	-2,3	-12,7
Women	**6 385**	**6 513**	**6 276**	**6 283**	**6 317**	**34**	**-67**	**0,5**	**-1,1**
Yes	3 833	3 923	3 752	3 903	3 960	57	128	1,5	3,3
No	2 367	2 423	2 382	2 261	2 222	-39	-145	-1,7	-6,1
Don't know	184	168	141	119	135	16	-50	13,2	-27,0
Men	**7 709**	**7 755**	**7 558**	**7 532**	**7 645**	**113**	**-63**	**1,5**	**-0,8**
Yes	4 904	5 014	5 055	4 920	5 062	143	158	2,9	3,2
No	2 626	2 539	2 367	2 407	2 400	-6	-225	-0,3	-8,6
Don't know	179	203	136	206	183	-23	3	-11,2	1,9
Medical aid benefits									
Both sexes	**14 093**	**14 269**	**13 834**	**13 815**	**13 963**	**148**	**-131**	**1,1**	**-0,9**
Yes	4 292	4 364	4 454	4 322	4 597	275	305	6,4	7,1
No	9 525	9 640	9 154	9 196	9 128	-67	-397	-0,7	-4,2
Don't know	276	265	226	297	237	-60	-39	-20,3	-14,1
Women	**6 385**	**6 513**	**6 276**	**6 283**	**6 317**	**34**	**-67**	**0,5**	**-1,1**
Yes	2 046	2 065	2 035	1 990	2 106	116	61	5,8	3,0
No	4 199	4 322	4 140	4 175	4 116	-59	-83	-1,4	-2,0
Don't know	140	126	100	118	95	-23	-45	-19,8	-32,3
Men	**7 709**	**7 755**	**7 558**	**7 532**	**7 645**	**113**	**-63**	**1,5**	**-0,8**
Yes	2 246	2 299	2 419	2 332	2 491	159	245	6,8	10,9
No	5 327	5 317	5 014	5 021	5 012	-9	-314	-0,2	-5,9
Don't know	136	140	125	179	142	-37	6	-20,7	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.

Table 3.8b – Conditions of employment based on ICSE-93 - South Africa (concluded)									
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**14 093**	**14 269**	**13 834**	**13 815**	**13 963**	**148**	**-131**	**1,1**	**-0,9**
Yes	7 951	8 128	8 238	8 145	8 380	236	429	2,9	5,4
No	5 698	5 697	5 188	5 233	5 099	-133	-599	-2,5	-10,5
Don't know	444	444	408	438	483	45	39	10,3	8,7
Women	**6 385**	**6 513**	**6 276**	**6 283**	**6 317**	**34**	**-67**	**0,5**	**-1,1**
Yes	3 622	3 735	3 693	3 712	3 765	53	143	1,4	4,0
No	2 550	2 590	2 406	2 401	2 361	-40	-189	-1,7	-7,4
Don't know	213	188	176	170	191	21	-22	12,5	-10,2
Men	**7 709**	**7 755**	**7 558**	**7 532**	**7 645**	**113**	**-63**	**1,5**	**-0,8**
Yes	4 329	4 392	4 545	4 432	4 615	183	286	4,1	6,6
No	3 148	3 107	2 781	2 832	2 739	-93	-409	-3,3	-13,0
Don't know	231	256	232	268	292	24	60	8,9	26,1
Condition of employment									
Both sexes	**14 093**	**14 269**	**13 834**	**13 815**	**13 963**	**148**	**-131**	**1,1**	**-0,9**
Written contract	11 548	11 849	11 525	11 458	11 680	221	132	1,9	1,1
Verbal agreement	2 545	2 420	2 309	2 357	2 283	-74	-262	-3,1	-10,3
Women	**6 385**	**6 513**	**6 276**	**6 283**	**6 317**	**34**	**-67**	**0,5**	**-1,1**
Written contract	5 382	5 528	5 289	5 292	5 351	59	-31	1,1	-0,6
Verbal agreement	1 003	985	986	991	966	-25	-37	-2,5	-3,7
Men	**7 709**	**7 755**	**7 558**	**7 532**	**7 645**	**113**	**-63**	**1,5**	**-0,8**
Written contract	6 166	6 321	6 236	6 167	6 328	162	162	2,6	2,6
Verbal agreement	1 542	1 434	1 322	1 366	1 317	-49	-226	-3,6	-14,6

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 3.8c – Conditions of employment based on ICSE-93 - South Africa

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**14 093**	**14 269**	**13 834**	**13 815**	**13 963**	**148**	**-131**	**1,1**	**-0,9**
For a specified period of time	1 869	1 770	1 570	1 425	1 443	18	-426	1,3	-22,8
Until the date a task is completed	340	298	229	217	191	-26	-149	-11,8	-43,7
Permanent or until retirement	7 881	8 128	8 086	8 163	8 358	195	478	2,4	6,1
Ongoing with no specified end date	3 902	3 994	3 860	3 922	3 902	-20	0	-0,5	0,0
Don't know	101	79	90	88	67	-21	-34	-23,4	-33,2
Women	**6 385**	**6 513**	**6 276**	**6 283**	**6 317**	**34**	**-67**	**0,5**	**-1,1**
For a specified period of time	920	888	773	700	705	5	-215	0,6	-23,4
Until the date a task is completed	95	83	70	61	48	-13	-47	-21,9	-49,5
Permanent or until retirement	3 616	3 740	3 643	3 710	3 788	79	172	2,1	4,8
Ongoing with no specified end date	1 697	1 776	1 757	1 780	1 760	-20	63	-1,1	3,7
Don't know	56	26	32	32	16	-16	-40	-49,4	-71,6
Men	**7 709**	**7 755**	**7 558**	**7 531**	**7 645**	**114**	**-63**	**1,5**	**-0,8**
For a specified period of time	949	882	797	725	738	14	-211	1,9	-22,2
Until the date a task is completed	245	215	159	156	144	-12	-102	-7,8	-41,5
Permanent or until retirement	4 264	4 387	4 442	4 453	4 570	117	306	2,6	7,2
Ongoing with no specified end date	2 205	2 218	2 103	2 142	2 142	0	-63	0,0	-2,9
Don't know	44	53	58	56	51	-5	7	-8,7	15,5
Trade union membership (Both sexes)									
Both sexes	**14 093**	**14 269**	**13 834**	**13 815**	**13 963**	**148**	**-131**	**1,1**	**-0,9**
Yes	3 908	3 973	3 935	3 994	4 060	66	153	1,7	3,9
No	9 564	9 709	9 369	9 240	9 359	118	-205	1,3	-2,1
Don't know	622	587	530	580	544	-37	-78	-6,3	-12,6

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 3.8c – Conditions of employment based on ICSE-93 - South Africa (continued)									
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**6 385**	**6 513**	**6 276**	**6 283**	**6 317**	**34**	**-67**	**0,5**	**-1,1**
Yes	1 773	1 828	1 797	1 815	1 846	31	73	1,7	4,1
No	4 329	4 426	4 271	4 228	4 248	19	-81	0,5	-1,9
Don't know	283	259	208	239	224	-15	-60	-6,5	-21,0
Men	**7 709**	**7 755**	**7 558**	**7 532**	**7 645**	**113**	**-63**	**1,5**	**-0,8**
Yes	2 135	2 145	2 139	2 179	2 214	35	79	1,6	3,7
No	5 235	5 283	5 098	5 012	5 111	99	-124	2,0	-2,4
Don't know	339	328	322	341	320	-21	-19	-6,2	-5,5
How annual salary increment is negotiated									
Both sexes	**14 093**	**14 269**	**13 834**	**13 815**	**13 963**	**148**	**-131**	**1,1**	**-0,9**
Individual and employer	1 066	1 116	1 006	1 009	988	-21	-77	-2,0	-7,2
Union and employer	2 838	2 769	2 719	2 817	2 915	98	78	3,5	2,7
Bargaining council	1 274	1 436	1 431	1 365	1 411	47	137	3,4	10,8
Employer only	7 931	7 929	7 751	7 809	7 880	71	-51	0,9	-0,6
No regular increment	930	968	879	786	726	-61	-205	-7,7	-22,0
Other	54	50	48	29	42	13	-12	45,8	-21,9
Women	**6 385**	**6 513**	**6 276**	**6 283**	**6 317**	**34**	**-67**	**0,5**	**-1,1**
Individual and employer	452	471	430	439	421	-18	-31	-4,2	-6,9
Union and employer	1 223	1 201	1 179	1 229	1 267	38	44	3,1	3,6
Bargaining council	684	738	737	682	692	9	7	1,4	1,1
Employer only	3 581	3 645	3 545	3 577	3 600	24	19	0,7	0,5
No regular increment	421	438	369	347	320	-27	-101	-7,8	-24,0
Other	23	21	15	9	18	8	-5	90,2	-22,6

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 3.8c – Conditions of employment based on ICSE-93 - South Africa (concluded)									
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**7 709**	**7 755**	**7 558**	**7 532**	**7 645**	**113**	**-63**	**1,5**	**-0,8**
Individual and employer	614	646	575	570	568	-2	-46	-0,4	-7,5
Union and employer	1 614	1 568	1 540	1 588	1 648	60	34	3,8	2,1
Bargaining council	590	698	694	682	720	37	130	5,5	22,0
Employer only	4 350	4 285	4 206	4 232	4 280	47	-71	1,1	-1,6
No regular increment	510	530	510	439	406	-34	-104	-7,6	-20,3
Other	31	29	33	20	24	5	-7	24,5	-21,3

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 3.9 – Time-related underemployment - South Africa

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**747**	**705**	**795**	**740**	**709**	**-31**	**-38**	**-4,2**	**-5,1**
Women	397	378	447	413	375	-37	-22	-9,1	-5,5
Men	350	327	349	327	333	6	-17	1,9	-4,8
As percentage of the labour force (Both sexes)	**3,0**	**2,8**	**3,2**	**2,9**	**2,8**	**-0,1**	**-0,2**		
Women	3,5	3,3	3,9	3,5	3,2	-0,3	-0,3		
Men	2,6	2,4	2,6	2,4	2,4	0,0	-0,2		
As percentage of total employment (Both sexes)	**4,4**	**4,1**	**4,7**	**4,4**	**4,2**	**-0,2**	**-0,2**		
Women	5,3	5,1	6,2	5,7	5,1	-0,6	-0,2		
Men	3,6	3,4	3,7	3,5	3,5	0,0	-0,1		

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 3.9 – Time-related underemployment - South Africa (concluded)									
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**747**	**705**	**795**	**740**	**709**	**-31**	**-38**	**-4,2**	**-5,1**
Agriculture	21	22	32	25	20	-5	-1	-19,5	-6,0
Mining	1		2						
Manufacturing	38	31	27	40	38	-2	0	-5,0	-0,2
Utilities				2					
Construction	86	83	83	90	79	-11	-7	-12,3	-8,0
Trade	142	102	123	116	120	4	-23	3,1	-16,0
Transport	23	20	32	22	17	-6	-7	-25,2	-29,1
Finance	72	75	71	91	81	-10	8	-10,8	11,6
Community and social services	193	177	211	174	163	-12	-30	-6,6	-15,5
Private households	170	196	213	181	192	12	23	6,5	13,2
Other	1								
Occupation	**747**	**705**	**795**	**740**	**709**	**-31**	**-38**	**-4,2**	**-5,1**
Manager	17	23	34	15	28	12	11	81,0	61,8
Professional	9	12	7	13	15	2	6	15,1	61,7
Technician	35	36	35	40	26	-14	-9	-34,7	-24,5
Clerk	19	16	34	22	19	-4	0	-16,0	-1,3
Sales and services	96	90	91	95	89	-6	-7	-5,9	-6,9
Skilled agriculture	5	7	11	2	5	2	-1	82,8	-14,2
Craft and related trade	110	92	86	86	86	-1	-24	-0,8	-22,2
Plant and machine operator	26	17	25	27	16	-12	-11	-43,4	-41,3
Elementary	311	270	313	316	279	-37	-32	-11,7	-10,3
Domestic worker	117	142	158	122	147	25	30	20,4	25,7
Other	1	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 10 – Formal and informal employment

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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**	**16 754**	**16 739**	**16 840**	**101**	**-215**	**0,6**	**-1,3**
Formal employment*	11 032	11 377	11 336	11 321	11 403	82	371	0,7	3,4
Informal employment*	6 023	5 722	5 419	5 417	5 437	20	-586	0,4	-9,7
Employed (Women)	**7 429**	**7 470**	**7 264**	**7 294**	**7 341**	**47**	**-89**	**0,6**	**-1,2**
Formal employment*	4 934	5 081	4 963	4 996	5 039	43	105	0,9	2,1
Informal employment*	2 495	2 389	2 302	2 298	2 302	3	-194	0,1	-7,8
Employed (Men)	**9 625**	**9 629**	**9 490**	**9 445**	**9 499**	**55**	**-126**	**0,6**	**-1,3**
Formal employment*	6 098	6 295	6 373	6 325	6 364	38	266	0,6	4,4
Informal employment*	3 528	3 333	3 117	3 119	3 135	16	-392	0,5	-11,1
Formal employment*	**11 032**	**11 377**	**11 336**	**11 321**	**11 403**	**82**	**371**	**0,7**	**3,4**
15-24 yrs	603	566	550	561	554	-7	-50	-1,3	-8,2
25-34 yrs	2 992	3 010	2 980	2 938	2 925	-14	-67	-0,5	-2,2
35-44 yrs	3 440	3 623	3 642	3 600	3 618	18	179	0,5	5,2
45-54 yrs	2 801	2 894	2 924	2 976	3 011	35	210	1,2	7,5
55-64 yrs	1 197	1 284	1 239	1 247	1 296	49	99	4,0	8,3
Informal employment*	**6 023**	**5 722**	**5 419**	**5 417**	**5 437**	**20**	**-586**	**0,4**	**-9,7**
15-24 yrs	574	578	498	484	463	-20	-110	-4,2	-19,2
25-34 yrs	1 795	1 697	1 563	1 570	1 605	36	-190	2,3	-10,6
35-44 yrs	1 794	1 671	1 566	1 575	1 582	7	-212	0,5	-11,8
45-54 yrs	1 301	1 221	1 226	1 247	1 239	-9	-62	-0,7	-4,8
55-64 yrs	559	556	566	542	548	6	-11	1,0	-2,0

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.

** 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 Q3:2025 to Q3:2026 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 10 – Formal and informal employment (continued)									
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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**	**11 336**	**11 321**	**11 403**	**82**	**371**	**0,7**	**3,4**
No schooling	67	88	74	85	79	-6	12	-7,0	17,4
Less than primary completed	276	299	309	283	237	-46	-39	-16,2	-14,1
Primary completed	188	217	207	199	223	25	35	12,4	18,8
Secondary not completed	2 720	2 804	2 853	2 851	2 791	-61	70	-2,1	2,6
Secondary completed	4 372	4 427	4 440	4 444	4 572	128	201	2,9	4,6
Tertiary	3 241	3 371	3 302	3 310	3 345	35	105	1,1	3,2
Other	168	171	150	149	155	6	-13	4,2	-7,5
Informal employment*	**6 023**	**5 722**	**5 419**	**5 417**	**5 437**	**20**	**-586**	**0,4**	**-9,7**
No schooling	86	81	70	79	84	5	-2	6,0	-2,9
Less than primary completed	359	287	307	289	309	20	-50	6,9	-13,9
Primary completed	248	226	211	210	196	-15	-52	-6,9	-21,1
Secondary not completed	2 414	2 196	2 208	2 059	2 127	67	-287	3,3	-11,9
Secondary completed	2 009	2 011	1 807	1 922	1 910	-12	-99	-0,6	-4,9
Tertiary	766	819	739	758	685	-73	-81	-9,6	-10,6
Other	141	101	77	100	127	27	-14	27,2	-9,9

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.

