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Quarterly Labour Force Survey

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Note to data users

The results of the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) for the 4th quarter of 2021 were scheduled for release on 22 February 2022. However, there were some data quality concerns that warranted the delay of the publication to allow time to do some quality checks before the results can be published. The main concern was the response rates that have been declining over time since the introduction of Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI).

Having done a series of quality checks, a decision was made to only publish national and provincial estimates and not publish metro / non-metro estimates. The coefficient of variation (CV) has been used to make a determination of which estimates to publish. Estimates with CVs not exceeding 30% are published. However, **estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution**. Metro / non-metro estimates mostly have CVs of more than 30%, hence a decision not to publish them.

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.

Stats SA suspended face-to-face data collection for all its surveys on 19 March 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and restricted movement. This was to ensure that the field staff and respondents were not exposed to the risk of contracting the coronavirus and to contain its spread. It is, however, imperative that Stats SA continues to provide statistics on the South African labour market. In this regard, Stats SA changed the mode of collection for collecting QLFS data to Computer-assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI). To facilitate CATI, the sample that was used for QLFS Q1: 2020 was also used in Q2: 2020, Q3: 2020, Q4: 2020 and Q1: 2021. The COVID-19 restrictions limiting the movement of the general population in the country were eased prior to data collection of the QLFS in Q2: 2021, Q3: 2021 and Q4: 2021. This allowed sample rotation to take place for the QLFS in Q2: 2021, Q3: 2021 and Q4: 2021. Further, it allowed for face-to-face collection of telephone numbers for dwelling units in both the new sample (i.e. rotation group 3) and for dwelling units without contact details for the overlapping sample (i.e. rotation groups 1, 2 and 4) from Q2: 2020.

Therefore, not all dwelling units on the sample had contact numbers, and as a result, the data was only collected from the part of the sample for which contact numbers were available for QLFS Q4: 2021. The dwelling units for which contact numbers were not available as of Q4: 2021. That is, dwelling units that were out-of-scope in Q3: 2021 remained out-of-scope in Q4: 2021; dwelling units that were non-contacts in Q3: 2021 remained non-contacts in Q4: 2021. For the remaining Q4: 2021 sample with contact numbers, during data collection some of the contact numbers were found to be invalid, some were not answered, and some households in the sampled dwelling units indicated that they were no longer residing at the dwelling units they had occupied during Q3: 2021. All of these were regarded as non-contacts and were adjusted for during the weighting processes. The details of how the adjustment was done are contained in the Technical notes in this report.

This report presents the key findings of the QLFS conducted from October to December 2021 (Q4: 2021).

2. Highlights of the results

Table A: Key labour market indicators

	Oct-Dec 2020	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change
	Thousand				Per cent		
Population 15–64 yrs	39 311	39 745	39 888	143	578	0,4	1,5
Labour force	22 257	21 925	22 466	540	209	2,5	0,9
Employed	15 024	14 282	14 544	262	-479	1,8	-3,2
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	10 495	9 628	9 771	143	-724	1,5	-6,9
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	2 521	2 695	2 647	-48	126	-1,8	5,0
Agriculture	810	829	868	38	57	4,6	7,1
Private households	1 197	1 130	1 258	129	62	11,4	5,2
Unemployed	7 233	7 643	7 921	278	688	3,6	9,5
Not economically active	17 054	17 820	17 423	-397	369	-2,2	2,2
Discouraged work-seekers	2 930	3 862	3 806	-56	876	-1,4	29,9
Other (not economically active)	14 124	13 958	13 617	-341	-507	-2,4	-3,6
Rates (%)							
Unemployment rate	32,5	34,9	35,3	0,4	2,8		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	38,2	35,9	36,5	0,6	-1,7		
Labour force participation rate	56,6	55,2	56,3	1,1	-0,3		

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

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

The working-age population increased by 143 000 or 0,4% in the fourth quarter of 2021 compared to the third quarter of 2021. Compared to Q4: 2020, the working-age population increased by 578 000 or 1,5%. The number of employed persons increased by 262 000 to 14,5 million in Q4: 2021, and the number of unemployed persons increased by 278 000 to 7,9 million compared to Q3: 2021, resulting in an increase of 540 000 (up by 2,5%) in the number of people in the labour force. The number of discouraged work-seekers decreased by 56 000 (down by 1,4%) and the number of people who were not economically active for reasons other than discouragement also decreased by 341 000 (down by 2,4%) between the two quarters, resulting in a net decrease of 397 000 in the not economically active population.

To better understand the observed large changes in the key labour market indicators between Q3: 2021 and Q4: 2021, special tabulations were done to study movements between labour market status categories. It was observed that a large number of persons moved from the "not economically active" status to the "employed" and "unemployed" categories between the two quarters, which resulted in an increase of 0,4 of a percentage point in the unemployment rate to 35,3%. This is the highest unemployment rate recorded since the start of the QLFS in 2008. The labour force participation rate in Q4: 2021 was higher than that reported in Q3: 2021 as a result of these movements – increasing by 1,1 percentage points to 56,3%. The absorption rate also increased by 0,6 of a percentage point to 36,5% in the fourth quarter of 2021 compared to the third quarter of 2021.

The only employment decrease was observed in the informal sector (48 000) in Q4: 2021, while employment gains were observed in the formal sector (143 000), Private households (129 000) and Agricultural sector (38 000).

Compared to a year ago, total employment decreased by 479 000 persons. The number of unemployed persons increased by 9,5% (688 000), while the number of persons who were not economically active increased by 2,2% (369 000).

3. Employment

Figure 1: Quarter-to-quarter changes in employment, Q4: 2015 to Q4: 2021

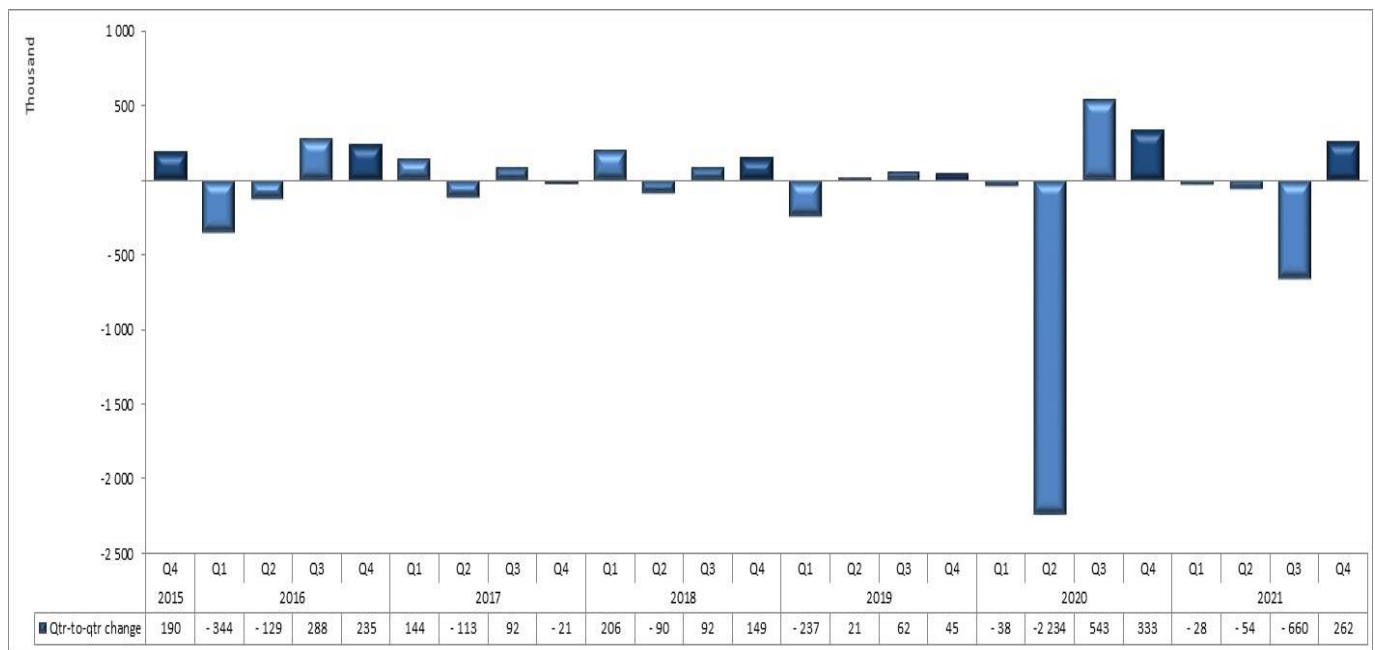


Figure 1 shows that employment increased by 262 000 in the fourth quarter of 2021 following a decrease of 660 000 in the previous quarter. As depicted in Figure 1, employment has always increased in the fourth quarters of each year since 2015, except for a decrease observed in 2017. The results further confirm that this is the third increase in employment since the national lockdown.

