

South Africa - Quarterly Labour Force Survey 2026, Quarter 1

Statistics South Africa

Report generated on: July 3, 2026

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Identification

SURVEY ID NUMBER

zaf-statssa-qlfs-2026-q1-v1

TITLE

Quarterly Labour Force Survey 2026, Quarter 1

ABBREVIATION OR ACRONYM

QLFS 2026-1

COUNTRY

Name	Country code
South Africa	zaf

STUDY TYPE

Labour Force Survey

ABSTRACT

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 or older who live in South Africa.

KIND OF DATA

Sample survey data [ssd]

UNIT OF ANALYSIS

Individuals

Version

VERSION DESCRIPTION

v1: Edited, anonymised dataset for public distribution

VERSION DATE

2026-05

VERSION NOTES

DataFirst retrieved this version from StatsSA on 18th May, 2026

Scope

NOTES

INDIVIDUALS: labour market activity, labour preferences, labour market history, demographic characteristics, marital status, employment status, education, grants, tax.

From 2010 the income data collected by South Africa's Quarterly Labour Force Survey is no longer provided in the QLFS dataset (except for a brief return in QLFS 2010 Q3 which may be an error). Possibly because the data is unreliable at the level of the quarter, Statistics South Africa now provides the income data from the QLFS in an annualised dataset called Labour Market Dynamics in South Africa (LMDSA). The datasets for LMDSA are available from DataFirst's website.

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

The survey has national coverage

GEOGRAPHIC UNIT

The data is at the provincial and metropolitan level, as well as by geographic type (urban/traditional/farms)

UNIVERSE

The QLFS sample covers the non-institutional population, except for workers' hostels. Persons living in private dwelling units within institutions are also included in the enumeration. For example, within a school compound, one would enumerate the schoolmaster's house and the teachers' accommodation, as these are private dwellings. Students living in a dormitory on the school compound would, however, be excluded.

Producers and sponsors

PRIMARY INVESTIGATORS

Name	Affiliation
Statistics South Africa	Government of South Africa

Sampling

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

The QLFS uses a master sampling frame that is used by several household surveys conducted by Statistics South Africa. This wave of the QLFS is based on the 2013 master frame, which was created based on the 2011 census. There are 3324 PSUs in the master frame and roughly 33 000 dwelling units. The 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. 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. For more information see the statistical release.

WEIGHTING

The sample weights were constructed to account for the following: 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; and raking to bias-adjusted control estimates from a bias-adjustment procedure to compensate for the non-coverage bias in the sample.

Data Collection

DATES OF DATA COLLECTION

Start	End
2026-01	2026-03

TIME PERIODS

Start date	End date
2026-01	2026-03

DATA COLLECTION MODE

Face-to-face and Computer Assisted Personal and Telephone Interviews

DATA COLLECTION NOTES

Data was collected using face-to-face interviewing with CAPI questionnaires

DATA COLLECTORS

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation
Statistics South Africa	StatsSA	Government of South Africa

Access policy

CONTACTS

Name	Affiliation	Email	URL
DataFirst Helpdesk	University of Cape Town	support.data1st.org	Link

ACCESS CONDITIONS

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CITATION REQUIREMENTS

Statistics South Africa. Quarterly Labour Force Survey 2026: Quarter 1 [dataset]. Version 1. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa [producer], 2026. Cape Town: DataFirst [distributor], 2026. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25828/twqp-bh07>

ACCESS AUTHORITY

Name	Affiliation	Email	URL
DataFirst	University of Cape Town	support@data1st.org	Link

LOCATION OF DATA COLLECTION

DataFirst Dataportal

ARCHIVE WHERE STUDY IS ORIGINALLY STORED

Statistics South Africa website

Metadata production

PRODUCERS

Name	Affiliation	Role
DataFirst	University of Cape Town	Metadata producer

DATE OF METADATA PRODUCTION

2026-05

DDI DOCUMENT VERSION

Version 1

Data Description

Data file	Cases	Variables
qlfs-2026-q1-v1	0	200

Download related resources

Questionnaires

QLFS CAPI 2026 [Questionnaire]

Title QLFS CAPI 2026 [Questionnaire]
Author(s) StatsSA
Country South Africa
Language English
Filename q-qlfs-2026-q1.pdf

Other materials

QLFS 2026 Q1 Metadata

Title QLFS 2026 Q1 Metadata
Author(s) StatsSA
Country South Africa
Language English
Filename qlfs-2026-q1-metadata.pdf

Concepts and definitions used in QLFS

Title Concepts and definitions used in QLFS
Author(s) StatsSA
Date 2008-08-30T22:00:00.000Z
Country South Africa
Language English
Filename qlfs-2026-q1-concepts.pdf

Guide to the QLFS

Title Guide to the QLFS
Author(s) StatsSA
Country South Africa
Language English
Filename qlfs-2026-q1-guide.pdf