** 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 Q3:2025 to Q3:2026 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 3.10b – Formal and informal employment (continued)

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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**	**11 336**	**11 321**	**11 403**	**82**	**371**	**0,7**	**3,4**
Agriculture	401	490	487	456	457	1	56	0,2	13,9
Mining	400	417	445	415	455	40	55	9,7	13,7
Manufacturing	1 245	1 194	1 229	1 206	1 236	31	-9	2,5	-0,7
Utilities	98	119	102	95	101	6	3	6,4	3,5
Construction	634	729	711	716	731	14	97	2,0	15,3
Trade	2 331	2 317	2 351	2 375	2 336	-39	6	-1,6	0,2
Transport	600	623	640	678	648	-30	47	-4,4	7,9
Finance	2 173	2 191	2 271	2 279	2 310	31	137	1,4	6,3
Community and social services	2 954	3 038	2 875	2 868	2 922	54	-32	1,9	-1,1
Private households	195	251	221	228	207	-21	12	-9,4	6,0
Other	2	5	4	5	.	.	.	.	.
Informal employment*	**6 023**	**5 722**	**5 419**	**5 417**	**5 437**	**20**	**-586**	**0,4**	**-9,7**
Agriculture	519	460	473	489	454	-35	-65	-7,1	-12,6
Mining	49	26	31	35	25	-10	-23	-27,4	-48,0
Manufacturing	365	355	358	366	368	2	3	0,6	0,8
Utilities	12	14	11	8	5	-2	-6	-31,3	-52,9
Construction	756	695	604	637	615	-23	-141	-3,5	-18,7
Trade	1 093	1 008	968	1 014	1 055	41	-38	4,1	-3,5
Transport	513	517	470	431	476	46	-36	10,6	-7,0
Finance	757	770	668	671	751	80	-6	12,0	-0,7
Community and social services	1 035	996	953	903	870	-34	-165	-3,7	-15,9
Private households	916	878	880	864	817	-47	-99	-5,4	-10,8
Other	9	2	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.
** 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 Q3:2025 to Q3:2026 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 3.10b – Formal and informal employment (concluded)									
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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**	**11 336**	**11 321**	**11 403**	**82**	**371**	**0,7**	**3,4**
Manager	957	958	954	954	1 063	109	105	11,4	11,0
Professional	766	788	812	788	828	40	61	5,1	8,0
Technician	1 248	1 318	1 259	1 209	1 152	-57	-96	-4,7	-7,7
Clerk	1 513	1 513	1 522	1 490	1 524	34	10	2,3	0,7
Sales and services	2 097	2 121	2 090	2 185	2 195	9	98	0,4	4,7
Skilled agriculture	38	32	38	41	31	-11	-7	-25,8	-19,4
Craft and related trade	1 242	1 260	1 258	1 260	1 247	-13	6	-1,0	0,4
Plant and machine operator	878	920	976	913	924	11	46	1,2	5,3
Elementary	2 120	2 234	2 248	2 280	2 258	-22	139	-0,9	6,5
Domestic worker	162	202	178	190	182	-8	19	-4,4	12,0
Other	11	31	1	10	.	.	.	.	.
Informal employment*	**6 023**	**5 722**	**5 419**	**5 417**	**5 437**	**20**	**-586**	**0,4**	**-9,7**
Manager	496	476	545	505	475	-30	-21	-6,0	-4,2
Professional	143	163	138	128	123	-4	-19	-3,5	-13,5
Technician	240	258	226	250	215	-35	-25	-14,0	-10,4
Clerk	342	307	269	298	295	-3	-47	-1,0	-13,9
Sales and services	976	959	844	852	973	122	-3	14,3	-0,3
Skilled agriculture	59	27	56	40	20	-20	-39	-49,4	-65,7
Craft and related trade	749	683	594	670	675	6	-73	0,9	-9,8
Plant and machine operator	536	507	483	468	486	18	-49	3,9	-9,2
Elementary	1 783	1 682	1 596	1 566	1 556	-10	-227	-0,6	-12,7
Domestic worker	685	653	666	641	618	-22	-67	-3,5	-9,8
Other	15	8	2	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 sector from Q3:2025 is based on the latest standard, i.e. 21st ICLS resolution concerning statistics on informal economy. Therefore, estimates of Q3:2025 to Q3:2026 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 4 – Characteristics of the unemployed - South Africa

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**8 007**	**7 836**	**8 137**	**8 481**	**8 578**	**97**	**571**	**1,1**	**7,1**
Job losers	1 961	2 006	2 109	2 136	2 026	-110	66	-5,2	3,3
Job leavers	247	184	235	212	197	-15	-51	-7,1	-20,4
New entrants	3 472	3 317	3 375	3 770	3 797	27	326	0,7	9,4
Re-entrants	281	325	307	293	282	-11	1	-3,6	0,4
Other	2 047	2 003	2 110	2 070	2 275	205	229	9,9	11,2
Unemployed	**8 007**	**7 836**	**8 137**	**8 481**	**8 578**	**97**	**571**	**1,1**	**7,1**
Long-term unemployment (1 year and more)	6 163	6 247	6 301	6 604	6 891	287	729	4,3	11,8
Short-term unemployment (less than 1 year)	1 845	1 588	1 836	1 877	1 687	-190	-158	-10,1	-8,6
Long-term unemployment (%)									
Proportion of the labour force	24,6	25,1	25,3	26,2	27,1	0,9	2,5		
Proportion of the unemployed	77,0	79,7	77,4	77,9	80,3	2,4	3,3		
Those who have worked in the past 5 years									
Previous occupation	**2 489**	**2 515**	**2 651**	**2 641**	**2 505**	**-136**	**16**	**-5,1**	**0,7**
Manager	47	57	61	55	60	5	13	9,4	28,3
Professional	51	57	70	70	62	-8	11	-11,5	21,0
Technician	136	142	149	160	141	-19	5	-11,9	3,6
Clerk	279	270	283	300	317	17	38	5,5	13,7
Sales and services	479	512	541	575	545	-30	66	-5,3	13,8
Skilled agriculture	8	11	7	6	6	0	-2	-1,7	-22,8
Craft and related trade	324	346	363	363	336	-27	12	-7,4	3,6
Plant and machine operator	181	158	175	171	172	1	-9	0,5	-4,9
Elementary	837	793	842	809	731	-77	-105	-9,6	-12,6
Domestic worker	141	160	160	131	131	0	-10	0,0	-7,2
Other	6	9		1	4	3	-2	507,5	-34,2

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 4 – Characteristics of the unemployed - South Africa (concluded)									
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**2 489**	**2 515**	**2 651**	**2 641**	**2 505**	**-136**	**16**	**-5,1**	**0,7**
Agriculture	163	162	194	169	114	-55	-49	-32,5	-30,3
Mining	37	41	32	45	48	3	11	7,2	30,1
Manufacturing	239	215	231	205	209	4	-31	2,0	-12,8
Utilities	18	14	15	14	14	0	-4	-1,1	-22,6
Construction	327	336	357	344	313	-31	-14	-9,1	-4,4
Trade	537	536	550	548	519	-29	-18	-5,3	-3,4
Transport	141	149	137	146	140	-5	-1	-3,7	-0,5
Finance	340	352	365	415	421	6	80	1,3	23,6
Community and social services	462	495	546	558	526	-32	64	-5,8	13,8
Private households	217	210	222	197	199	3	-18	1,5	-8,2
Other	5	6	2	1	2	1	-3	99,8	-64,8

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

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**16 886**	**17 134**	**17 298**	**17 090**	**17 008**	**-82**	**122**	**-0,5**	**0,7**
Student	6 038	6 281	6 017	6 119	6 312	193	274	3,2	4,5
Home-maker	2 417	2 403	2 370	2 376	2 195	-181	-222	-7,6	-9,2
Illness/disability	1 724	1 668	1 687	1 743	1 689	-54	-35	-3,1	-2,0
Too old/young to work	1 801	1 770	1 811	1 787	1 796	9	-5	0,5	-0,3
Discouraged job-seekers	3 481	3 714	3 893	3 665	3 735	70	255	1,9	7,3
Other	1 426	1 298	1 520	1 400	1 282	-119	-144	-8,5	-10,1
Inactivity rate by age (Both sexes)	**40,3**	**40,7**	**41,0**	**40,4**	**40,1**	**-0,3**	**-0,2**		
15-24 years	72,6	74,3	74,1	72,9	73,0	0,1	0,4		
25-54 years	25,3	25,5	26,0	25,4	25,0	-0,4	-0,3		
55-64 years	55,7	54,9	55,4	56,1	55,0	-1,1	-0,7		
Inactivity rate by age (Women)	**45,7**	**46,0**	**46,2**	**45,1**	**45,1**	**0,0**	**-0,6**		
15-24 years	75,0	76,8	76,4	74,8	74,3	-0,5	-0,7		
25-54 years	31,5	31,2	31,5	30,4	30,6	0,2	-0,9		
55-64 years	62,2	62,6	62,7	63,4	62,7	-0,7	0,5		
Inactivity rate by age (Men)	**34,7**	**35,4**	**35,8**	**35,6**	**35,0**	**-0,6**	**0,3**		
15-24 years	70,1	71,8	71,8	71,0	71,8	0,8	1,7		
25-54 years	19,3	20,0	20,5	20,4	19,5	-0,9	0,2		
55-64 years	47,8	45,5	46,5	47,2	45,6	-1,6	-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

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**17 055**	**17 099**	**16 754**	**16 739**	**16 840**	**101**	**-215**	**0,6**	**-1,3**
15-24 years	1 177	1 143	1 049	1 044	1 017	-27	-160	-2,6	-13,6
25-34 years	4 787	4 707	4 543	4 508	4 530	22	-257	0,5	-5,4
35-44 years	5 234	5 294	5 208	5 175	5 200	25	-34	0,5	-0,6
45-54 years	4 102	4 115	4 150	4 223	4 250	27	148	0,6	3,6
55-64 years	1 755	1 840	1 805	1 789	1 844	55	88	3,1	5,0
Age group of the unemployed	**8 007**	**7 836**	**8 137**	**8 481**	**8 578**	**97**	**571**	**1,1**	**7,1**
15-24 years	1 657	1 513	1 632	1 764	1 779	16	123	0,9	7,4
25-34 years	2 978	3 038	3 101	3 233	3 194	-38	216	-1,2	7,3
35-44 years	2 017	2 000	2 088	2 134	2 198	63	181	3,0	9,0
45-54 years	1 093	1 052	1 055	1 088	1 130	41	37	3,8	3,4
55-64 years	263	232	261	263	277	15	14	5,6	5,3
Age group of Outside the Labour Force	**16 886**	**17 134**	**17 298**	**17 090**	**17 008**	**-82**	**122**	**-0,5**	**0,7**
15-24 years	7 491	7 680	7 668	7 553	7 575	22	84	0,3	1,1
25-34 years	2 857	2 874	2 972	2 872	2 884	12	28	0,4	1,0
35-44 years	2 082	2 072	2 105	2 126	2 070	-56	-12	-2,6	-0,6
45-54 years	1 914	1 982	1 985	1 920	1 891	-29	-23	-1,5	-1,2
55-64 years	2 543	2 526	2 568	2 619	2 589	-30	46	-1,2	1,8
Highest level of education of the employed	**17 055**	**17 099**	**16 754**	**16 739**	**16 840**	**101**	**-215**	**0,6**	**-1,3**
No schooling	154	169	144	164	163	-1	9	-0,7	6,0
Less than primary completed	635	586	616	572	546	-26	-89	-4,5	-14,0
Primary completed	436	443	418	409	419	10	-17	2,5	-3,9
Secondary not completed	5 134	5 000	5 061	4 911	4 917	6	-217	0,1	-4,2
Secondary completed	6 381	6 439	6 247	6 366	6 483	116	102	1,8	1,6
Tertiary	4 007	4 190	4 040	4 068	4 030	-38	24	-0,9	0,6
Other	309	272	227	249	282	33	-26	13,4	-8,6

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 6 – Socio-demographic characteristics - South Africa (continued)									
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**8 007**	**7 836**	**8 137**	**8 481**	**8 578**	**97**	**571**	**1,1**	**7,1**
No schooling	66	52	44	54	43	-12	-23	-21,5	-35,5
Less than primary completed	282	280	256	269	255	-15	-28	-5,4	-9,8
Primary completed	240	202	206	208	193	-15	-46	-7,0	-19,3
Secondary not completed	3 292	3 195	3 253	3 376	3 406	30	114	0,9	3,5
Secondary completed	3 294	3 274	3 462	3 574	3 675	101	381	2,8	11,6
Tertiary	766	769	856	919	923	4	157	0,5	20,5
Other	68	63	59	81	83	2	16	2,9	23,2
Highest level of education of Outside the Labour Force	**16 886**	**17 134**	**17 298**	**17 090**	**17 008**	**-82**	**122**	**-0,5**	**0,7**
No schooling	470	454	477	458	470	13	0	2,8	0,0
Less than primary completed	1 161	1 115	1 117	1 131	1 142	12	-18	1,0	-1,6
Primary completed	920	981	853	857	861	4	-59	0,5	-6,4
Secondary not completed	8 844	8 963	8 691	8 823	8 680	-143	-164	-1,6	-1,9
Secondary completed	4 446	4 538	5 107	4 750	4 752	2	306	0,0	6,9
Tertiary	834	844	837	838	861	22	27	2,7	3,3
Other	213	240	217	234	243	9	30	3,9	14,0
Employed	**17 055**	**17 099**	**16 754**	**16 739**	**16 840**	**101**	**-215**	**0,6**	**-1,3**
Attending educational institution	339	302	282	302	267	-34	-71	-11,4	-21,1
Not attending educational institution	16 716	16 797	16 472	16 437	16 573	136	-143	0,8	-0,9
Unemployed	**8 007**	**7 836**	**8 137**	**8 481**	**8 578**	**97**	**571**	**1,1**	**7,1**
Attending educational institution	117	117	122	104	99	-5	-19	-4,9	-16,2
Not attending educational institution	7 890	7 718	8 015	8 378	8 480	102	590	1,2	7,5
Outside the Labour Force	**16 886**	**17 134**	**17 298**	**17 090**	**17 008**	**-82**	**122**	**-0,5**	**0,7**
Attending educational institution	5 977	5 994	5 759	5 859	6 008	149	31	2,5	0,5
Not attending educational institution	10 909	11 140	11 538	11 231	11 001	-231	92	-2,1	0,8