Table B: Employment by industry

Industry	Oct-Dec 2020	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand				Per cent		
Total*	15 024	14 282	14 544	262	-479	1,8	-3,2
Agriculture	810	829	868	38	57	4,6	7,1
Mining	384	345	370	25	-14	7,3	-3,5
Manufacturing	1 491	1 402	1 316	-85	-174	-6,1	-11,7
Utilities	99	96	82	-14	-18	-14,7	-17,7
Construction	1 166	1 157	1 133	-25	-33	-2,1	-2,8
Trade	3 063	2 778	2 896	118	-168	4,2	-5,5
Transport	943	964	951	-13	8	-1,4	0,8
Finance	2 312	2 386	2 404	18	93	0,8	4,0
Community and social services	3 551	3 191	3 264	73	-286	2,3	-8,1
Private households	1 197	1 130	1 258	129	62	11,4	5,2

*Note: Total includes 'Other' industries.

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

Note: Utilities refers 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.

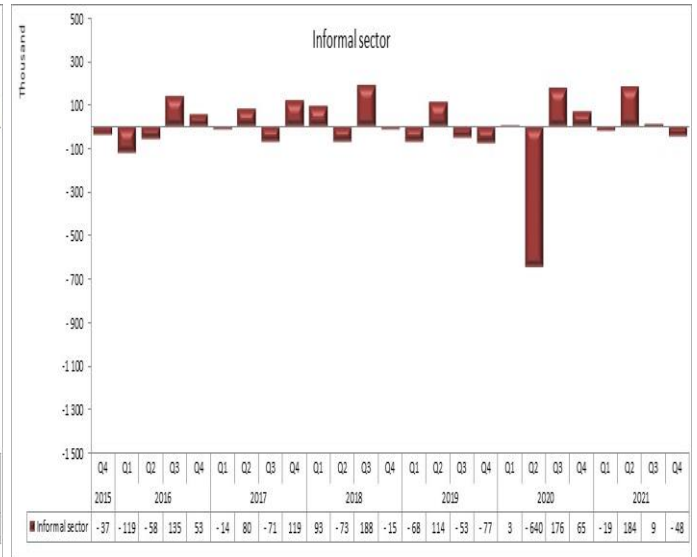
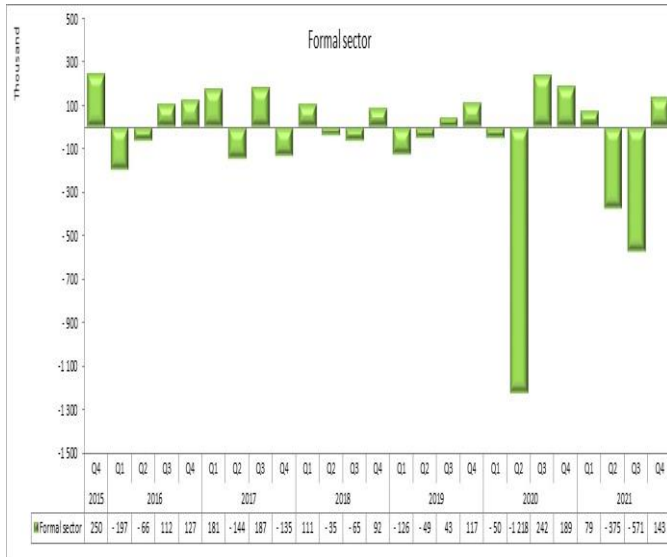
Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Table B shows that between Q3: 2021 and Q4: 2021, the number of employed persons increased in six of the ten industries. The largest increase in employment was recorded in Private households (129 000), followed by Trade (118 000), Community and social services (73 000) and Agriculture (38 000). The largest decrease in employment was recorded in Manufacturing (85 000), followed by Construction (25 000), Utilities (14 000) and Transport (13 000).

Compared to the same period last year, a net decline of 479 000 in total employment in Q4: 2021 was largely due to decreases in the number of people employed in the Community and social services (286 000), Manufacturing (174 000), Trade (168 000) and Construction (33 000) industries.

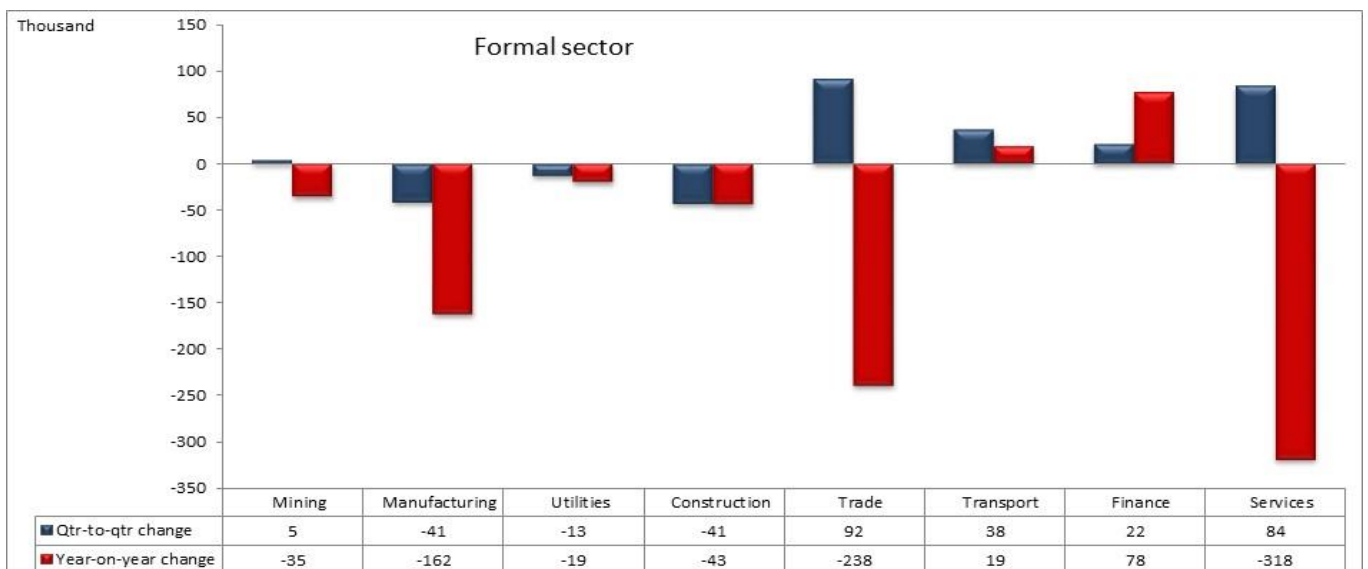
Figure 2a: Quarter-to-quarter employment changes in the formal sector, Q4: 2015 to Q4: 2021

Figure 2b: Quarter-to-quarter employment changes in the informal sector, Q4: 2015 to Q4: 2021



Following an increase in the informal sector employment in Q3: 2021 (9 000), employment decreased by 48 000 in Q4: 2021 in this sector. Employment in the formal sector increased by 143 000 in Q4: 2021 compared to Q3: 2021.