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)									
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**17 055**	**17 099**	**16 754**	**16 739**	**16 840**	**101**	**-215**	**0,6**	**-1,3**
Married	5 766	5 834	5 690	5 600	5 506	-94	-260	-1,7	-4,5
Living together like husband and wife	2 110	2 240	2 145	2 185	2 235	50	126	2,3	6,0
Widow/widower	381	366	375	361	329	-31	-52	-8,7	-13,6
Divorced or separated	479	460	470	447	440	-7	-39	-1,5	-8,1
Never married	8 318	8 199	8 075	8 146	8 329	183	10	2,2	0,1
Current marital status of the unemployed	**8 007**	**7 836**	**8 137**	**8 481**	**8 578**	**97**	**571**	**1,1**	**7,1**
Married	994	912	965	960	936	-23	-57	-2,4	-5,8
Living together like husband and wife	751	729	771	770	845	74	93	9,6	12,4
Widow/widower	62	57	76	54	61	8	-1	14,0	-1,0
Divorced or separated	113	124	120	113	134	22	21	19,1	18,8
Never married	6 087	6 014	6 205	6 585	6 602	17	514	0,3	8,4
Current marital status of Outside the Labour Force	**16 886**	**17 134**	**17 298**	**17 090**	**17 008**	**-82**	**122**	**-0,5**	**0,7**
Married	2 586	2 451	2 438	2 462	2 399	-63	-187	-2,6	-7,2
Living together like husband and wife	982	1 068	1 056	1 022	966	-56	-16	-5,4	-1,6
Widow/widower	537	554	545	562	543	-19	7	-3,4	1,2
Divorced or separated	317	308	290	278	255	-23	-62	-8,3	-19,5
Never married	12 464	12 752	12 968	12 765	12 844	79	380	0,6	3,1

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 7 – Profile of Youth (15-24 years) not in Employment Education or Training (NEET) - South Africa

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**3 497**	**3 515**	**3 891**	**3 772**	**3 705**	**-66**	**208**	**-1,8**	**5,9**
Women	1 828	1 850	2 022	1 973	1 913	-60	85	-3,0	4,7
Men	1 669	1 665	1 869	1 799	1 792	-7	123	-0,4	7,4
Population groups	**3 497**	**3 515**	**3 891**	**3 772**	**3 705**	**-66**	**208**	**-1,8**	**5,9**
Black/African	3 069	3 096	3 431	3 313	3 241	-72	172	-2,2	5,6
Coloured	310	306	308	326	324	-2	15	-0,7	4,7
Indian/Asian	45	43	35	44	41	-3	-4	-6,5	-9,3
White	73	70	117	88	99	11	26	12,2	36,0
South Africa	**3 497**	**3 515**	**3 891**	**3 772**	**3 705**	**-66**	**208**	**-1,8**	**5,9**
Western Cape	344	321	357	358	361	4	17	1,0	5,0
Eastern Cape	481	465	538	488	481	-7	0	-1,4	0,1
Northern Cape	81	87	100	96	96	0	15	-0,4	18,2
Free State	163	163	186	166	165	-1	2	-0,4	1,4
KwaZulu-Natal	715	733	816	785	785	0	70	0,0	9,8
North West	314	319	345	351	329	-22	16	-6,3	5,0
Gauteng	778	805	843	851	829	-22	51	-2,6	6,5
Mpumalanga	277	284	339	326	313	-13	35	-4,1	12,6
Limpopo	345	338	366	351	347	-4	2	-1,3	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 7b – NEET Rate Among Youth (15-24 years) Not in Employment, Education or Training - South Africa

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Both sexes	**33,9**	**34,0**	**37,6**	**36,4**	**35,7**	**-0,7**	**1,8**		
Women	35,5	35,9	39,2	38,2	37,0	-1,2	1,5		
Men	32,2	32,1	36,0	34,6	34,4	-0,2	2,2		
Population group	**33,9**	**34,0**	**37,6**	**36,4**	**35,7**	**-0,7**	**1,8**		
Black/African	35,0	35,3	39,0	37,6	36,8	-0,8	1,8		
Coloured	36,1	35,8	36,1	38,3	38,1	-0,2	2,0		
Indian/Asian	23,1	21,8	17,5	22,2	20,7	-1,5	-2,4		
White	14,2	13,6	22,9	17,3	19,5	2,2	5,3		
South Africa	**33,9**	**34,0**	**37,6**	**36,4**	**35,7**	**-0,7**	**1,8**		
Western Cape	30,3	29,3	32,5	32,3	33,1	0,8	2,8		
Eastern Cape	35,6	35,0	39,5	37,4	35,6	-1,8	0,0		
Northen Cape	40,5	44,5	48,8	47,6	48,2	0,6	7,7		
Free State	32,5	33,0	37,0	32,1	33,7	1,6	1,2		
KwaZulu-Natal	35,7	36,0	40,7	38,9	40,2	1,3	4,5		
North West	39,9	39,7	44,4	44,6	43,2	-1,4	3,3		
Gauteng	31,5	32,1	33,4	33,5	32,0	-1,5	0,5		
Mpumalanga	34,4	35,2	42,0	39,8	38,1	-1,7	3,7		
Limpopo	31,9	31,7	34,4	33,0	31,1	-1,9	-0,8		

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 7c – Profile of Youth (15-34 years) not in Employment Education or Training (NEET) - South Africa

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	**8 947**	**9 069**	**9 567**	**9 518**	**9 384**	**-134**	**437**	**-1,4**	**4,9**
Women	4 803	4 878	5 104	5 086	5 024	-62	221	-1,2	4,6
Men	4 144	4 190	4 463	4 432	4 360	-72	216	-1,6	5,2
Population groups	**8 947**	**9 069**	**9 567**	**9 518**	**9 384**	**-134**	**437**	**-1,4**	**4,9**
Black/African	7 975	8 126	8 559	8 519	8 359	-160	384	-1,9	4,8
Coloured	660	640	670	692	694	2	34	0,3	5,2
Indian/Asian	143	140	111	116	118	2	-25	1,8	-17,2
White	169	163	226	191	213	22	44	11,5	25,9
South Africa	**8 947**	**9 069**	**9 567**	**9 518**	**9 384**	**-134**	**437**	**-1,4**	**4,9**
Western Cape	755	721	782	776	769	-7	14	-0,9	1,8
Eastern Cape	1 194	1 190	1 259	1 284	1 233	-51	40	-4,0	3,3
Northern Cape	214	218	228	226	224	-2	10	-0,9	4,5
Free State	405	433	451	415	415	-1	9	-0,1	2,3
KwaZulu-Natal	1 962	2 011	2 133	2 108	2 132	24	170	1,1	8,7
North West	691	687	765	768	742	-26	51	-3,4	7,4
Gauteng	2 085	2 144	2 185	2 216	2 189	-27	104	-1,2	5,0
Mpumalanga	747	751	822	798	788	-10	41	-1,3	5,6
Limpopo	895	913	942	926	892	-34	-3	-3,7	-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 7d – NEET Rate Among Youth (15-34 years) Not in Employment, Education or Training - South Africa

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change	Qrt to Qrt change	Year on year change
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Both sexes	**42,7**	**43,3**	**45,6**	**45,4**	**44,7**	**-0,7**	**2,0**		
Women	**46,2**	**46,9**	**49,1**	**48,9**	**48,3**	**-0,6**	**2,1**		
Men	39,3	39,7	42,3	41,9	41,3	-0,6	2,0		
Population groups	**42,7**	**43,3**	**45,6**	**45,4**	**44,7**	**-0,7**	**2,0**		
Black/African	44,9	45,7	48,1	47,8	46,9	-0,9	2,0		
Coloured	**38,6**	**37,5**	**39,3**	**40,6**	**40,7**	**0,1**	**2,1**		
Indian/Asian	33,2	32,6	25,9	27,0	27,5	0,5	-5,7		
White	16,3	15,7	21,9	18,5	20,7	2,2	4,4		
South Africa	**42,7**	**43,3**	**45,6**	**45,4**	**44,7**	**-0,7**	**2,0**		
Western Cape	32,0	30,5	33,1	32,8	32,4	-0,4	0,4		
Eastern Cape	47,4	47,3	50,1	51,1	49,1	-2,0	1,7		
Northern Cape	50,0	50,9	53,1	52,7	52,3	-0,4	2,3		
Free State	41,5	44,5	46,5	42,9	42,9	0,0	1,4		
KwaZulu-Natal	46,6	47,7	50,6	49,9	50,5	0,6	3,9		
North West	48,7	48,4	53,9	54,0	52,2	-1,8	3,5		
Gauteng	39,9	41,0	41,7	42,2	41,7	-0,5	1,8		
Mpumalanga	44,7	45,0	49,2	47,8	47,2	-0,6	2,5		
Limpopo	41,7	42,7	44,1	43,4	41,9	-1,5	0,2		

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

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	2 014	2 364	2 348	1 933	1 752	-180	-261	-9,3	-13,0
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	4 383	3 982	3 958	3 837	3 669	-168	-714	-4,4	-16,3
Produce other goods for household use	358	296	318	284	214	-70	-143	-24,6	-40,1
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	301	265	324	285	296	11	-6	3,9	-1,9
Hunting or fishing for household use	32	32	40	23	21	-2	-11	-8,3	-33,6
Involvement in at least one activity	**5 934**	**5 688**	**5 615**	**5 220**	**4 984**	**-236**	**-949**	**-4,5**	**-16,0**
Employed	1 524	1 492	1 421	1 337	1 281	-56	-243	-4,2	-15,9
Unemployed	1 506	1 323	1 354	1 325	1 219	-106	-287	-8,0	-19,1
Outside the Labour Force	2 904	2 873	2 840	2 559	2 484	-75	-420	-2,9	-14,5
Western Cape									
Subsistence farming	73	75	71	45	24	-21	-49	-47,3	-67,5
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	99	119	143	144	150	7	51	4,6	51,1
Produce other goods for household use	11	4	1	.	1	.	-10	.	-92,7
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	3	.	.	6	2	-4	-1	-68,3	-44,7
Hunting or fishing for household use	.	.	2	.	1	.	.	.	.
Involvement in at least one activity	**180**	**185**	**208**	**190**	**176**	**-13**	**-4**	**-7,0**	**-2,1**
Employed	95	92	110	107	107	0	12	-0,5	12,3
Unemployed	43	36	46	36	31	-5	-12	-12,8	-28,2
Outside the Labour Force	42	58	52	47	38	-8	-3	-17,8	-7,7
Eastern Cape									
Subsistence farming	477	596	504	424	465	41	-12	9,7	-2,6
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	913	813	733	612	541	-71	-372	-11,6	-40,8
Produce other goods for household use	50	8	17	6	7	1	-44	16,3	-86,9
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	99	67	110	75	92	17	-6	23,0	-6,5
Hunting or fishing for household use	9	12	7	5	3	-2	-6	-42,1	-66,7
Involvement in at least one activity	**1 210**	**1 243**	**1 108**	**921**	**929**	**7**	**-281**	**0,8**	**-23,3**
Employed	182	195	173	147	133	-14	-49	-9,6	-27,0
Unemployed	419	421	380	358	338	-20	-82	-5,7	-19,5
Outside the Labour Force	609	627	555	416	458	42	-151	10,0	-24,7

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

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	14	10	7	11	16	5	3	41,2	19,5
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	123	135	159	157	143	-14	19	-9,0	15,5
Produce other goods for household use	4	.	1	.	5	.	1	.	17,8
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	4	3	6	1	9	8	5	669,1	105,2
Hunting or fishing for household use	1	1	1	2	4	2	2	119,4	181,3
Involvement in at least one activity	**136**	**143**	**164**	**164**	**149**	**-15**	**14**	**-9,0**	**10,0**
Employed	33	34	34	30	33	3	0	11,1	0,0
Unemployed	31	27	32	24	24	0	-7	-0,2	-21,8
Outside the Labour Force	71	82	98	109	91	-18	20	-16,5	28,6
Free State									
Subsistence farming	106	120	97	87	74	-13	-32	-15,5	-30,5
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	105	49	31	42	53	11	-52	26,3	-49,8
Produce other goods for household use	5	1	2	1	1	0	-4	24,4	-86,6
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	30	14	18	11	14	3	-16	23,2	-53,2
Hunting or fishing for household use	9	8	6	6	4	-2	-5	-36,5	-54,2
Involvement in at least one activity	**207**	**165**	**137**	**128**	**124**	**-4**	**-84**	**-3,2**	**-40,3**
Employed	82	62	59	46	44	-2	-39	-4,7	-47,0
Unemployed	63	50	39	49	29	-20	-34	-41,2	-54,1
Outside the Labour Force	62	53	38	33	51	18	-11	56,3	-17,5
KwaZulu-Natal									
Subsistence farming	880	979	1 092	934	752	-182	-127	-19,5	-14,5
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	1 474	1 490	1 540	1 530	1 435	-95	-39	-6,2	-2,7
Produce other goods for household use	254	251	267	240	181	-60	-73	-24,8	-28,8
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	102	132	157	179	169	-11	66	-5,9	65,1
Hunting or fishing for household use	10	9	17	5	8	2	-2	37,5	-20,8
Involvement in at least one activity	**2 162**	**2 116**	**2 249**	**2 150**	**1 947**	**-203**	**-215**	**-9,5**	**-10,0**
Employed	541	523	557	513	462	-51	-79	-9,9	-14,6
Unemployed	511	425	441	437	428	-9	-83	-1,9	-16,2
Outside the Labour Force	1 110	1 168	1 251	1 200	1 056	-144	-54	-12,0	-4,8

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

	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	39	67	69	38	43	4	4	10,8	9,4
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	460	403	432	426	345	-81	-115	-19,0	-25,0
Produce other goods for household use	1	4	6	4	2	-2	1	-41,7	78,0
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	2	.	1	.	1	.	0	.	-24,0
Hunting or fishing for household use	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
Involvement in at least one activity	**487**	**445**	**472**	**454**	**383**	**-71**	**-104**	**-15,6**	**-21,4**
Employed	122	135	98	108	108	1	-13	0,5	-11,0
Unemployed	55	42	36	55	26	-29	-29	-53,3	-53,3
Outside the Labour Force	311	267	338	292	249	-42	-61	-14,5	-19,8
Gauteng									
Subsistence farming	49	34	56	37	41	5	-7	12,5	-14,8
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	239	140	97	67	81	14	-158	20,7	-66,1
Produce other goods for household use	2	1	3	4	.	.	.	.	.
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	13	7	10	4	.	.	.	.	.
Hunting or fishing for household use	.	.	4	4	.	.	.	.	.
Involvement in at least one activity	**291**	**175**	**160**	**107**	**121**	**14**	**-170**	**13,3**	**-58,3**
Employed	113	80	73	43	48	5	-65	12,5	-57,8
Unemployed	99	48	54	42	50	7	-50	17,1	-50,1
Outside the Labour Force	78	47	33	22	24	2	-54	7,5	-69,5
Mpumalanga									
Subsistence farming	160	189	154	127	128	0	-32	0,3	-20,0
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	452	420	407	441	473	32	21	7,3	4,5
Produce other goods for household use	24	20	18	25	16	-9	-9	-37,4	-35,8
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	5	9	7	6	1	-6	-4	-88,1	-84,7
Hunting or fishing for household use	0	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
Involvement in at least one activity	**580**	**585**	**531**	**557**	**573**	**16**	**-7**	**2,9**	**-1,3**
Employed	151	156	135	164	161	-3	10	-1,8	6,7
Unemployed	172	139	170	173	155	-18	-17	-10,5	-9,8
Outside the Labour Force	258	290	226	220	257	37	-1	16,9	-0,2

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 8 – Involvement in non-market activities and labour market status by province (concluded)									
	Jul-Sep 2025	Oct-Dec 2025	Jan-Mar 2026	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	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	218	293	297	229	210	-18	-7	-8,1	-3,4
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	517	414	417	419	449	30	-68	7,1	-13,1
Produce other goods for household use	7	6	3	4	3	-2	-4	-37,9	-61,8
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	44	34	16	3	8	6	-36	220,0	-81,4
Hunting or fishing for household use	3	.	3	1	1	0	-2	-3,3	-75,0
Involvement in at least one activity	**680**	**631**	**586**	**550**	**582**	**33**	**-98**	**6,0**	**-14,4**
Employed	203	215	181	179	184	5	-19	3,0	-9,3
Unemployed	112	136	156	150	138	-12	26	-7,8	23,6
Outside the Labour Force	365	281	249	221	260	39	-105	17,7	-28,9

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					
	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
Both sexes						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**0,6**	**0,6**	**198**	**-55**	**452**	**0,12**
Employed	**0,7**	**0,8**	**101**	**-100**	**303**	**0,32**
Formal sector*	1,0	1,1	268	57	478	0,01
Informal sector*	2,2	2,3	-98	-258	61	0,23
Household sector	3,6	3,9	-68	-133	-3	0,04
Unemployed	**1,7**	**1,9**	**97**	**-171**	**364**	**0,48**
Outside the Labour Force	**0,9**	**0,9**	**-82**	**-335**	**172**	**0,53**
Potential Labour Force	3,0	3,1	69	-125	262	0,49
Available job-seekers	3,1	3,1	69	-126	265	0,49
Discouraged job-seekers	3,7	3,5	70	-104	244	0,43
Other Potential Labour Force	5,4	5,7	-1	-97	96	0,99
Unavailable job-seekers	18,8	27,2	0	-29	28	0,97
Other (Outside the Labour Force)	0,9	0,9	-150	-361	60	0,16
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	0,6	0,6	0,3	-0,3	0,9	0,32
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,7	0,8	0,1	-0,3	0,6	0,59
Inactivity rate	0,9	0,9	-0,3	-0,9	0,3	0,32
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,4	1,5	0,1	-0,7	1,0	0,78
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,2	1,4	0,0	-0,8	0,8	0,95
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	0,9	1,0	0,2	-0,5	0,8	0,63
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	0,8	0,9	0,0	-0,6	0,7	0,91

** 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 Q3:2025 to Q3:2026 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					
	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
Women						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**0,9**	**0,9**	**39**	**-133**	**211**	**0,66**
Employed	**1,2**	**1,2**	**47**	**-87**	**180**	**0,49**
Formal sector*	1,5	1,5	54	-80	188	0,43
Informal sector*	3,5	3,5	19	-67	105	0,66
Household sector	3,9	4,3	-26	-79	28	0,34
Unemployed	**2,0**	**2,1**	**-8**	**-171**	**155**	**0,92**
Outside the Labour Force	**1,0**	**1,1**	**15**	**-157**	**186**	**0,87**
Potential Labour Force	3,3	3,3	83	-51	217	0,22
Available job-seekers	3,4	3,4	90	-45	225	0,19
Discouraged job-seekers	4,0	3,8	54	-67	175	0,38
Other Potential Labour Force	5,9	6,3	36	-30	102	0,29
Unavailable job-seekers	23,0	33,6	-7	-24	9	0,39
Other (Outside the Labour Force)	1,1	1,1	-69	-205	68	0,32
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	0,9	0,9	0,0	-0,8	0,9	0,91
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,2	1,2	0,1	-0,5	0,8	0,67
Inactivity rate	1,0	1,1	0,0	-0,9	0,8	0,91
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,6	1,7	-0,2	-1,3	0,9	0,73
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,4	1,6	-0,5	-1,6	0,6	0,34
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	1,1	1,2	0,1	-0,8	1,0	0,81
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	1,0	1,1	-0,2	-1,0	0,7	0,69

** 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 Q3:2025 to Q3:2026 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
	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026				
Men						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**0,6**	**0,6**	**159**	**5**	**314**	**0,04**
Employed	**0,8**	**0,9**	**55**	**-85**	**194**	**0,44**
Formal sector*	1,2	1,3	214	72	355	0,00
Informal sector*	2,5	2,7	-117	-243	8	0,07
Household sector	8,0	8,2	-42	-80	-4	0,03
Unemployed	**2,1**	**2,3**	**105**	**-63**	**273**	**0,22**
Outside the Labour Force	**1,2**	**1,2**	**-96**	**-251**	**58**	**0,22**
Potential Labour Force	3,6	3,5	-14	-131	102	0,81
Available job-seekers	3,6	3,6	-21	-137	95	0,72
Discouraged job-seekers	4,2	4,0	16	-93	124	0,78
Other Potential Labour Force	7,5	8,4	-37	-97	24	0,23
Unavailable job-seekers	24,7	29,2	7	-10	24	0,44
Other (Outside the Labour Force)	1,3	1,3	-82	-222	58	0,25
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	0,6	0,6	0,6	-0,2	1,3	0,13
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,8	0,9	0,1	-0,5	0,8	0,71
Inactivity rate	1,2	1,2	-0,6	-1,3	0,2	0,13
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,8	2,0	0,4	-0,6	1,5	0,44
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,6	1,9	0,4	-0,6	1,5	0,42
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	1,2	1,3	0,2	-0,7	1,1	0,65
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	1,1	1,3	0,2	-0,7	1,2	0,62

** 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 Q3:2025 to Q3:2026 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					
	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
South Africa						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**0,6**	**0,6**	**198**	**-55**	**452**	**0,12**
Employed	0,7	0,8	101	-100	303	0,32
Unemployed	1,7	1,9	97	-171	364	0,48
Outside the Labour Force	0,9	0,9	-82	-335	172	0,53
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	0,6	0,6	0,3	-0,3	0,9	0,32
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,7	0,8	0,1	-0,3	0,6	0,59
Inactivity rate	0,9	0,9	-0,3	-0,9	0,3	0,32
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,4	1,5	0,1	-0,7	1,0	0,78
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,2	1,4	0,0	-0,8	0,8	0,95
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	0,9	1,0	0,2	-0,5	0,8	0,63
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	0,8	0,9	0,0	-0,6	0,7	0,91
Black/African						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**0,7**	**0,7**	**199**	**-46**	**444**	**0,11**
Employed	0,8	0,9	142	-41	326	0,13
Unemployed	1,8	2,0	57	-204	318	0,67
Outside the Labour Force	1,0	1,0	-80	-325	165	0,52
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	0,7	0,7	0,4	-0,3	1,1	0,30
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,8	0,9	0,3	-0,2	0,8	0,29
Inactivity rate	1,0	1,0	-0,4	-1,1	0,3	0,30
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,4	1,6	-0,1	-1,1	0,9	0,86
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,2	1,4	-0,2	-1,2	0,7	0,62
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	0,9	1,0	0,0	-0,7	0,8	0,91
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	0,8	1,0	-0,1	-0,8	0,6	0,80

Table 2.1A – Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by population group (continued)

	Coefficient of variation					
	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
Coloured						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**2,0**	**1,8**	**37**	**-15**	**88**	**0,16**
Employed	2,5	2,7	-5	-64	55	0,88
Unemployed	6,9	6,5	41	-11	94	0,12
Outside the Labour Force	2,9	2,8	-33	-84	18	0,21
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,0	1,8	0,9	-0,5	2,3	0,19
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,5	2,7	-0,2	-1,8	1,5	0,83
Inactivity rate	2,9	2,8	-0,9	-2,3	0,5	0,19
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	6,2	6,1	1,5	-0,8	3,8	0,20
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	5,2	5,8	0,9	-1,2	2,9	0,39
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,2	3,8	0,4	-2,0	2,7	0,75
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	4,0	3,9	-0,1	-2,3	2,1	0,93
Indian/Asian						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**3,7**	**4,4**	**-14**	**-54**	**27**	**0,51**
Employed	3,7	3,6	-13	-48	22	0,47
Unemployed	15,4	17,8	-1	-25	24	0,96
Outside the Labour Force	6,3	7,0	16	-25	56	0,45
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	3,7	4,4	-1,4	-5,1	2,4	0,47
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,7	3,6	-1,3	-4,6	2,0	0,43
Inactivity rate	6,3	7,0	1,4	-2,4	5,1	0,47
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	13,8	15,0	0,2	-3,2	3,6	0,90
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	12,9	13,9	-0,1	-3,1	2,9	0,94
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	9,1	7,1	-0,2	-3,0	2,7	0,90
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	8,9	7,0	-0,5	-3,3	2,3	0,74

Table 2.1A – Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by population group (concluded)

	Coefficient of variation					
	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
White						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**1,5**	**1,8**	**-24**	**-77**	**28**	**0,37**
Employed	2,0	2,2	-23	-73	26	0,36
Unemployed	10,8	11,3	-1	-33	31	0,95
Outside the Labour Force	3,5	3,9	15	-37	68	0,57
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,5	1,8	-0,7	-2,6	1,3	0,50
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,0	2,2	-0,7	-2,5	1,2	0,48
Inactivity rate	3,5	3,9	0,7	-1,3	2,6	0,50
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	10,9	11,4	0,1	-1,6	1,7	0,93
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	10,9	11,0	0,5	-1,3	2,3	0,59
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	9,6	10,9	0,5	-1,0	1,9	0,52
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	9,7	10,8	0,9	-0,9	2,7	0,33

Table 2.3A – Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province

	Coefficient of variation					
	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
South Africa						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**0,6**	**0,6**	**198**	**-55**	**452**	**0,12**
Employed	0,7	0,8	101	-100	303	0,32
Unemployed	1,7	1,9	97	-171	364	0,48
Outside the Labour Force	0,9	0,9	-82	-335	172	0,53
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	0,6	0,6	0,3	-0,3	0,9	0,32
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,7	0,8	0,1	-0,3	0,6	0,59
Inactivity rate	0,9	0,9	-0,3	-0,9	0,3	0,32
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,4	1,5	0,1	-0,7	1,0	0,78
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,2	1,4	0,0	-0,8	0,8	0,95
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	0,9	1,0	0,2	-0,5	0,8	0,63
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	0,8	0,9	0,0	-0,6	0,7	0,91
Western Cape						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**1,2**	**1,1**	**56**	**-5**	**117**	**0,07**
Employed	1,5	1,8	48	-26	123	0,20
Unemployed	5,8	6,9	8	-62	78	0,82
Outside the Labour Force	2,4	2,5	-41	-102	21	0,19
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,2	1,1	0,9	-0,3	2,1	0,14
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,5	1,8	0,8	-0,7	2,2	0,30
Inactivity rate	2,4	2,5	-0,9	-2,1	0,3	0,14
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	5,5	6,6	-0,1	-1,9	1,8	0,93
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,4	5,8	-0,4	-2,2	1,4	0,64
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,5	4,7	-0,9	-2,6	0,8	0,31
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,4	4,4	-1,2	-2,9	0,5	0,17

Table 2.3A – Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)

	Coefficient of variation					
	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
Western Cape - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**2,7**	**2,9**	**43**	**1**	**85**	**0,05**
Employed	2,7	3,2	46	0	92	0,05
Unemployed	17,2	13,0	-3	-53	47	0,89
Outside the Labour Force	4,3	5,0	-37	-79	5	0,08
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,7	2,9	2,1	-0,1	4,3	0,07
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,7	3,2	2,3	-0,2	4,7	0,07
Inactivity rate	4,3	5,0	-2,1	-4,3	0,1	0,07
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	15,6	12,2	-0,8	-4,8	3,2	0,69
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	12,5	11,4	-1,1	-4,2	2,0	0,50
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	5,4	7,1	-3,0	-6,3	0,3	0,08
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	5,8	7,3	-3,1	-5,9	-0,3	0,03
Western Cape - City of Cape Town						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**1,1**	**0,9**	**14**	**-29**	**56**	**0,53**
Employed	2,0	2,1	2	-55	59	0,94
Unemployed	5,5	8,2	11	-38	61	0,65
Outside the Labour Force	2,7	2,3	-3	-46	39	0,87
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,1	0,9	0,2	-1,1	1,5	0,77
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,0	2,1	-0,1	-1,8	1,6	0,90
Inactivity rate	2,7	2,3	-0,2	-1,5	1,1	0,77
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	5,5	7,8	0,4	-1,7	2,4	0,73
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,3	6,7	0,0	-2,3	2,2	0,98
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,7	6,1	0,3	-1,6	2,2	0,74
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	4,2	5,6	-0,1	-2,1	2,0	0,95

Table 2.3A – Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)

	Coefficient of variation					
	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
Eastern Cape						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**2,1**	**1,9**	**-84**	**-189**	**21**	**0,12**
Employed	3,1	4,0	36	-44	117	0,37
Unemployed	4,9	4,4	-120	-243	2	0,05
Outside the Labour Force	2,6	2,1	97	-9	202	0,07
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,1	1,9	-1,9	-4,2	0,3	0,09
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,1	4,0	0,7	-1,0	2,4	0,42
Inactivity rate	2,6	2,1	1,9	-0,3	4,2	0,09
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	3,6	4,2	-3,2	-6,8	0,3	0,08
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,3	3,8	-3,9	-7,3	-0,5	0,02
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,5	3,3	-2,3	-5,1	0,5	0,11
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,3	3,1	-2,9	-5,4	-0,3	0,03
Eastern Cape - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**2,9**	**2,1**	**-88**	**-182**	**6**	**0,07**
Employed	4,8	6,0	41	-16	98	0,16
Unemployed	6,1	5,3	-129	-249	-9	0,04
Outside the Labour Force	3,1	1,9	95	1	189	0,05
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,9	2,1	-2,9	-5,9	0,1	0,06
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	4,8	6,0	1,2	-0,6	3,0	0,17
Inactivity rate	3,1	1,9	2,9	-0,1	5,9	0,06
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,2	5,1	-5,2	-10,1	-0,3	0,04
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,7	4,4	-6,0	-10,4	-1,5	0,01
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,9	3,8	-3,9	-7,4	-0,3	0,03
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,6	3,3	-4,6	-7,7	-1,5	0,00

Table 2.3A – Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)

	Coefficient of variation					
	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
Eastern Cape - Buffalo City						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**2,0**	**6,2**	**-18**	**-63**	**27**	**0,43**
Employed	4,6	10,8	-24	-78	30	0,38
Unemployed	9,5	10,7	6	-9	21	0,42
Outside the Labour Force	4,1	10,8	20	-25	65	0,38
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,0	6,2	-3,3	-11,1	4,4	0,40
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	4,6	10,8	-4,4	-13,8	5,0	0,36
Inactivity rate	4,1	10,8	3,3	-4,4	11,1	0,40
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	9,3	12,4	3,2	-3,9	10,3	0,38
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	7,3	13,1	0,6	-5,7	6,9	0,85
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	8,4	11,2	4,3	-2,3	11,0	0,20
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	7,9	11,9	1,9	-3,8	7,6	0,51
Eastern Cape - Nelson Mandela Bay						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**4,4**	**4,5**	**22**	**5**	**39**	**0,01**
Employed	5,3	5,2	20	4	35	0,01
Unemployed	8,0	10,3	2	-13	18	0,77
Outside the Labour Force	6,8	7,5	-19	-36	-1	0,04
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	4,4	4,5	2,2	0,3	4,1	0,02
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	5,3	5,2	2,0	0,3	3,7	0,02
Inactivity rate	6,8	7,5	-2,2	-4,1	-0,3	0,02
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	6,5	8,3	-0,9	-3,1	1,4	0,46
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	6,2	8,6	0,4	-2,7	3,5	0,79
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,9	7,6	-0,3	-4,7	4,1	0,89
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	4,7	7,5	0,8	-3,6	5,3	0,71