Figure 3: Quarter-to-quarter and year-on-year changes in the formal sector by industry

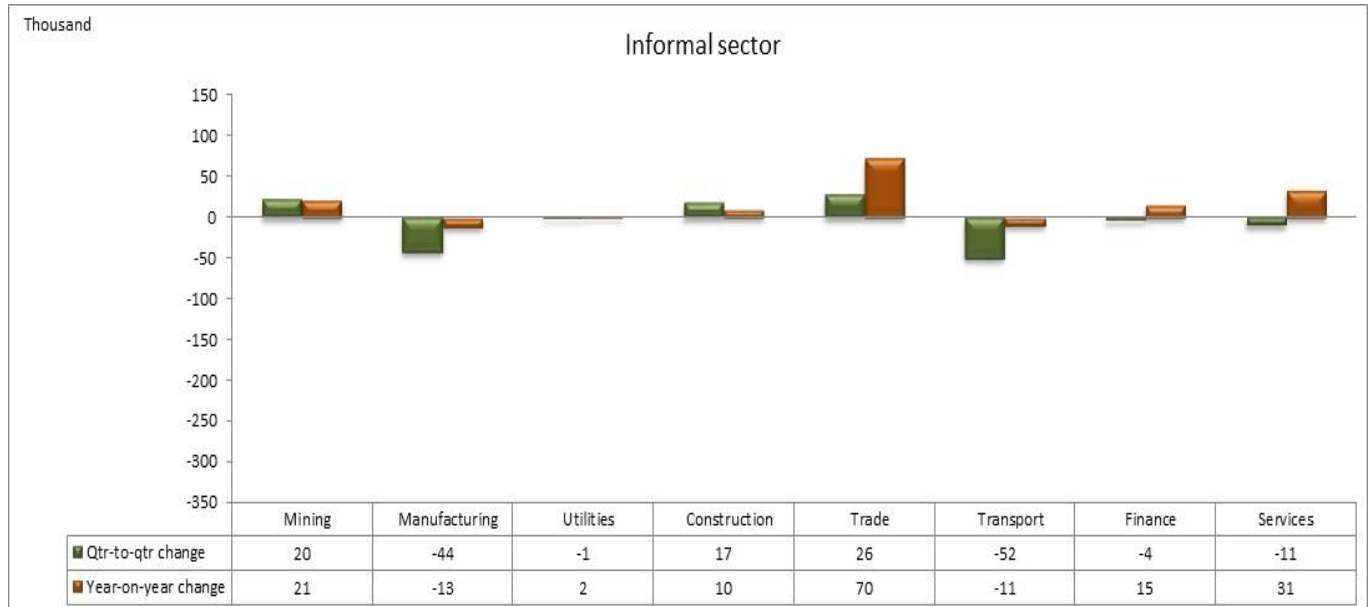


Note: Utilities refers to Electricity, gas and water supply. Trade refers to Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods; hotels and restaurants. Finance refers to Financial intermediation, insurance, real estate and business services. Services refers to Community, personal and social services.

Five out of eight industries recorded formal sector employment gains. An increase of 143 000 in the formal sector employment was mainly driven by the Trade (92 000), Community and social services (84 000), Transport (38 000), Finance (22 000) and Mining (5 000) industries. Manufacturing (41 000), Construction (41 000) and Utilities (13 000) were the only industries that experienced losses in formal sector employment in Q4: 2021 compared to Q3: 2021.

Compared to a year ago, a net loss of 724 000 jobs in the formal sector employment was mainly driven by the Community and social services (318 000), Trade (238 000), Manufacturing (162 000), Construction (43 000), Mining (35 000) and Utilities (19 000) industries in Q4: 2021.

Figure 4: Quarter-to-quarter and year-on-year changes in the informal sector by industry



Note: Utilities refers 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.

Services refers to Community, personal and social services.

In the fourth quarter of 2021, informal sector employment decreased by 48 000 persons compared to the previous quarter. The losses in the informal sector employment were driven by the Transport (52 000), Manufacturing (44 000), Community and social services (11 000), Finance (4 000) and Utilities (1 000) industries. The rest of the industries experienced gains in informal sector employment.

Compared to Q4: 2020, the increases in employment in the informal sector were driven by the Trade (70 000), Community and social services (31 000), Mining (21 000), Finance (15 000), Construction (10 000) and Utilities (2 000) industries.

Table C: Employment by occupation

Occupation	Oct-Dec 2020	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand				Per cent		
Total	15 024	14 282	14 544	262	-479	1,8	-3,2
Manager	1 324	1 342	1 257	-85	-68	-6,4	-5,1
Professional	952	946	933	-13	-19	-1,4	-2,0
Technician	1 352	1 235	1 265	30	-87	2,4	-6,4
Clerk	1 579	1 411	1 371	-40	-208	-2,8	-13,1
Sales and services	2 476	2 149	2 316	167	-160	7,8	-6,5
Skilled agriculture	85	63	68	4	-18	6,7	-20,6
Craft and related trade	1 660	1 526	1 519	-6	-141	-0,4	-8,5
Plant and machine operator	1 257	1 219	1 236	16	-22	1,3	-1,7
Elementary	3 393	3 534	3 630	96	237	2,7	7,0
Domestic worker	897	856	949	93	52	10,9	5,9

*Note: Total includes 'Other' occupations.

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

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Six out of ten occupational categories experienced gains in employment. The largest increases in employment were observed in the Sales and services occupations (up by 167 000), followed by Elementary (up by 96 000), Domestic worker (up by 93 000) and Technician (up by 30 000) occupations in Q4: 2021 compared to the previous quarter. The largest decrease in employment was recorded in Managerial (down by 85 000) occupation, followed by Clerks (down by 40 000), Professionals (down by 13 000) and Craft and related trade (down by 6 000)

Year-on-year losses in employment were mainly driven by Clerical occupations (208 000), followed by Sales and services (160 000), Craft and related trade (141 000), Technicians (87 000) and Managerial (68 000) occupations. The only occupations that recorded gains in employment in Q4: 2021 compared to Q4: 2020 were Elementary (237 000) and Domestic worker (52 000).

Table D: Employment by province

Province	Oct-Dec 2020	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand				Per cent		
South Africa	15 024	14 282	14 544	262	-479	1,8	-3,2
Western Cape	2 338	2 225	2 263	37	-75	1,7	-3,2
Eastern Cape	1 236	1 216	1 247	31	12	2,6	0,9
Northern Cape	308	275	264	-11	-43	-4,0	-14,1
Free State	745	720	727	8	-18	1,0	-2,4
KwaZulu-Natal	2 454	2 297	2 424	126	-31	5,5	-1,3
North West	944	851	858	7	-86	0,9	-9,1
Gauteng	4 570	4 448	4 524	76	-46	1,7	-1,0
Mpumalanga	1 148	1 104	1 052	-51	-96	-4,7	-8,3
Limpopo	1 281	1 145	1 184	39	-96	3,4	-7,5

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

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

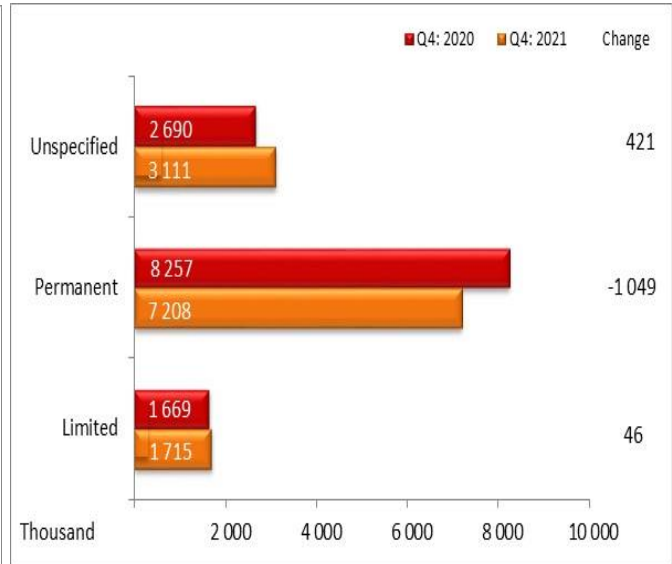
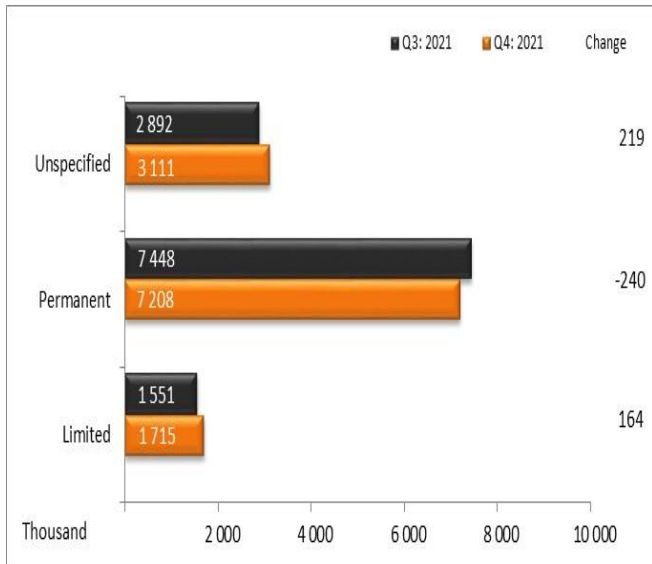
Table D shows that the number of employed persons increased in seven provinces between Q3: 2021 and Q4: 2021. The largest employment increases were recorded in KwaZulu-Natal (up by 126 000), Gauteng (up by 76 000), Limpopo (up by 39 000), Western Cape (up by 37 000) and Eastern Cape (up by 31 000). Employment losses were recorded in Mpumalanga and Northern Cape at 51 000 and 11 000 respectively, during the same period. KwaZulu-Natal had the biggest quarter-to-quarter change in employment of 5,5%.

Compared to Q4: 2020, the largest decreases in employment were recorded in Mpumalanga and Limpopo (down by 96 000 each), followed by North West (down by 86 000), Western Cape (down by 75 000), Gauteng (down by 46 000) and Northern Cape (down by 43 000). The lowest decrease in employment was recorded in Free State (down by 18 000) in Q4: 2021.. Eastern Cape was the only province that recorded gains in employment at 12 000. Northern Cape had the biggest change in employment with a decrease of 14,1%, followed by North West with a decrease of 9,1%.

3.1 Conditions of employment for employees

Figure 5: Quarter-to-quarter changes in nature of employment contract

Figure 6: Year-on-year changes in nature of employment contract



Figures 5 and 6 show that the majority of employees had permanent employment contracts. Between the third and the fourth quarters of 2021, the number of employees with contracts of permanent nature decreased by 240 000, while those with contracts of a limited duration and contracts of unspecified duration increased by 164 000 and 219 000, respectively.

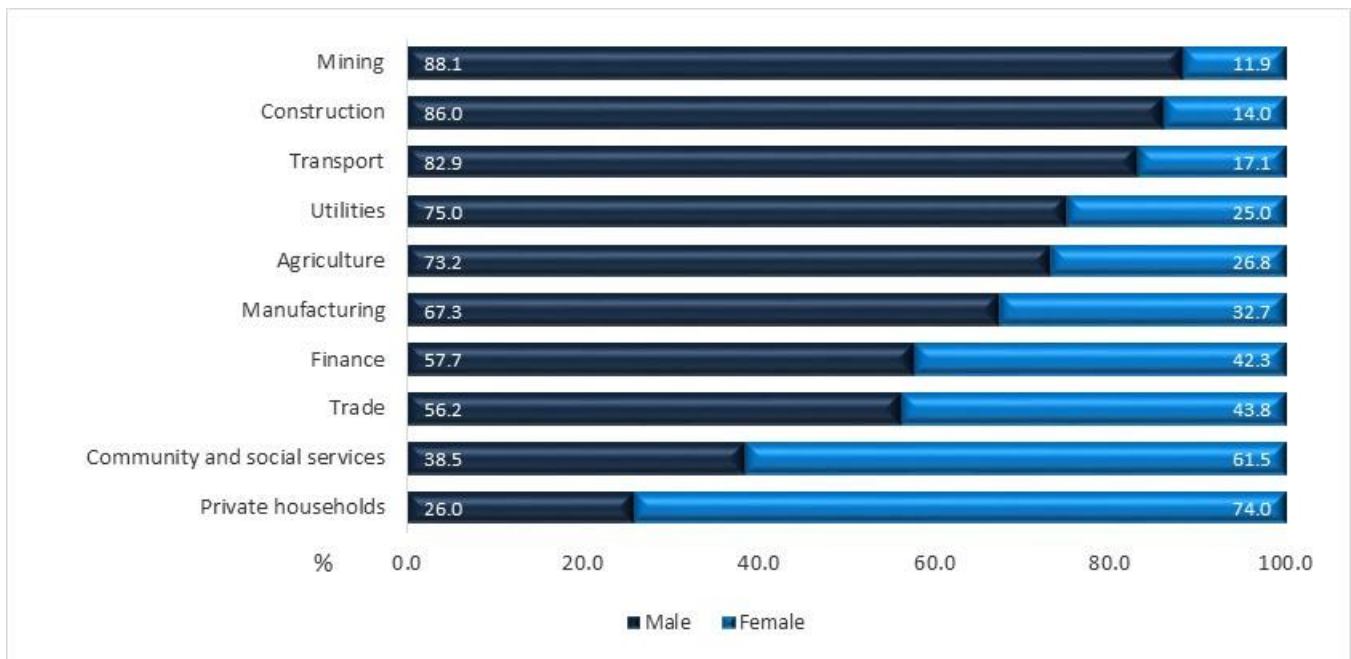
The year-on-year comparisons indicated that the number of employees with contracts of permanent nature decreased by 1,049 million, while the number of employees with contracts of unspecified duration and contracts of limited duration increased by 421 000 and 46 000, respectively.

3.2 Additional analysis on employment in relation to COVID-19

In a quest to protect South African citizens from the novel coronavirus, the government announced a national lockdown, which in turn resulted in a shock in the labour market and a big change in the way people went about doing their work. Some additional questions were included in the Q4: 2021 questionnaire to capture these changes. These included whether people were working from their usual places of work or working from home; whether they continued to receive salaries during lockdown; whether they received full or reduced salaries; whether they would be returning to the same jobs/businesses after the lockdown; and whether they thought they might lose their jobs or that their businesses would close in the foreseeable future due to COVID-19. This section of the report focuses on indicators derived from these additional questions that were asked of only those who were employed.

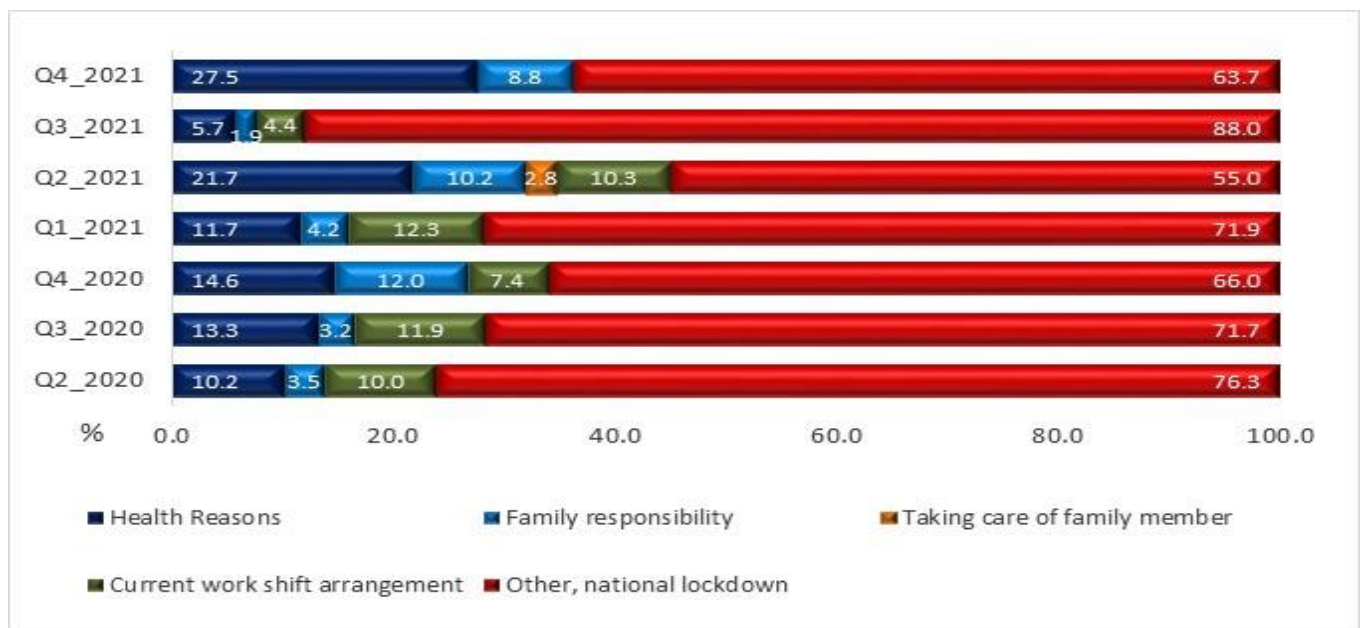
Of the 14,5 million persons who were employed in Q4: 2021, about four out of every five persons (85,5%) were expected to work during the national lockdown by the companies/organisations they work for.

Figure 7: Percentage distribution of those who worked during lockdown by industry and sex, Q4: 2021



There were 12,4 million persons who were expected to work by their employer and did some work during the national lockdown in Q4: 2021. These were predominantly men in most industries, except in the Community and social services and Private households industries, where the majority were women. Four out of every five people employed within the Mining industry who worked during the lockdown were men.