Table 2.3A – Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)

	Coefficient of variation					
	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
Northern cape						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**3,3**	**4,0**	**13**	**-20**	**47**	**0,43**
Employed	4,7	6,3	4	-24	32	0,79
Unemployed	6,0	6,6	10	-17	36	0,48
Outside the Labour Force	3,5	4,4	-12	-46	22	0,48
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	3,3	4,0	1,5	-2,5	5,4	0,46
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	4,7	6,3	0,4	-2,9	3,6	0,82
Inactivity rate	3,5	4,4	-1,5	-5,4	2,5	0,46
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	6,1	7,6	1,3	-3,7	6,3	0,61
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	6,3	6,6	-0,3	-6,0	5,5	0,92
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,5	5,4	1,0	-4,7	6,8	0,73
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	4,1	5,2	-0,1	-6,2	5,9	0,96
Free State						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**2,1**	**2,1**	**-21**	**-65**	**22**	**0,34**
Employed	5,0	3,2	-34	-77	8	0,11
Unemployed	5,3	4,2	13	-25	51	0,50
Outside the Labour Force	3,6	3,4	22	-22	66	0,33
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,1	2,1	-1,1	-3,4	1,2	0,33
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	5,0	3,2	-1,8	-4,0	0,4	0,11
Inactivity rate	3,6	3,4	1,1	-1,2	3,4	0,33
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	6,0	3,8	1,7	-0,9	4,4	0,20
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	5,5	3,5	2,5	-0,3	5,3	0,08
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	5,4	3,3	2,5	-0,4	5,3	0,09
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	5,1	3,2	3,1	0,4	5,8	0,03

Table 2.3A – Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)

	Coefficient of variation					
	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
Free State - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**2,8**	**2,6**	**-30**	**-67**	**7**	**0,11**
Employed	6,7	4,6	-39	-76	-2	0,04
Unemployed	6,7	4,6	9	-22	40	0,56
Outside the Labour Force	5,1	4,3	30	-7	67	0,11
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,8	2,6	-2,2	-4,9	0,5	0,11
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	6,7	4,6	-2,8	-5,5	-0,2	0,04
Inactivity rate	5,1	4,3	2,2	-0,5	4,9	0,11
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	7,6	4,5	2,4	-0,6	5,4	0,12
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	7,2	4,4	3,4	0,0	6,8	0,05
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	7,1	4,3	2,9	-0,5	6,3	0,09
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	6,9	4,1	3,8	0,3	7,2	0,03
Free State - Mangaung						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**2,3**	**2,9**	**9**	**-15**	**32**	**0,47**
Employed	5,7	2,4	5	-17	27	0,67
Unemployed	5,9	9,5	4	-18	26	0,72
Outside the Labour Force	3,3	4,6	-9	-32	15	0,47
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,3	2,9	1,6	-2,7	5,8	0,47
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	5,7	2,4	0,8	-3,1	4,7	0,67
Inactivity rate	3,3	4,6	-1,6	-5,8	2,7	0,47
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	7,5	7,1	0,3	-5,2	5,9	0,91
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	5,2	4,0	0,5	-4,4	5,3	0,85
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,4	4,3	1,6	-3,1	6,3	0,51
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,7	3,9	1,6	-2,1	5,4	0,40

Table 2.3A – Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)

	Coefficient of variation					
	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
KwaZulu-Natal						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**1,9**	**2,3**	**57**	**-95**	**209**	**0,46**
Employed	1,9	2,3	6	-88	101	0,89
Unemployed	5,0	5,5	51	-86	187	0,47
Outside the Labour Force	2,0	2,5	-34	-186	118	0,66
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,9	2,3	0,6	-1,4	2,5	0,56
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,9	2,3	0,0	-1,2	1,2	0,97
Inactivity rate	2,0	2,5	-0,6	-2,5	1,4	0,56
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	3,8	4,1	0,8	-1,7	3,3	0,54
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,2	3,7	0,2	-2,0	2,3	0,89
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,0	2,3	1,4	-0,1	3,0	0,08
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,1	2,2	0,9	-0,5	2,3	0,20
KwaZulu-Natal - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**2,9**	**3,3**	**58**	**-82**	**198**	**0,41**
Employed	3,1	3,4	24	-54	102	0,54
Unemployed	6,3	7,1	34	-96	164	0,61
Outside the Labour Force	2,6	3,1	-45	-185	95	0,53
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,9	3,3	1,0	-1,7	3,8	0,47
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,1	3,4	0,4	-1,1	1,9	0,61
Inactivity rate	2,6	3,1	-1,0	-3,8	1,7	0,47
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,4	4,9	0,4	-3,2	4,1	0,82
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,6	4,3	-0,1	-3,3	3,1	0,96
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,5	2,7	1,2	-1,0	3,4	0,28
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,4	2,6	0,8	-1,2	2,7	0,44

Table 2.3A – Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)

	Coefficient of variation					
	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
KwaZulu-Natal - eThekwini						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**2,0**	**2,8**	**-1**	**-62**	**59**	**0,96**
Employed	2,1	3,2	-18	-70	35	0,50
Unemployed	7,4	6,9	17	-28	61	0,46
Outside the Labour Force	3,0	4,1	11	-50	71	0,73
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,0	2,8	-0,3	-2,4	1,9	0,82
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,1	3,2	-0,8	-2,7	1,1	0,40
Inactivity rate	3,0	4,1	0,3	-1,9	2,4	0,82
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	6,4	6,0	1,0	-1,4	3,4	0,40
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	5,3	5,8	0,2	-1,4	1,9	0,79
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,8	3,9	1,4	-0,4	3,2	0,14
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,6	4,1	0,7	-1,0	2,4	0,40
North West						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**4,6**	**4,8**	**71**	**-5**	**147**	**0,07**
Employed	4,3	4,9	45	-9	99	0,10
Unemployed	9,6	9,4	26	-27	80	0,33
Outside the Labour Force	4,5	5,2	-63	-139	13	0,10
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	4,6	4,8	2,3	-0,3	5,0	0,08
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	4,3	4,9	1,5	-0,4	3,3	0,12
Inactivity rate	4,5	5,2	-2,3	-5,0	0,3	0,08
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	6,5	6,5	-0,1	-2,7	2,6	0,97
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	6,0	5,8	1,3	-1,3	3,9	0,32
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,8	3,5	-1,0	-3,2	1,3	0,41
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,6	2,9	0,1	-1,7	1,8	0,93

Table 2.3A – Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)

	Coefficient of variation					
	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
Gauteng						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**1,2**	**0,9**	**175**	**63**	**287**	**0,00**
Employed	1,6	1,8	25	-89	140	0,66
Unemployed	3,2	3,3	150	5	295	0,04
Outside the Labour Force	2,4	2,0	-140	-252	-28	0,01
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,2	0,9	1,3	0,3	2,3	0,01
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,6	1,8	0,1	-0,9	1,1	0,87
Inactivity rate	2,4	2,0	-1,3	-2,3	-0,3	0,01
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	2,7	3,0	1,1	-0,4	2,7	0,16
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	2,3	2,8	1,3	-0,3	2,8	0,11
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,0	2,4	0,5	-0,9	2,0	0,47
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	1,9	2,2	0,7	-0,7	2,1	0,34
Gauteng - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**4,8**	**4,0**	**8**	**-22**	**38**	**0,58**
Employed	3,4	4,8	-47	-103	9	0,10
Unemployed	13,8	11,3	55	8	103	0,02
Outside the Labour Force	9,9	8,3	-3	-33	27	0,83
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	4,8	4,0	0,3	-1,6	2,3	0,74
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,4	4,8	-3,2	-6,8	0,5	0,09
Inactivity rate	9,9	8,3	-0,3	-2,3	1,6	0,74
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	9,9	8,8	5,0	0,3	9,8	0,04
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	8,5	8,2	4,7	0,0	9,4	0,05
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,3	4,9	3,1	-0,7	7,0	0,11
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,8	5,0	2,9	-0,9	6,6	0,14

Table 2.3A – Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)

	Coefficient of variation					
	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
Gauteng - Ekurhuleni						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**2,0**	**1,4**	**63**	**-7**	**133**	**0,08**
Employed	3,1	3,5	-20	-65	26	0,39
Unemployed	4,3	6,9	83	12	154	0,02
Outside the Labour Force	3,6	2,8	-54	-124	16	0,13
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,0	1,4	2,0	-0,4	4,4	0,11
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,1	3,5	-0,8	-2,4	0,8	0,31
Inactivity rate	3,6	2,8	-2,0	-4,4	0,4	0,11
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,1	6,3	3,1	0,5	5,8	0,02
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,7	6,1	3,5	0,5	6,6	0,02
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,3	4,1	2,8	0,2	5,4	0,04
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,2	4,0	3,1	0,2	6,1	0,04
Gauteng - City of Johannesburg						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**1,9**	**1,5**	**96**	**29**	**162**	**0,01**
Employed	3,3	3,5	91	11	172	0,03
Unemployed	5,2	4,6	4	-93	102	0,93
Outside the Labour Force	4,3	3,6	-83	-150	-16	0,01
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,9	1,5	2,0	0,5	3,6	0,01
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,3	3,5	2,0	0,1	3,9	0,04
Inactivity rate	4,3	3,6	-2,0	-3,6	-0,5	0,01
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,8	4,9	-1,0	-3,8	1,9	0,50
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,1	4,6	-0,6	-3,3	2,1	0,67
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,7	5,1	-2,0	-4,6	0,7	0,15
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	4,0	4,7	-1,5	-4,0	0,9	0,22

Table 2.3A – Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)

	Coefficient of variation					
	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
Gauteng - City of Tshwane						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**2,0**	**1,6**	**8**	**-50**	**65**	**0,78**
Employed	2,2	2,5	1	-42	43	0,98
Unemployed	5,9	6,6	7	-62	77	0,84
Outside the Labour Force	4,0	3,2	1	-57	58	0,98
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,0	1,6	0,1	-1,9	2,1	0,94
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,2	2,5	-0,1	-1,6	1,4	0,88
Inactivity rate	4,0	3,2	-0,1	-2,1	1,9	0,94
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,6	5,6	0,2	-2,7	3,1	0,87
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,1	4,9	0,0	-2,6	2,7	0,99
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,0	3,8	0,5	-2,3	3,3	0,71
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,7	3,4	0,3	-2,3	2,9	0,82
Mpumalanga						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**1,6**	**2,2**	**-10**	**-81**	**60**	**0,77**
Employed	2,6	2,5	-30	-81	21	0,25
Unemployed	4,4	5,3	20	-49	88	0,57
Outside the Labour Force	2,6	3,4	20	-51	90	0,59
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,6	2,2	-0,5	-2,7	1,7	0,66
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,6	2,5	-1,0	-2,6	0,5	0,20
Inactivity rate	2,6	3,4	0,5	-1,7	2,7	0,66
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	3,9	4,0	1,2	-1,4	3,8	0,38
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,6	4,1	0,7	-2,2	3,5	0,65
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,2	2,3	1,0	-1,0	3,0	0,35
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,2	2,3	0,5	-1,7	2,7	0,63

Table 2.3A – Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (concluded)

	Coefficient of variation					
	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
Limpopo						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**2,4**	**2,7**	**-59**	**-150**	**33**	**0,21**
Employed	2,5	2,2	1	-53	55	0,97
Unemployed	4,9	7,5	-60	-145	26	0,17
Outside the Labour Force	2,9	2,9	70	-21	162	0,13
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,4	2,7	-1,6	-3,8	0,6	0,16
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,5	2,2	-0,1	-1,4	1,2	0,91
Inactivity rate	2,9	2,9	1,6	-0,6	3,8	0,16
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	3,5	5,6	-1,9	-4,9	1,1	0,22
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,3	5,0	-2,1	-4,9	0,7	0,15
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,0	2,5	-0,6	-2,5	1,4	0,57
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,0	2,4	-0,8	-2,9	1,3	0,46

Table 3.1A – Sampling variability for the employed by industry and sex						
	Coefficient of variation					
	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
Both sexes	**0,7**	**0,8**	**101**	**-100**	**303**	**0,32**
Agriculture	3,9	5,3	-34	-121	54	0,45
Mining	8,9	9,8	31	-24	85	0,27
Manufacturing	3,6	3,3	33	-65	131	0,51
Utilities	13,4	10,4	4	-22	29	0,78
Construction	3,4	3,7	-8	-104	87	0,86
Trade	2,1	2,3	2	-130	134	0,98
Transport	3,7	3,8	16	-59	90	0,68
Finance	2,3	2,1	111	1	222	0,05
Community and social services	2,0	2,1	20	-103	143	0,75
Private households	3,6	3,9	-68	-133	-3	0,04
Women	**1,2**	**1,2**	**47**	**-87**	**180**	**0,49**
Agriculture	7,1	7,5	9	-31	48	0,66
Mining	14,5	13,7	17	-6	40	0,14
Manufacturing	5,8	5,3	-15	-63	34	0,55
Utilities	26,3	20,7	2	-11	15	0,75
Construction	9,6	10,4	-3	-35	29	0,88
Trade	2,9	3,1	-44	-136	48	0,35
Transport	8,4	9,3	27	-7	61	0,11
Finance	3,3	3,2	71	-6	148	0,07
Community and social services	2,4	2,4	9	-79	96	0,85
Private households	3,9	4,3	-26	-79	28	0,34
Men	**0,8**	**0,9**	**55**	**-85**	**194**	**0,44**
Agriculture	3,9	6,1	-42	-122	37	0,30
Mining	9,3	10,6	14	-29	56	0,52
Manufacturing	3,7	3,7	47	-33	128	0,25
Utilities	15,7	11,7	1	-18	21	0,88
Construction	3,6	3,6	-6	-94	82	0,90
Trade	2,8	2,9	46	-41	132	0,30
Transport	3,8	4,0	-12	-74	51	0,71
Finance	2,7	2,8	40	-42	123	0,34
Community and social services	2,7	3,1	11	-69	92	0,78
Private households	8,0	8,2	-42	-80	-4	0,03