Figure 8: Reasons that prevented those expected to work from doing any work, Q2: 2020 to Q4: 2021



Some of the people with jobs indicated that they were expected to work during the national lockdown in Q4: 2021, but could not do any work during that period. About 6 in 10 (63,7%) of these people cited the national lockdown as the main reason for not actually working. This is 24,3 percentage points lower than in the previous quarter. Furthermore, 27,5% of the employed people cited health as the reason for not doing any work during the lockdown while the rest indicated that they did not work due to family responsibilities (8,8%) in Q4: 2021.

Table E: Work location by province, Q3: 2021 and Q4: 2021

Province	Jul-Sep 2021			Oct-Dec 2021			Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change (%)
	Usual place of work	Work from home	Total	Usual place of work	Work from home	Total	% worked from home Q3: 2021	% worked from home Q4: 2021	
	Thousand			Thousand			%		
Western Cape	1 499	276	1 775	1 601	240	1 841	15,6	13,0	-2,5
Eastern Cape	881	52	933	955	52	1 007	5,5	5,2	-0,3
Northern Cape	201	5	206	174	0	175	2,6	0,2	-2,4
Free State	564	38	602	577	41	618	6,3	6,6	0,3
KwaZulu-Natal	1 958	93	2 051	2 087	73	2 160	4,5	3,4	-1,2
North West	501	13	514	600	15	615	2,4	2,4	0,0
Gauteng	3 462	379	3 841	3 661	176	3 838	9,9	4,6	-5,3
Mpumalanga	1 027	48	1 075	995	35	1 031	4,4	3,4	-1,0
Limpopo	978	32	1 010	1 028	38	1 066	3,1	3,6	0,4
South Africa	11 072	936	12 008	11 680	671	12 351	7,8	5,4	-2,4

Those who worked during the national lockdown were asked whether they were working from home or usual place of work. Table E shows that the majority worked from their usual place of work in both Q3: 2021 and Q4: 2021. In the fourth quarter of 2021, 5,4% of the employees indicated that they worked from home, which is 2,4 percentage points lower than in the previous quarter. The proportion of those who worked from home was higher in Western Cape and Free State than in the other provinces. There was a decrease in the proportion of workers who worked

from home in most provinces in Q4: 2021 compared to Q3: 2021. Only Free State and Limpopo recorded increases in this regard, while North West remained unchanged.

Figure 9: Work from home by occupation, Q3: 2021 and Q4: 2021

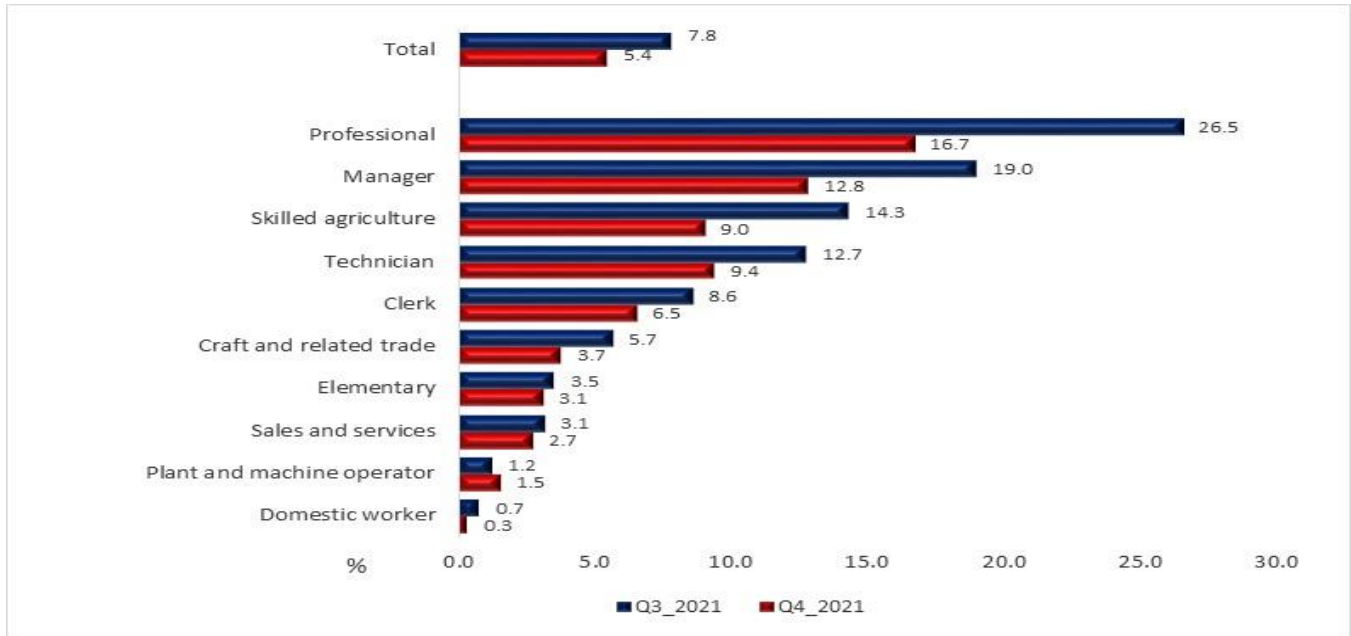
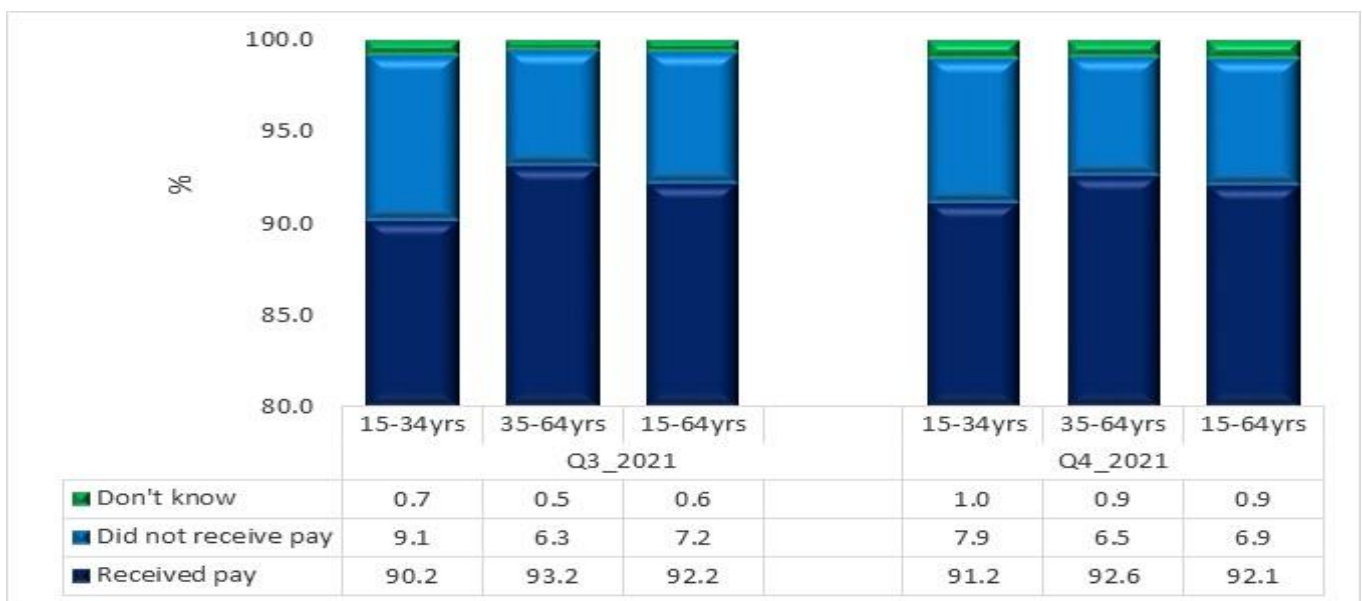


Figure 9 shows that in Q4: 2021 the share of those who worked from home was higher among those in Professional (16,7%) and Managerial (12,8%) occupations, indicating access to tools of trade to facilitate work from home for these workers. Domestic workers and Plant and machine operators were the least likely to work from home at 0,3% and 1,5%, respectively.

Figure 10: Percentage of those who received pay during lockdown by age group, Q3: 2021 and Q4: 2021



When asked if they continued to receive pay/salary from their jobs/businesses during the lockdown, 92,1% of all employed persons indicated that they received their pay/salary in Q4: 2021 – a 0,1 of a percentage point difference compared to Q3: 2021. Figure 10 shows that the proportion of employed persons who continued to receive pay/salary

during the lockdown increased by 1,0 percentage point among the youth (15–34 years), and decreased by 0,6 of a percentage point among adults (35–64 years) in Q4: 2021 compared to Q3: 2021.

Figure 11: Employees who received full or reduced salaries by level of education, Q3: 2021 and Q4: 2021

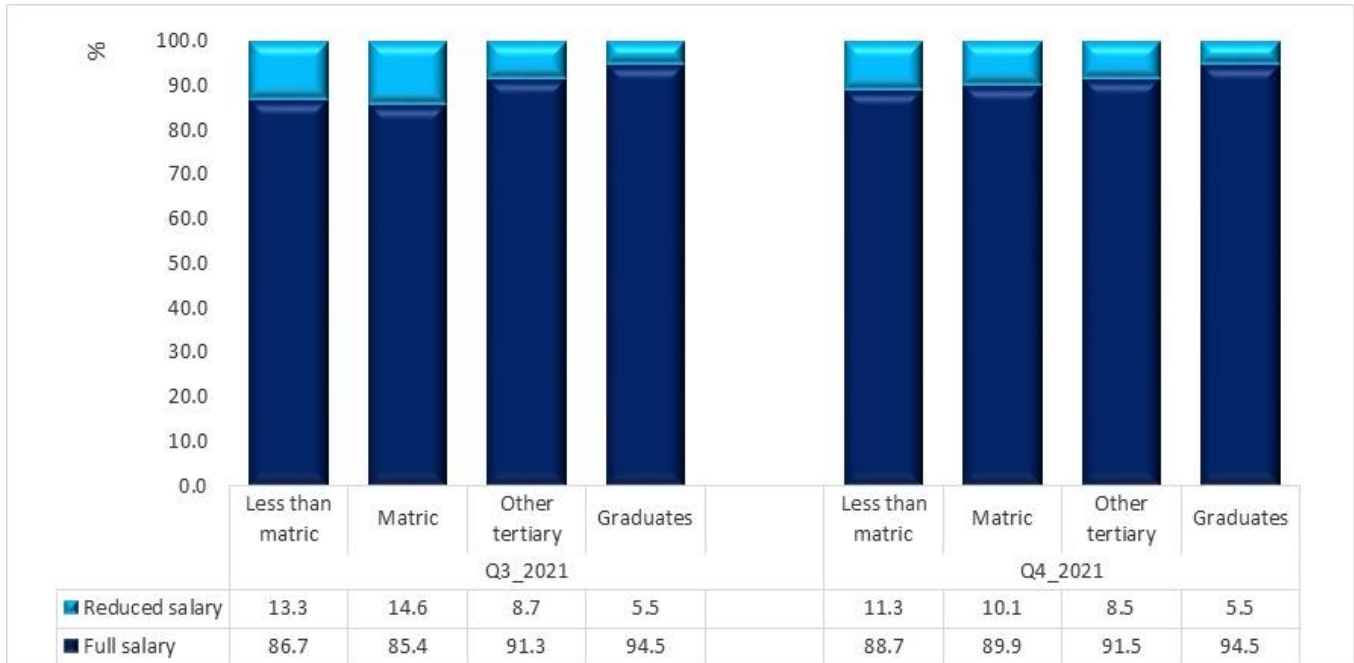


Figure 11 shows that, of those who continued to receive pay during the lockdown, some had a reduction in their pay/salary during the lockdown. There seems to be some relationship between the level of education and reduction in pay/salary. Those with higher levels of education had higher chances of receiving a full salary than those with lower levels of education in both Q3: 2021 and Q4: 2021. About 9 in every 10 employed graduates (94,5%) continued to receive full salaries, compared to 88,7% of those with less than matric as their highest level of education in Q4: 2021.

Those who were employed during the national lockdown were also asked if they would be returning to the same job after lockdown: 94,4% indicated that they will; 1,2% indicated that they will not return to the same job; and 4,4% were not sure if they would return to the same job in Q4: 2021. Those who stated that they were not returning to the same job or were not sure were also asked if they thought they might lose their jobs or close their businesses in the four weeks succeeding the survey interview due to COVID-19. Approximately 12,0% indicated that they thought they would lose their jobs due to COVID_19 in Q4: 2021. This was 1,6 percentage points higher than in Q3: 2021.

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

4.1 Unemployment

There are two definitions of unemployment used to describe form of unemployment: the official definition and the expanded definition of unemployment.

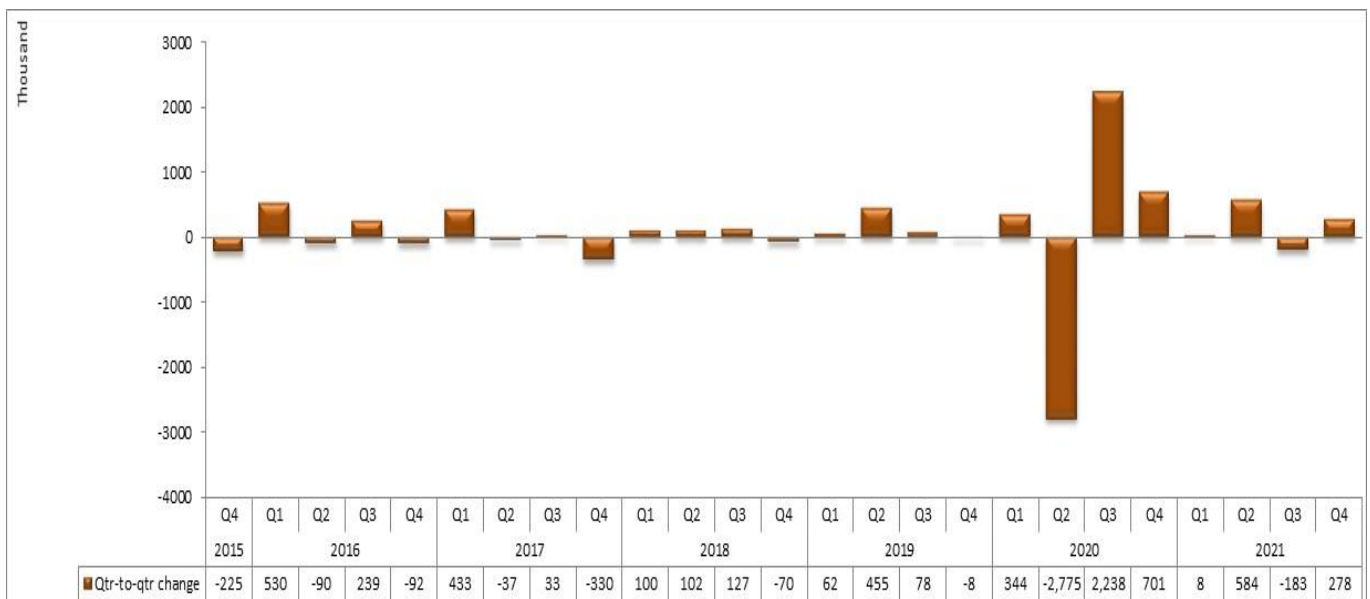
Unemployed persons according to the *Official definition* are those (aged 15–64 years) who:

- 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.

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

- a) Were not employed in the reference week; **and**
- b) Were available to work but did not look for work either because they are discouraged from looking for work (see definition of discouraged work-seeker) or did not look for work for other reasons other than discouragement.

Figure 12: Quarter-to-quarter changes in unemployment, Q4: 2015 to Q4: 2021



The number of unemployed persons increased by 278 000 in Q4: 2021 following a decrease of 183 000 in the previous quarter. Notable from Figure 12 is that this is the fifth increase in unemployment since the COVID-19 national lockdown. However, it should be noted that from Q3: 2020 to Q4: 2021, the national lockdown regulations were relaxed, which allowed travelling. This played a role in people actively looking for work, whereas during Q2: 2020 the country was under hard lockdown that prevented movement.