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
	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026				
South Africa	**0,7**	**0,8**	**101**	**-100**	**303**	**0,32**
Formal sector*	1,0	1,1	268	57	478	0,01
Informal sector*	2,2	2,3	-98	-258	61	0,23
Households	3,6	3,9	-68	-133	-3	0,04
Western Cape	**1,5**	**1,8**	**48**	**-26**	**123**	**0,20**
Formal sector*	2,6	2,2	75	-20	169	0,12
Informal sector*	7,2	10,0	-25	-123	72	0,61
Households	11,2	9,2	-1	-29	27	0,94
Western Cape – Non-metro	**2,7**	**3,2**	**46**	**0**	**92**	**0,05**
Formal sector*	4,9	5,1	49	-1	99	0,05
Informal sector*	13,8	19,7	0	-72	72	1,00
Households	16,5	10,0	-3	-24	18	0,79
Western Cape – City of Cape Town	**2,0**	**2,1**	**2**	**-55**	**59**	**0,94**
Formal sector*	3,2	2,0	26	-54	105	0,52
Informal sector*	7,7	9,5	-25	-88	37	0,43
Households	15,8	13,8	2	-18	21	0,86
Eastern Cape	**3,1**	**4,0**	**36**	**-44**	**117**	**0,37**
Formal sector*	3,5	4,2	46	-20	112	0,17
Informal sector*	6,8	8,5	-10	-51	30	0,61
Households	9,4	11,0	1	-17	18	0,94
Eastern Cape – Non-metro	**4,8**	**6,0**	**41**	**-16**	**98**	**0,16**
Formal sector*	5,2	5,5	31	-17	79	0,21
Informal sector*	9,0	10,8	6	-30	42	0,75
Households	12,6	15,0	4	-10	19	0,53
Eastern Cape – Buffalo City	**4,6**	**10,8**	**-24**	**-78**	**30**	**0,38**
Formal sector*	5,3	12,5	-13	-55	30	0,56
Informal sector*	9,5	12,2	-9	-22	4	0,16
Households	14,2	9,3	-2	-7	2	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 Q3:2025 to Q3:2026 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					
	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
Eastern Cape – Nelson Mandela Bay	**5,3**	**5,2**	**20**	**4**	**35**	**0,01**
Formal sector*	7,2	6,5	28	13	43	0,00
Informal sector*	13,4	14,1	-7	-21	6	0,30
Households	23,5	23,9	-1	-11	8	0,75
Northern Cape	**4,7**	**6,3**	**4**	**-24**	**32**	**0,79**
Formal sector*	7,7	8,6	27	10	44	0,00
Informal sector*	19,4	13,6	-21	-39	-3	0,02
Households	16,2	19,6	-2	-7	3	0,49
Free State	**5,0**	**3,2**	**-34**	**-77**	**8**	**0,11**
Formal sector*	6,0	4,8	-28	-69	13	0,19
Informal sector*	8,6	6,3	13	-8	34	0,21
Households	8,2	11,2	-20	-30	-10	0,00
Free State – Non-metro	**6,7**	**4,6**	**-39**	**-76**	**-2**	**0,04**
Formal sector*	8,1	6,9	-35	-71	2	0,06
Informal sector*	12,2	8,6	9	-10	28	0,36
Households	10,3	14,0	-14	-22	-5	0,00
Free State – Mangaung	**5,7**	**2,4**	**5**	**-17**	**27**	**0,67**
Formal sector*	6,0	2,2	7	-13	27	0,49
Informal sector*	3,9	6,9	4	-4	12	0,30
Households	12,9	17,4	-6	-12	-1	0,01
KwaZulu-Natal	**1,9**	**2,3**	**6**	**-88**	**101**	**0,89**
Formal sector*	3,0	3,4	38	-55	131	0,42
Informal sector*	5,2	5,2	-27	-86	31	0,35
Households	12,6	11,9	-4	-28	20	0,73
KwaZulu-Natal – Non-metro	**3,1**	**3,4**	**24**	**-54**	**102**	**0,54**
Formal sector*	3,9	4,3	42	-36	120	0,29
Informal sector*	7,6	6,7	-2	-42	39	0,94
Households	13,3	12,8	-16	-32	1	0,06

** 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 Q3:2025 to Q3:2026 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					
	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
KwaZulu-Natal – eThekwini	**2,1**	**3,2**	**-18**	**-70**	**35**	**0,50**
Formal sector*	4,6	5,7	-4	-53	46	0,89
Informal sector*	6,7	8,2	-26	-68	16	0,22
Households	22,6	19,5	11	-6	29	0,20
North West	**4,3**	**4,9**	**45**	**-9**	**99**	**0,10**
Formal sector*	6,0	4,9	46	-2	94	0,06
Informal sector*	9,1	9,1	2	-31	36	0,90
Households	16,1	20,6	-3	-32	25	0,81
Gauteng	**1,6**	**1,8**	**25**	**-89**	**140**	**0,66**
Formal sector*	2,0	2,5	24	-90	138	0,68
Informal sector*	4,7	3,9	29	-42	101	0,42
Households	5,8	8,2	-28	-61	6	0,10
Gauteng – Non-metro	**3,4**	**4,8**	**-47**	**-103**	**9**	**0,10**
Formal sector*	3,5	6,0	-34	-88	19	0,20
Informal sector*	12,1	13,2	-4	-13	5	0,40
Households	12,7	22,4	-8	-24	7	0,27
Gauteng – Ekurhuleni	**3,1**	**3,5**	**-20**	**-65**	**26**	**0,39**
Formal sector*	4,0	5,1	-11	-60	39	0,68
Informal sector*	8,7	7,8	-7	-28	15	0,56
Households	11,9	8,2	-3	-10	5	0,49
Gauteng – City of Johannesburg	**3,3**	**3,5**	**91**	**11**	**172**	**0,03**
Formal sector*	4,7	5,3	47	-23	117	0,19
Informal sector*	7,5	4,7	47	-14	107	0,13
Households	9,6	13,9	-3	-21	16	0,79
Gauteng – City of Tshwane	**2,2**	**2,5**	**1**	**-42**	**43**	**0,98**
Formal sector*	2,9	2,9	22	-34	77	0,44
Informal sector*	10,7	13,9	-7	-37	24	0,66
Households	12,3	15,3	-14	-36	8	0,21

** 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 Q3:2025 to Q3:2026 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					
	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
Mpumalanga	**2,6**	**2,5**	**-30**	**-81**	**21**	**0,25**
Formal sector*	4,9	4,0	12	-56	81	0,72
Informal sector*	6,3	5,9	-35	-78	7	0,10
Households	5,9	9,5	-7	-21	7	0,32
Limpopo	**2,5**	**2,2**	**1**	**-53**	**55**	**0,97**
Formal sector*	3,9	3,9	27	-49	103	0,48
Informal sector*	4,7	4,6	-23	-72	26	0,36
Households	10,2	8,0	-3	-22	16	0,75

** 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 Q3:2025 to Q3:2026 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					
	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sep 2026	Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
Both sexes	**0,7**	**0,8**	**101**	**-100**	**303**	**0,32**
Manager	3,5	4,1	78	-18	175	0,11
Professional	4,6	4,2	36	-38	109	0,34
Technician	3,1	3,8	-92	-180	-5	0,04
Clerk	2,8	2,8	31	-61	123	0,51
Sales and services	1,9	2,0	131	16	246	0,03
Skilled agriculture	12,0	15,8	-30	-53	-8	0,01
Craft and related trade	2,7	2,9	-7	-102	88	0,89
Plant and machine operator	3,7	3,8	29	-68	126	0,55
Elementary	1,9	2,1	-32	-171	107	0,65
Domestic worker	3,5	4,3	-31	-88	27	0,29
Women	**1,2**	**1,2**	**47**	**-87**	**180**	**0,49**
Manager	5,2	6,3	58	-6	122	0,08
Professional	5,7	4,8	8	-47	63	0,78
Technician	4,2	4,7	-61	-124	1	0,05
Clerk	3,5	3,4	0	-79	78	0,99
Sales and services	3,0	2,9	67	-19	152	0,13
Skilled agriculture	21,3	22,7	-2	-13	10	0,79
Craft and related trade	7,3	7,3	2	-36	39	0,94
Plant and machine operator	9,1	9,1	1	-29	31	0,96
Elementary	2,9	3,0	12	-79	102	0,80
Domestic worker	3,7	4,3	-29	-82	24	0,28
Men	**0,8**	**0,9**	**55**	**-85**	**194**	**0,44**
Manager	3,7	4,2	20	-45	86	0,54
Professional	6,0	7,1	28	-15	71	0,20
Technician	4,6	4,9	-31	-100	38	0,38
Clerk	5,3	4,8	31	-22	85	0,25
Sales and services	2,8	2,9	64	-15	144	0,11
Skilled agriculture	15,0	21,2	-29	-48	-10	0,00
Craft and related trade	2,8	3,1	-8	-99	82	0,86
Plant and machine operator	4,0	3,9	28	-59	116	0,52
Elementary	2,4	2,6	-43	-152	65	0,43
Domestic worker	16,6	19,1	-2	-18	15	0,83

Table 2B – Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by sex

	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2025	Jul-Sep 2026				
Both sexes						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**0,6**	**0,6**	**356**	**-8**	**720**	**0,06**
Employed	**0,8**	**0,8**	**-215**	**-536**	**107**	**0,19**
Formal sector*	1,0	1,1	357	45	670	0,03
Informal sector*	2,4	2,3	-485	-714	-255	0,00
Household sector	3,9	3,9	-87	-207	32	0,15
Unemployed	**1,7**	**1,9**	**571**	**228**	**913**	**0,00**
Outside the Labour Force	**0,9**	**0,9**	**122**	**-242**	**487**	**0,51**
Potential Labour Force	2,6	3,1	110	-171	392	0,44
Available job-seekers	2,7	3,1	150	-134	434	0,30
Discouraged job-seekers	3,2	3,5	255	5	505	0,05
Other Potential Labour Force	4,5	5,7	-105	-219	9	0,07
Unavailable job-seekers	13,2	27,2	-40	-72	-7	0,02
Other (Outside the Labour Force)	0,9	0,9	12	-261	285	0,93
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	0,6	0,6	0,2	-0,7	1,0	0,71
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,8	0,8	-1,0	-1,7	-0,2	0,01
Inactivity rate	0,9	0,9	-0,2	-1,0	0,7	0,71
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,4	1,5	1,8	0,7	2,9	0,00
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,3	1,4	1,6	0,4	2,8	0,01
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	0,9	1,0	1,6	0,6	2,6	0,00
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	0,9	0,9	1,4	0,4	2,4	0,00

** 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 Q3:2025 to Q3:2026 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
	Jul-Sep 2025	Jul-Sep 2026				
Women						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**0,9**	**0,9**	**257**	**1**	**513**	**0,05**
Employed	**1,1**	**1,2**	**-89**	**-312**	**135**	**0,44**
Formal sector*	1,4	1,5	80	-119	279	0,43
Informal sector*	3,6	3,5	-135	-257	-13	0,03
Household sector	4,0	4,3	-33	-128	62	0,49
Unemployed	**2,1**	**2,1**	**345**	**122**	**568**	**0,00**
Outside the Labour Force	**1,0**	**1,1**	**-36**	**-292**	**220**	**0,78**
Potential Labour Force	3,2	3,3	58	-133	249	0,55
Available job-seekers	3,2	3,4	89	-103	282	0,36
Discouraged job-seekers	3,9	3,8	146	-18	309	0,08
Other Potential Labour Force	5,5	6,3	-56	-143	30	0,20
Unavailable job-seekers	17,5	33,6	-31	-52	-10	0,00
Other (Outside the Labour Force)	1,1	1,1	-94	-288	99	0,34
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	0,9	0,9	0,6	-0,6	1,8	0,30
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,1	1,2	-0,8	-1,8	0,3	0,15
Inactivity rate	1,0	1,1	-0,6	-1,8	0,6	0,30
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,7	1,7	2,2	0,6	3,8	0,01
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,6	1,6	1,9	0,3	3,5	0,02
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	1,1	1,2	1,8	0,3	3,3	0,02
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	1,1	1,1	1,6	0,1	3,0	0,03

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

	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2025	Jul-Sep 2026				
Men						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**0,6**	**0,6**	**99**	**-112**	**311**	**0,36**
Employed	**1,0**	**0,9**	**-126**	**-356**	**104**	**0,28**
Formal sector*	1,2	1,3	277	56	499	0,01
Informal sector*	2,6	2,7	-349	-523	-176	0,00
Household sector	6,3	8,2	-54	-104	-4	0,03
Unemployed	**2,0**	**2,3**	**225**	**18**	**433**	**0,03**
Outside the Labour Force	**1,2**	**1,2**	**158**	**-53**	**370**	**0,14**
Potential Labour Force	3,1	3,5	52	-105	209	0,51
Available job-seekers	3,1	3,6	61	-97	218	0,45
Discouraged job-seekers	3,6	4,0	109	-39	257	0,15
Other Potential Labour Force	6,0	8,4	-48	-109	12	0,12
Unavailable job-seekers	18,2	29,2	-8	-28	11	0,41
Other (Outside the Labour Force)	1,2	1,3	106	-60	272	0,21
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	0,6	0,6	-0,3	-1,3	0,7	0,52
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,0	0,9	-1,2	-2,3	-0,1	0,04
Inactivity rate	1,2	1,2	0,3	-0,7	1,3	0,52
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,9	2,0	1,4	0,0	2,8	0,04
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,7	1,9	1,3	-0,2	2,7	0,08
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	1,4	1,3	1,4	0,1	2,7	0,03
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	1,3	1,3	1,3	0,0	2,6	0,06

** 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 Q3:2025 to Q3:2026 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 2.1B – Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by population group						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2025	Jul-Sep 2026				
South Africa						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**0,6**	**0,6**	**356**	**-8**	**720**	**0,06**
Employed	0,8	0,8	-215	-536	107	0,19
Unemployed	1,7	1,9	571	228	913	0,00
Outside the Labour Force	0,9	0,9	122	-242	487	0,51
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	0,6	0,6	0,2	-0,7	1,0	0,71
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,8	0,8	-1,0	-1,7	-0,2	0,01
Inactivity rate	0,9	0,9	-0,2	-1,0	0,7	0,71
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,4	1,5	1,8	0,7	2,9	0,00
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,3	1,4	1,6	0,4	2,8	0,01
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	0,9	1,0	1,6	0,6	2,6	0,00
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	0,9	0,9	1,4	0,4	2,4	0,00
Black/African						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**0,7**	**0,7**	**326**	**-18**	**670**	**0,06**
Employed	0,9	0,9	-144	-432	144	0,32
Unemployed	1,7	2,0	470	139	802	0,01
Outside the Labour Force	1,0	1,0	164	-180	508	0,35
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	0,7	0,7	0,1	-0,9	1,1	0,83
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,9	0,9	-0,9	-1,8	-0,1	0,03
Inactivity rate	1,0	1,0	-0,1	-1,1	0,9	0,83
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,4	1,6	1,7	0,4	3,0	0,01
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,3	1,4	1,5	0,1	2,8	0,03
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	1,0	1,0	1,6	0,5	2,7	0,01
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	0,9	1,0	1,4	0,3	2,5	0,02

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
	Jul-Sep 2025	Jul-Sep 2026				
Coloured						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**1,6**	**1,8**	**43**	**-39**	**125**	**0,30**
Employed	2,1	2,7	-29	-121	62	0,53
Unemployed	6,0	6,5	72	16	129	0,01
Outside the Labour Force	2,3	2,8	-27	-109	55	0,51
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,6	1,8	0,9	-1,3	3,2	0,42
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,1	2,7	-1,0	-3,5	1,5	0,43
Inactivity rate	2,3	2,8	-0,9	-3,2	1,3	0,42
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	5,7	6,1	2,8	0,3	5,4	0,03
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,9	5,8	2,3	-0,3	4,8	0,08
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,6	3,8	1,8	-0,8	4,4	0,17
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,4	3,9	1,3	-1,3	3,9	0,31
Indian/Asian						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**3,1**	**4,4**	**66**	**-4**	**135**	**0,06**
Employed	3,3	3,6	50	-5	106	0,08
Unemployed	16,4	17,8	16	-22	53	0,41
Outside the Labour Force	3,9	7,0	-58	-128	11	0,10
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	3,1	4,4	5,7	-0,8	12,3	0,08
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,3	3,6	4,3	-0,9	9,5	0,10
Inactivity rate	3,9	7,0	-5,7	-12,3	0,8	0,08
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	15,1	15,0	1,0	-4,2	6,1	0,71
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	14,4	13,9	0,1	-5,5	5,7	0,97
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	9,7	7,1	-4,1	-9,4	1,1	0,12
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	10,8	7,0	-4,9	-10,5	0,8	0,09