Figure 13: Proportion of the unemployed by education level, Q4: 2021

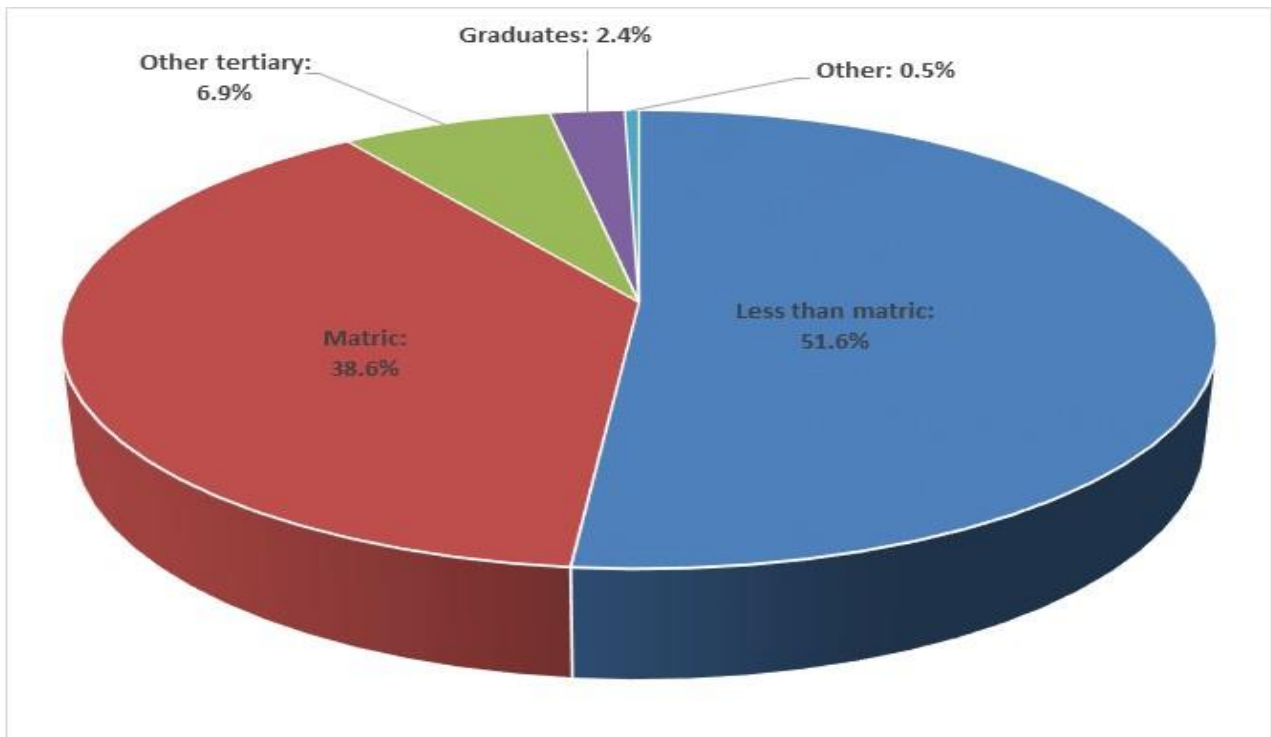


Figure 13 shows that of the 7,9 million unemployed persons in the fourth quarter of 2021, as many as 51,6% had education levels below matric, followed by those with matric at 38,6%. Only 2,4% of unemployed persons were graduates, while 6,9% had other tertiary qualifications as their highest level of education.

Table F: Unemployment rate by province

	Official unemployment rate					Expanded unemployment rate				
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Oct-Dec 2020	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Per cent			Percentage points		Per cent			Percentage points	
South Africa	32,5	34,9	35,3	0,4	2,8	42,6	46,6	46,2	-0,4	3,6
Western Cape	22,5	26,3	28,0	1,7	5,5	26,8	30,3	30,4	0,1	3,6
Eastern Cape	47,9	47,4	45,0	-2,4	-2,9	52,4	54,5	53,2	-1,3	0,8
Northern Cape	28,7	24,9	25,0	0,1	-3,7	41,8	49,1	50,1	1,0	8,3
Free State	33,4	38,1	36,7	-1,4	3,3	39,9	45,8	44,2	-1,6	4,3
KwaZulu-Natal	29,6	28,7	32,4	3,7	2,8	46,0	48,6	48,7	0,1	2,7
North West	33,3	35,7	33,8	-1,9	0,5	46,0	52,2	49,9	-2,3	3,9
Gauteng	34,1	37,0	36,6	-0,4	2,5	41,0	44,9	44,4	-0,5	3,4
Mpumalanga	33,0	37,5	39,7	2,2	6,7	46,4	49,7	52,4	2,7	6,0
Limpopo	27,3	32,5	33,9	1,4	6,6	47,5	54,5	52,8	-1,7	5,3

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

The official unemployment rate increased by 0,4 of a percentage point to 35,3% in Q4: 2021 compared to Q3: 2021. The official unemployment rate increased in five provinces. The largest increases were recorded in KwaZulu-Natal (up by 3,7 percentage points), followed by Mpumalanga (up by 2,2 percentage points), Western Cape (up by 1,7 percentage points) and Limpopo (up by 1,4 percentage points). Eastern Cape recorded the largest decrease of 2,4

of a percentage points, followed by North West (down by 1,9 percentage points), Free State (down by 1,4 percentage points) and Gauteng (down by 0,4 of a percentage point).

Year-on-year, the official unemployment rate increased by 2,8 percentage points. The official unemployment rate increased in all the provinces, except in Northern Cape and Eastern Cape, where it decreased by 3,7 percentage points and 2,9 percentage points respectively. The largest increase in unemployment rate was recorded in Mpumalanga (up by 6,7 percentage points), followed by Limpopo (up by 6,6 percentage points), Western Cape (up by 5,5 percentage points) and Free State (up by 3,3 percentage points). North West recorded the lowest increase of 0,5 of a percentage point in the official unemployment rate during the same period.

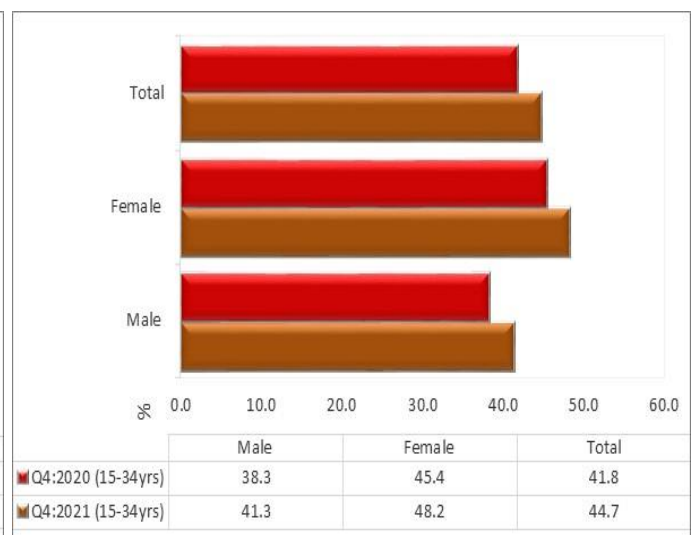
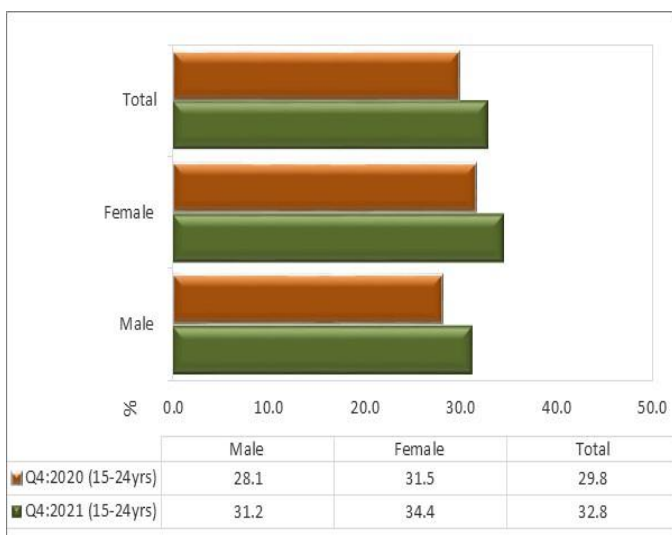
The expanded unemployment rate decreased by 0,4 of a percentage point in Q4: 2021 compared to Q3: 2021. This is reflective of the fact that people were available for work but did not actively look for work. Five provinces recorded a decrease in the expanded unemployment rate. The largest decrease was recorded in North West (down by 2,3 percentage points), followed by Limpopo (down by 1,7 percentage points), Free State (down by 1,6 percentage points) and Eastern Cape (down by 1,3 percentage points). Mpumalanga recorded the largest increase in expanded unemployment rate, where it increased by 2,7 percentage points, followed by Northern Cape with an increase of 1,0 percentage point. Compared to the same period last year, the expanded unemployment rate increased by 3,6 percentage points in Q4: 2021. All provinces recorded increases in the expanded unemployment rate. The largest increase in the expanded unemployment rate was recorded in Northern Cape (up by 8,3 percentage points), followed by Mpumalanga (up by 6,0 percentage points each), Limpopo (up by 5,3 percentage points), Free State (up by 4,3 percentage points) and North West (up by 3,9 percentage points).