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
	Jul-Sep 2025	Jul-Sep 2026				
White						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**1,6**	**1,8**	**-79**	**-170**	**12**	**0,09**
Employed	2,1	2,2	-91	-204	21	0,11
Unemployed	13,7	11,3	12	-38	62	0,63
Outside the Labour Force	3,9	3,9	44	-47	135	0,35
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,6	1,8	-2,0	-5,4	1,4	0,24
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,1	2,2	-2,5	-6,7	1,6	0,23
Inactivity rate	3,9	3,9	2,0	-1,4	5,4	0,24
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	13,8	11,4	1,0	-1,7	3,8	0,47
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	13,1	11,0	2,0	-1,0	5,1	0,19
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	11,9	10,9	1,5	-2,0	5,1	0,40
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	11,7	10,8	2,5	-1,3	6,3	0,20

Table 2.3B – Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province

	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2025	Jul-Sep 2026				
South Africa						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**0,6**	**0,6**	**356**	**-8**	**720**	**0,06**
Employed	0,8	0,8	-215	-536	107	0,19
Unemployed	1,7	1,9	571	228	913	0,00
Outside the Labour Force	0,9	0,9	122	-242	487	0,51
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	0,6	0,6	0,2	-0,7	1,0	0,71
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	0,8	0,8	-1,0	-1,7	-0,2	0,01
Inactivity rate	0,9	0,9	-0,2	-1,0	0,7	0,71
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	1,4	1,5	1,8	0,7	2,9	0,00
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	1,3	1,4	1,6	0,4	2,8	0,01
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	0,9	1,0	1,6	0,6	2,6	0,00
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	0,9	0,9	1,4	0,4	2,4	0,00
Western Cape						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**1,2**	**1,1**	**71**	**-26**	**167**	**0,15**
Employed	1,6	1,8	69	-61	199	0,29
Unemployed	5,0	6,9	1	-109	111	0,98
Outside the Labour Force	2,6	2,5	-5	-102	91	0,91
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,2	1,1	0,5	-1,4	2,4	0,60
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,6	1,8	0,6	-1,9	3,2	0,61
Inactivity rate	2,6	2,5	-0,5	-2,4	1,4	0,60
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,7	6,6	-0,4	-3,4	2,7	0,82
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,9	5,8	0,3	-2,5	3,2	0,83
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,1	4,7	-0,6	-3,5	2,3	0,69
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,6	4,4	0,0	-2,8	2,9	0,98

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
	Jul-Sep 2025	Jul-Sep 2026				
Western Cape - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**2,7**	**2,9**	**29**	**-61**	**119**	**0,53**
Employed	2,6	3,2	51	-38	139	0,26
Unemployed	13,2	13,0	-22	-80	37	0,47
Outside the Labour Force	4,6	5,0	-6	-96	84	0,90
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,7	2,9	0,8	-4,0	5,6	0,75
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,6	3,2	2,0	-2,7	6,7	0,40
Inactivity rate	4,6	5,0	-0,8	-5,6	4,0	0,75
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	11,7	12,2	-2,2	-6,8	2,5	0,36
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	10,5	11,4	-1,6	-7,6	4,4	0,59
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	7,8	7,1	-1,7	-6,5	3,1	0,49
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	7,2	7,3	-1,2	-7,2	4,7	0,68
Western Cape - City of Cape Town						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**1,3**	**0,9**	**41**	**-8**	**91**	**0,10**
Employed	2,0	2,1	19	-79	116	0,71
Unemployed	4,9	8,2	23	-73	118	0,64
Outside the Labour Force	3,3	2,3	0	-49	50	0,99
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,3	0,9	0,4	-1,2	1,9	0,65
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,0	2,1	-0,1	-3,1	2,8	0,93
Inactivity rate	3,3	2,3	-0,4	-1,9	1,2	0,65
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,9	7,8	0,6	-3,4	4,5	0,77
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,7	6,7	1,3	-1,9	4,5	0,42
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,5	6,1	0,0	-3,7	3,7	0,99
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,5	5,6	0,7	-2,3	3,8	0,63

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
	Jul-Sep 2025	Jul-Sep 2026				
Eastern Cape						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**2,1**	**1,9**	**87**	**-46**	**221**	**0,20**
Employed	3,0	4,0	-26	-150	98	0,68
Unemployed	4,1	4,4	113	7	219	0,04
Outside the Labour Force	2,2	2,1	-40	-174	94	0,56
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,1	1,9	1,3	-1,5	4,2	0,36
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,0	4,0	-0,9	-3,5	1,8	0,52
Inactivity rate	2,2	2,1	-1,3	-4,2	1,5	0,36
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	3,4	4,2	3,1	-0,7	6,9	0,11
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,3	3,8	2,8	-1,1	6,7	0,16
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,5	3,3	1,6	-1,8	5,1	0,35
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,5	3,1	1,4	-2,1	5,0	0,42
Eastern Cape - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**2,8**	**2,1**	**20**	**-80**	**119**	**0,70**
Employed	3,5	6,0	-20	-100	61	0,63
Unemployed	5,1	5,3	39	-56	134	0,42
Outside the Labour Force	2,6	1,9	7	-92	107	0,89
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,8	2,1	0,2	-2,9	3,4	0,89
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,5	6,0	-0,8	-3,4	1,7	0,52
Inactivity rate	2,6	1,9	-0,2	-3,4	2,9	0,89
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	3,4	5,1	1,9	-2,8	6,7	0,42
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,2	4,4	1,7	-2,9	6,3	0,48
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,3	3,8	-0,1	-4,0	3,9	0,98
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,2	3,3	-0,2	-3,9	3,6	0,93

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
	Jul-Sep 2025	Jul-Sep 2026				
Eastern Cape - Buffalo City						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**4,7**	**6,2**	**-9**	**-86**	**67**	**0,82**
Employed	6,5	10,8	-32	-105	40	0,38
Unemployed	8,9	10,7	23	9	37	0,00
Outside the Labour Force	9,2	10,8	17	-60	93	0,67
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	4,7	6,2	-2,4	-15,8	10,9	0,72
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	6,5	10,8	-6,3	-18,8	6,3	0,33
Inactivity rate	9,2	10,8	2,4	-10,9	15,8	0,72
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	9,1	12,4	7,0	1,0	13,1	0,02
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	9,2	13,1	8,4	1,3	15,4	0,02
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	9,9	11,2	9,0	-1,1	19,1	0,08
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	9,3	11,9	10,2	-0,4	20,7	0,06
Eastern Cape - Nelson Mandela Bay						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**4,1**	**4,5**	**77**	**27**	**126**	**0,00**
Employed	7,8	5,2	26	-34	87	0,39
Unemployed	7,0	10,3	50	7	94	0,02
Outside the Labour Force	5,1	7,5	-64	-114	-14	0,01
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	4,1	4,5	7,6	2,1	13,0	0,01
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	7,8	5,2	2,3	-4,3	8,9	0,50
Inactivity rate	5,1	7,5	-7,6	-13,0	-2,1	0,01
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	10,7	8,3	5,1	-2,8	13,1	0,20
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	10,4	8,6	3,6	-6,0	13,2	0,46
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	9,9	7,6	5,4	-1,9	12,6	0,15
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	9,6	7,5	3,9	-4,6	12,4	0,37

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
	Jul-Sep 2025	Jul-Sep 2026				
Northern cape						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**4,4**	**4,0**	**-17**	**-49**	**15**	**0,30**
Employed	7,2	6,3	-6	-42	29	0,73
Unemployed	7,5	6,6	-11	-26	5	0,19
Outside the Labour Force	5,3	4,4	22	-9	54	0,17
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	4,4	4,0	-2,3	-6,1	1,4	0,22
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	7,2	6,3	-1,0	-5,2	3,2	0,64
Inactivity rate	5,3	4,4	2,3	-1,4	6,1	0,22
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	8,7	7,6	-1,2	-5,2	2,8	0,56
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	8,3	6,6	-2,3	-6,4	1,8	0,26
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	6,6	5,4	1,7	-4,8	8,1	0,61
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	6,3	5,2	0,7	-5,7	7,2	0,83
Free State						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**1,9**	**2,1**	**-21**	**-83**	**42**	**0,52**
Employed	3,0	3,2	-47	-101	6	0,08
Unemployed	6,1	4,2	27	-26	80	0,32
Outside the Labour Force	3,3	3,4	22	-40	84	0,49
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,9	2,1	-1,1	-4,3	2,1	0,50
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,0	3,2	-2,5	-5,2	0,3	0,08
Inactivity rate	3,3	3,4	1,1	-2,1	4,3	0,50
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	5,2	3,8	2,8	-0,7	6,4	0,12
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,6	3,5	3,8	-0,2	7,8	0,06
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,6	3,3	3,8	0,4	7,2	0,03
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,2	3,2	4,6	1,1	8,1	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
	Jul-Sep 2025	Jul-Sep 2026				
Free State - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**2,0**	**2,6**	**-26**	**-79**	**28**	**0,34**
Employed	4,0	4,6	-32	-80	15	0,18
Unemployed	5,9	4,6	6	-33	45	0,75
Outside the Labour Force	3,5	4,3	27	-27	80	0,32
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,0	2,6	-1,9	-5,8	1,9	0,33
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	4,0	4,6	-2,4	-5,8	1,1	0,18
Inactivity rate	3,5	4,3	1,9	-1,9	5,8	0,33
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	5,5	4,5	1,9	-1,9	5,7	0,32
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,6	4,4	3,0	-1,4	7,4	0,17
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,6	4,3	3,2	-0,9	7,2	0,12
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,9	4,1	4,1	-0,1	8,3	0,06
Free State - Mangaung						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**4,8**	**2,9**	**5**	**-26**	**37**	**0,74**
Employed	3,8	2,4	-15	-39	9	0,22
Unemployed	18,6	9,5	20	-15	56	0,25
Outside the Labour Force	7,2	4,6	-5	-37	27	0,75
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	4,8	2,9	0,9	-4,7	6,6	0,75
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,8	2,4	-2,7	-7,0	1,6	0,22
Inactivity rate	7,2	4,6	-0,9	-6,6	4,7	0,75
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	14,8	7,1	5,5	-3,0	14,1	0,20
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	12,9	4,0	6,2	-2,8	15,1	0,18
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,2	4,3	5,5	-0,6	11,7	0,08
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	5,0	3,9	6,0	-0,1	12,1	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
	Jul-Sep 2025	Jul-Sep 2026				
KwaZulu-Natal						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**1,9**	**2,3**	**56**	**-159**	**272**	**0,61**
Employed	2,3	2,3	-26	-178	127	0,74
Unemployed	5,1	5,5	82	-103	268	0,38
Outside the Labour Force	2,0	2,5	35	-181	251	0,75
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,9	2,3	0,1	-2,7	2,9	0,94
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,3	2,3	-0,7	-2,7	1,2	0,45
Inactivity rate	2,0	2,5	-0,1	-2,9	2,7	0,94
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,2	4,1	1,6	-1,9	5,1	0,38
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,0	3,7	0,9	-2,9	4,7	0,65
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,3	2,3	2,6	-0,1	5,2	0,05
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,2	2,2	2,0	-0,9	4,8	0,18
KwaZulu-Natal - Non-Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**2,9**	**3,3**	**92**	**-107**	**290**	**0,36**
Employed	3,4	3,4	-91	-216	33	0,15
Unemployed	7,3	7,1	183	8	358	0,04
Outside the Labour Force	2,6	3,1	-38	-236	161	0,71
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,9	3,3	1,3	-2,6	5,2	0,51
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,4	3,4	-2,1	-4,6	0,3	0,09
Inactivity rate	2,6	3,1	-1,3	-5,2	2,6	0,51
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	5,8	4,9	6,2	1,0	11,3	0,02
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	5,2	4,3	5,6	0,4	10,7	0,03
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,8	2,7	5,5	2,2	8,7	0,00
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,7	2,6	5,0	1,7	8,2	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
	Jul-Sep 2025	Jul-Sep 2026				
KwaZulu-Natal - eThekwini						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**1,8**	**2,8**	**-35**	**-127**	**57**	**0,45**
Employed	2,8	3,2	66	-28	159	0,17
Unemployed	5,9	6,9	-101	-164	-38	0,00
Outside the Labour Force	2,9	4,1	73	-19	165	0,12
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,8	2,8	-2,1	-5,5	1,2	0,22
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,8	3,2	1,8	-1,6	5,2	0,31
Inactivity rate	2,9	4,1	2,1	-1,2	5,5	0,22
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	5,6	6,0	-5,6	-9,1	-2,0	0,00
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	5,6	5,8	-6,4	-11,2	-1,7	0,01
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,1	3,9	-2,2	-6,6	2,1	0,31
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,8	4,1	-3,0	-8,2	2,1	0,25
North West						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**3,8**	**4,8**	**-22**	**-191**	**147**	**0,79**
Employed	3,6	4,9	-14	-111	83	0,78
Unemployed	10,8	9,4	-8	-150	133	0,91
Outside the Labour Force	4,3	5,2	55	-114	224	0,52
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	3,8	4,8	-1,4	-7,3	4,5	0,64
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,6	4,9	-0,9	-4,2	2,5	0,61
Inactivity rate	4,3	5,2	1,4	-4,5	7,3	0,64
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	7,9	6,5	0,0	-6,4	6,4	1,00
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	7,4	5,8	2,6	-3,6	8,8	0,41
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,1	3,5	2,5	-1,8	6,8	0,24
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,0	2,9	4,4	0,5	8,2	0,03

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
	Jul-Sep 2025	Jul-Sep 2026				
Gauteng						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**1,0**	**0,9**	**143**	**-12**	**299**	**0,07**
Employed	1,3	1,8	-117	-272	37	0,14
Unemployed	2,7	3,3	261	96	426	0,00
Outside the Labour Force	2,2	2,0	8	-147	163	0,92
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,0	0,9	0,3	-1,0	1,7	0,61
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	1,3	1,8	-1,6	-2,9	-0,3	0,02
Inactivity rate	2,2	2,0	-0,3	-1,7	1,0	0,61
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	2,2	3,0	2,7	0,9	4,5	0,00
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	2,1	2,8	2,5	0,7	4,3	0,01
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	1,7	2,4	1,4	-0,3	3,2	0,11
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	1,7	2,2	1,3	-0,4	3,0	0,14
Gauteng - Non Metro						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**4,1**	**4,0**	**-19**	**-96**	**58**	**0,63**
Employed	4,6	4,8	-44	-88	0	0,05
Unemployed	6,4	11,3	25	-55	105	0,54
Outside the Labour Force	9,5	8,3	40	-37	118	0,31
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	4,1	4,0	-2,2	-7,3	2,9	0,39
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	4,6	4,8	-3,5	-6,3	-0,6	0,02
Inactivity rate	9,5	8,3	2,2	-2,9	7,3	0,39
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,6	8,8	3,0	-2,6	8,6	0,29
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	5,4	8,2	0,5	-4,9	5,9	0,86
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	4,0	4,9	1,6	-1,5	4,7	0,30
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	4,2	5,0	-0,6	-4,0	2,8	0,74

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
	Jul-Sep 2025	Jul-Sep 2026				
Gauteng - Ekurhuleni						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**1,8**	**1,4**	**122**	**38**	**207**	**0,00**
Employed	2,0	3,5	-26	-97	44	0,46
Unemployed	5,2	6,9	149	59	238	0,00
Outside the Labour Force	3,1	2,8	-84	-168	1	0,05
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,8	1,4	3,4	0,4	6,3	0,02
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,0	3,5	-1,5	-3,9	1,0	0,24
Inactivity rate	3,1	2,8	-3,4	-6,3	-0,4	0,02
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,1	6,3	5,6	1,9	9,4	0,00
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,5	6,1	5,2	1,5	9,0	0,01
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,8	4,1	3,3	0,3	6,2	0,03
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,2	4,0	2,9	-0,1	6,0	0,06
Gauteng - City of Johannesburg						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**1,7**	**1,5**	**72**	**-24**	**169**	**0,14**
Employed	2,7	3,5	38	-77	152	0,52
Unemployed	4,4	4,6	35	-62	132	0,48
Outside the Labour Force	4,1	3,6	-18	-115	79	0,72
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	1,7	1,5	0,8	-1,5	3,1	0,49
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,7	3,5	0,3	-2,4	3,0	0,83
Inactivity rate	4,1	3,6	-0,8	-3,1	1,5	0,49
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,0	4,9	0,3	-2,7	3,4	0,84
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,6	4,6	1,8	-1,1	4,8	0,23
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,5	5,1	-1,0	-4,7	2,7	0,59
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,2	4,7	0,5	-3,0	4,0	0,79

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
	Jul-Sep 2025	Jul-Sep 2026				
Gauteng - City of Tshwane						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**2,1**	**1,6**	**-32**	**-93**	**29**	**0,30**
Employed	2,1	2,5	-85	-151	-19	0,01
Unemployed	6,0	6,6	53	-9	115	0,09
Outside the Labour Force	4,6	3,2	69	8	130	0,03
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,1	1,6	-2,0	-4,2	0,1	0,07
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,1	2,5	-3,6	-5,9	-1,3	0,00
Inactivity rate	4,6	3,2	2,0	-0,1	4,2	0,07
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,7	5,6	3,3	0,4	6,2	0,03
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,6	4,9	2,1	-1,2	5,3	0,22
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,3	3,8	3,0	0,5	5,5	0,02
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	3,7	3,4	1,8	-1,0	4,7	0,20
Mpumalanga						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**2,7**	**2,2**	**105**	**-9**	**219**	**0,07**
Employed	3,3	2,5	-6	-92	81	0,90
Unemployed	6,4	5,3	111	34	188	0,01
Outside the Labour Force	3,8	3,4	-68	-182	46	0,24
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,7	2,2	2,6	-1,0	6,1	0,16
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	3,3	2,5	-0,6	-3,3	2,1	0,65
Inactivity rate	3,8	3,4	-2,6	-6,1	1,0	0,16
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	5,2	4,0	3,8	0,7	6,9	0,02
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	4,6	4,1	2,2	-0,8	5,2	0,15
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	2,7	2,3	1,7	-1,1	4,5	0,22
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,5	2,3	0,5	-2,0	3,0	0,67

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
	Jul-Sep 2025	Jul-Sep 2026				
Limpopo						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	**2,3**	**2,7**	**-47**	**-160**	**66**	**0,41**
Employed	2,9	2,2	-42	-146	62	0,43
Unemployed	5,2	7,5	-5	-115	104	0,93
Outside the Labour Force	2,7	2,9	93	-20	206	0,11
Key rates in relation to the working-age population (%)						
Labour force participation rate	2,3	2,7	-1,7	-4,5	1,0	0,21
Employed / population ratio (Absorption)	2,9	2,2	-1,4	-4,0	1,1	0,27
Inactivity rate	2,7	2,9	1,7	-1,0	4,5	0,21
Labour underutilisation indicators (%)						
LU1 - Unemployment rate	4,5	5,6	0,4	-3,9	4,7	0,85
LU2 - Combined rate of unemployment and time-related underemployment	3,6	5,0	-1,3	-5,7	3,0	0,54
LU3 - Combined rate of unemployment and potential labour force	3,3	2,5	1,0	-2,8	4,9	0,60
LU4 - Composite measure of labour underutilisation	2,9	2,4	-0,4	-4,1	3,4	0,85

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
	Jul-Sep 2025	Jul-Sep 2026				
Both sexes	**0,8**	**0,8**	**-215**	**-536**	**107**	**0,19**
Agriculture	4,4	5,3	-9	-117	98	0,86
Mining	9,7	9,8	32	-30	93	0,31
Manufacturing	3,0	3,3	-6	-138	127	0,93
Utilities	13,4	10,4	-3	-38	32	0,88
Construction	3,8	3,7	-44	-179	90	0,52
Trade	2,2	2,3	-33	-241	175	0,76
Transport	3,9	3,8	11	-110	132	0,85
Finance	2,5	2,1	132	-30	294	0,11
Community and social services	2,0	2,1	-197	-396	3	0,05
Private households	3,9	3,9	-87	-207	32	0,15
Women	**1,1**	**1,2**	**-89**	**-312**	**135**	**0,44**
Agriculture	7,4	7,5	29	-19	77	0,24
Mining	16,2	13,7	34	5	63	0,02
Manufacturing	4,5	5,3	-6	-75	63	0,87
Utilities	20,9	20,7	-2	-19	14	0,78
Construction	9,0	10,4	-10	-42	23	0,55
Trade	3,0	3,1	-60	-193	73	0,38
Transport	9,1	9,3	14	-43	70	0,63
Finance	3,7	3,2	106	-18	229	0,09
Community and social services	2,3	2,4	-157	-304	-9	0,04
Private households	4,0	4,3	-33	-128	62	0,49
Men	**1,0**	**0,9**	**-126**	**-356**	**104**	**0,28**
Agriculture	5,1	6,1	-38	-130	53	0,41
Mining	10,6	10,6	-2	-58	54	0,94
Manufacturing	3,9	3,7	0	-113	113	1,00
Utilities	14,8	11,7	0	-28	27	0,97
Construction	3,9	3,6	-34	-159	91	0,59
Trade	2,9	2,9	27	-118	173	0,71
Transport	4,0	4,0	-2	-100	95	0,96
Finance	3,2	2,8	26	-101	154	0,69
Community and social services	3,1	3,1	-40	-158	78	0,50
Private households	6,3	8,2	-54	-104	-4	0,03

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
	Jul-Sep 2025	Jul-Sep 2026				
South Africa	**0,8**	**0,8**	**-215**	**-536**	**107**	**0,19**
Formal sector*	1,0	1,1	357	45	670	0,03
Informal sector*	2,4	2,3	-485	-714	-255	0,00
Households	3,9	3,9	-87	-207	32	0,15
Western Cape	**1,6**	**1,8**	**69**	**-61**	**199**	**0,29**
Formal sector*	2,0	2,2	88	-49	225	0,21
Informal sector*	7,2	10,0	-29	-138	79	0,60
Households	11,6	9,2	10	-50	70	0,73
Western Cape – Non-Metro	**2,6**	**3,2**	**51**	**-38**	**139**	**0,26**
Formal sector*	2,8	5,1	39	-67	146	0,47
Informal sector*	10,6	19,7	0	-75	75	1,00
Households	13,5	10,0	11	-14	37	0,38
Western Cape – City of Cape Town	**2,0**	**2,1**	**19**	**-79**	**116**	**0,71**
Formal sector*	2,6	2,0	49	-38	136	0,27
Informal sector*	9,6	9,5	-29	-107	49	0,46
Households	16,4	13,8	-1	-56	53	0,97
Eastern Cape	**3,0**	**4,0**	**-26**	**-150**	**98**	**0,68**
Formal sector*	3,7	4,2	28	-72	128	0,59
Informal sector*	7,6	8,5	-50	-117	18	0,15
Households	12,5	11,0	-4	-21	14	0,68
Eastern Cape – Non-Metro	**3,5**	**6,0**	**-20**	**-100**	**61**	**0,63**
Formal sector*	4,7	5,5	-25	-92	42	0,46
Informal sector*	8,6	10,8	5	-52	61	0,86
Households	18,1	15,0	1	-16	18	0,91
Eastern Cape – Buffalo City	**6,5**	**10,8**	**-32**	**-105**	**40**	**0,38**
Formal sector*	8,5	12,5	6	-56	68	0,85
Informal sector*	11,7	12,2	-39	-60	-19	0,00
Households	18,9	9,3	1	-4	5	0,72

** 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 Q3:2025 to Q3:2026 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
	Jul-Sep 2025	Jul-Sep 2026				
Eastern Cape - Nelson Mandela bay	**7,8**	**5,2**	**26**	**-34**	**87**	**0,39**
Formal sector*	7,6	6,5	47	5	90	0,03
Informal sector*	29,8	14,1	-15	-45	14	0,31
Households	14,2	23,9	-5	-9	-2	0,00
Northern Cape	**7,2**	**6,3**	**-6**	**-42**	**29**	**0,73**
Formal sector*	8,1	8,6	8	-28	44	0,67
Informal sector*	14,8	13,6	-11	-26	4	0,16
Households	14,6	19,6	-3	-9	3	0,35
Free State	**3,0**	**3,2**	**-47**	**-101**	**6**	**0,08**
Formal sector*	4,0	4,8	-55	-105	-5	0,03
Informal sector*	9,6	6,3	14	-20	48	0,41
Households	8,9	11,2	-6	-20	8	0,38
Free State - Non-Metro	**4,0**	**4,6**	**-32**	**-80**	**15**	**0,18**
Formal sector*	5,2	6,9	-30	-73	13	0,17
Informal sector*	12,2	8,6	3	-25	31	0,82
Households	11,9	14,0	-5	-16	6	0,36
Free State - Mangaung	**3,8**	**2,4**	**-15**	**-39**	**9**	**0,22**
Formal sector*	5,5	2,2	-25	-49	0	0,05
Informal sector*	14,1	6,9	11	-8	29	0,26
Households	8,6	17,4	-1	-9	7	0,79
KwaZulu-Natal	**2,3**	**2,3**	**-26**	**-178**	**127**	**0,74**
Formal sector*	2,6	3,4	208	57	359	0,01
Informal sector*	6,4	5,2	-208	-313	-103	0,00
Households	8,7	11,9	-26	-70	18	0,24
KwaZulu-Natal - Non-Metro	**3,4**	**3,4**	**-91**	**-216**	**33**	**0,15**
Formal sector*	4,3	4,3	63	-55	181	0,30
Informal sector*	9,1	6,7	-131	-215	-48	0,00
Households	14,3	12,8	-23	-58	13	0,22

** 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 Q3:2025 to Q3:2026 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
	Jul-Sep 2025	Jul-Sep 2026				
KwaZulu-Natal - eThekwini	**2,8**	**3,2**	**66**	**-28**	**159**	**0,17**
Formal sector*	2,5	5,7	146	45	247	0,00
Informal sector*	8,4	8,2	-77	-139	-14	0,02
Households	9,1	19,5	-4	-29	22	0,78
North West	**3,6**	**4,9**	**-14**	**-111**	**83**	**0,78**
Formal sector*	4,5	4,9	-1	-66	63	0,97
Informal sector*	10,5	9,1	-18	-83	46	0,57
Households	13,5	20,6	6	-25	36	0,72
Gauteng	**1,3**	**1,8**	**-117**	**-272**	**37**	**0,14**
Formal sector*	2,0	2,5	94	-67	254	0,25
Informal sector*	4,6	3,9	-136	-247	-26	0,02
Households	8,2	8,2	-75	-149	-1	0,05
Gauteng - Non-Metro	**4,6**	**4,8**	**-44**	**-88**	**0**	**0,05**
Formal sector*	4,7	6,0	-18	-61	26	0,43
Informal sector*	12,3	13,2	-19	-47	8	0,17
Households	17,0	22,4	-7	-27	13	0,50
Gauteng - Ekurhuleni	**2,0**	**3,5**	**-26**	**-97**	**44**	**0,46**
Formal sector*	3,6	5,1	4	-67	75	0,91
Informal sector*	12,0	7,8	-19	-63	25	0,41
Households	14,9	8,2	-12	-29	6	0,18
Gauteng - City of Johannesburg	**2,7**	**3,5**	**38**	**-77**	**152**	**0,52**
Formal sector*	4,5	5,3	66	-24	157	0,15
Informal sector*	6,2	4,7	-10	-84	63	0,78
Households	10,1	13,9	-18	-62	26	0,42
Gauteng - City of Tshwane	**2,1**	**2,5**	**-85**	**-151**	**-19**	**0,01**
Formal sector*	3,2	2,9	41	-59	141	0,42
Informal sector*	10,4	13,9	-88	-154	-21	0,01
Households	21,7	15,3	-38	-91	15	0,16

** 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 Q3:2025 to Q3:2026 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
	Jul-Sep 2025	Jul-Sep 2026				
Mpumalanga	**3,3**	**2,5**	**-6**	**-92**	**81**	**0,90**
Formal sector*	3,4	4,0	-22	-98	54	0,56
Informal sector*	8,9	5,9	12	-47	70	0,70
Households	11,5	9,5	5	-23	34	0,71
Limpopo	**2,9**	**2,2**	**-42**	**-146**	**62**	**0,43**
Formal sector*	4,8	3,9	10	-92	113	0,85
Informal sector*	6,8	4,6	-57	-147	32	0,21
Households	11,5	8,0	5	-21	32	0,69

** 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 Q3:2025 to Q3:2026 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
	Jul-Sep 2025	Jul-Sep 2026				
Both sexes	**0,8**	**0,8**	**-215**	**-536**	**107**	**0,19**
Manager	3,7	4,1	84	-45	213	0,20
Professional	4,4	4,2	42	-60	145	0,42
Technician	3,2	3,8	-121	-257	15	0,08
Clerk	2,9	2,8	-37	-183	108	0,62
Sales and services	2,2	2,0	95	-69	259	0,25
Skilled agriculture	10,7	15,8	-46	-72	-20	0,00
Craft and related trade	2,8	2,9	-68	-217	82	0,37
Plant and machine operator	3,6	3,8	-3	-128	122	0,96
Elementary	2,0	2,1	-89	-290	113	0,39
Domestic worker	3,9	4,3	-48	-143	47	0,32
Women	**1,1**	**1,2**	**-89**	**-312**	**135**	**0,44**
Manager	6,2	6,3	64	-15	143	0,11
Professional	5,2	4,8	44	-24	113	0,20
Technician	4,2	4,7	-51	-139	38	0,26
Clerk	3,5	3,4	-100	-219	18	0,10
Sales and services	2,9	2,9	-10	-134	114	0,88
Skilled agriculture	25,9	22,7	-3	-20	13	0,70
Craft and related trade	7,2	7,3	-24	-70	22	0,31
Plant and machine operator	7,8	9,1	16	-28	60	0,48
Elementary	2,9	3,0	25	-96	145	0,69
Domestic worker	4,1	4,3	-40	-133	53	0,40
Men	**1,0**	**0,9**	**-126**	**-356**	**104**	**0,28**
Manager	3,9	4,2	20	-75	115	0,68
Professional	6,0	7,1	-2	-69	64	0,95
Technician	4,2	4,9	-70	-161	21	0,13
Clerk	4,7	4,8	63	-9	135	0,09
Sales and services	3,0	2,9	105	-20	230	0,10
Skilled agriculture	12,1	21,2	-43	-64	-22	0,00
Craft and related trade	3,0	3,1	-44	-178	90	0,52
Plant and machine operator	3,9	3,9	-19	-130	92	0,74
Elementary	2,4	2,6	-113	-264	37	0,14
Domestic worker	14,8	19,1	-8	-29	13	0,46