4.2 Not in employment, education or training (NEET)

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

Figure 14a: NEET rates for youth aged 15–24 years by sex

Figure 14b: NEET rates for youth aged 15–34 years by sex

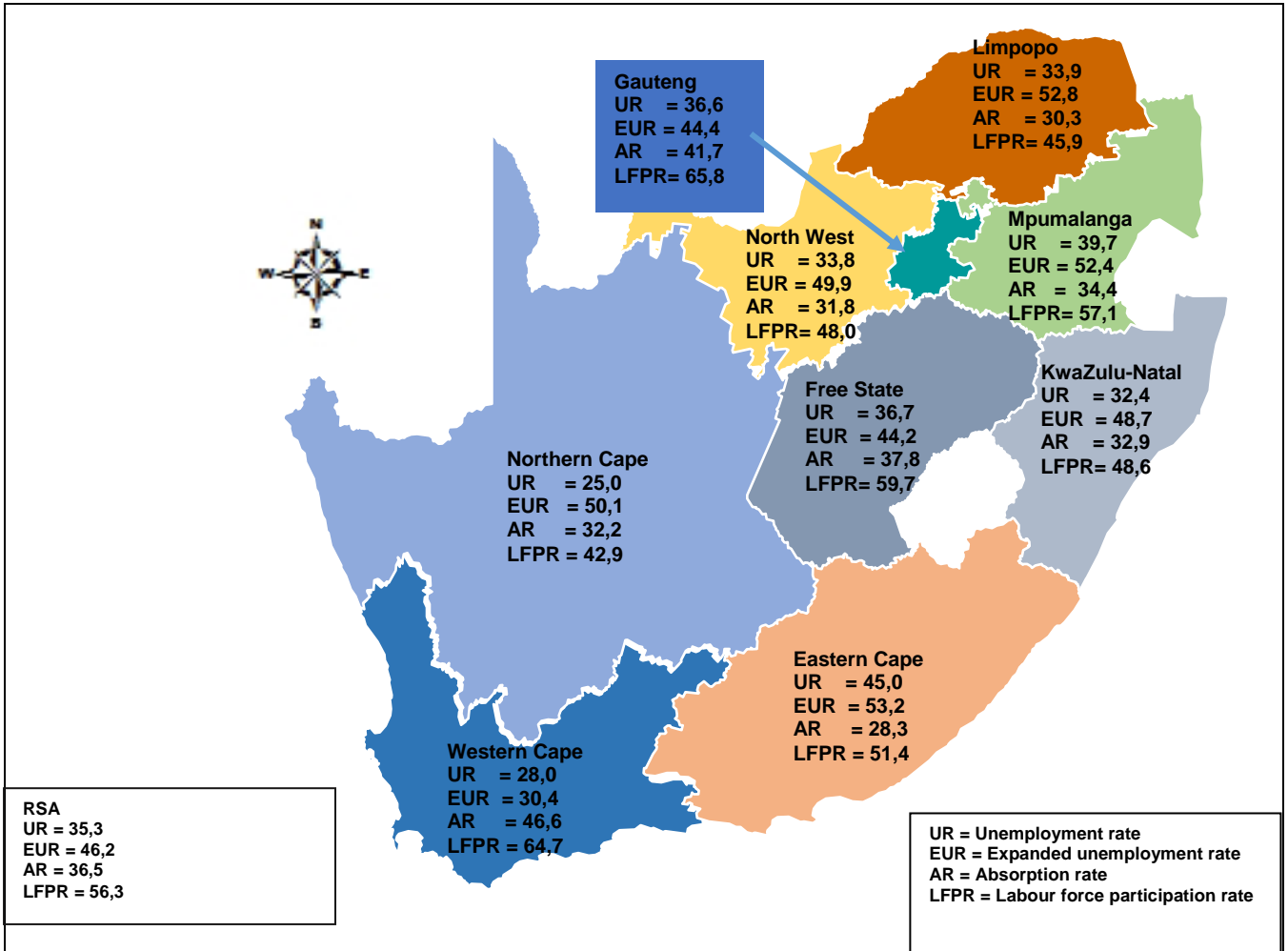


There were about 10,2 million young people aged 15–24 years in Q4: 2021, of which 32,8% were not in employment, education or training (NEET) – 3,0 percentage points higher than in Q4: 2020. In this age group, the NEET rate for males and females increased by 3,1 percentage points and 2,9 percentage points, respectively. The NEET rate for females was higher than that of their male counterparts in both years (Figure 14a).

Compared to Q4: 2020, the percentage of young persons aged 15–34 years who were not in employment, education or training (NEET) increased by 2,9 percentage points from 41,8% to 44,7% (out of 20,6 million) in Q4: 2021. The

NEET rate for males increased by 3,1 percentage points, while for females the rate increased by 2,8 percentage points in Q4: 2021. In both Q4: 2020 and Q4: 2021, more than four in every ten young males and females were not in employment, education or training (Figure 14b).

5. Summary of the labour market measures at a glance, Q4: 2021



Risenga Maluleke
 Statistician-General

6. Other labour market trends

6.1 Year-on-year changes

Figure 15: Year-on-year changes in total employment, Q4: 2013 to Q4: 2021

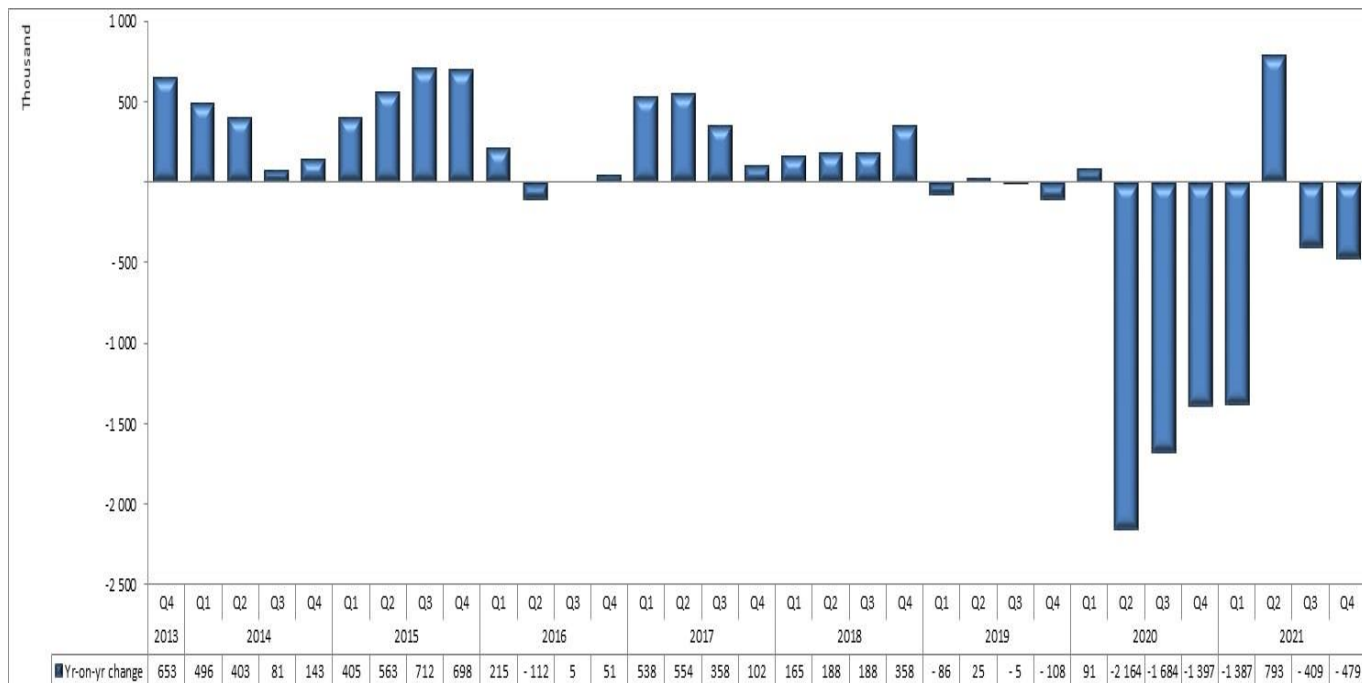


Figure 16: Year-on-year changes in formal sector employment, Q4: 2013 to Q4: 2021

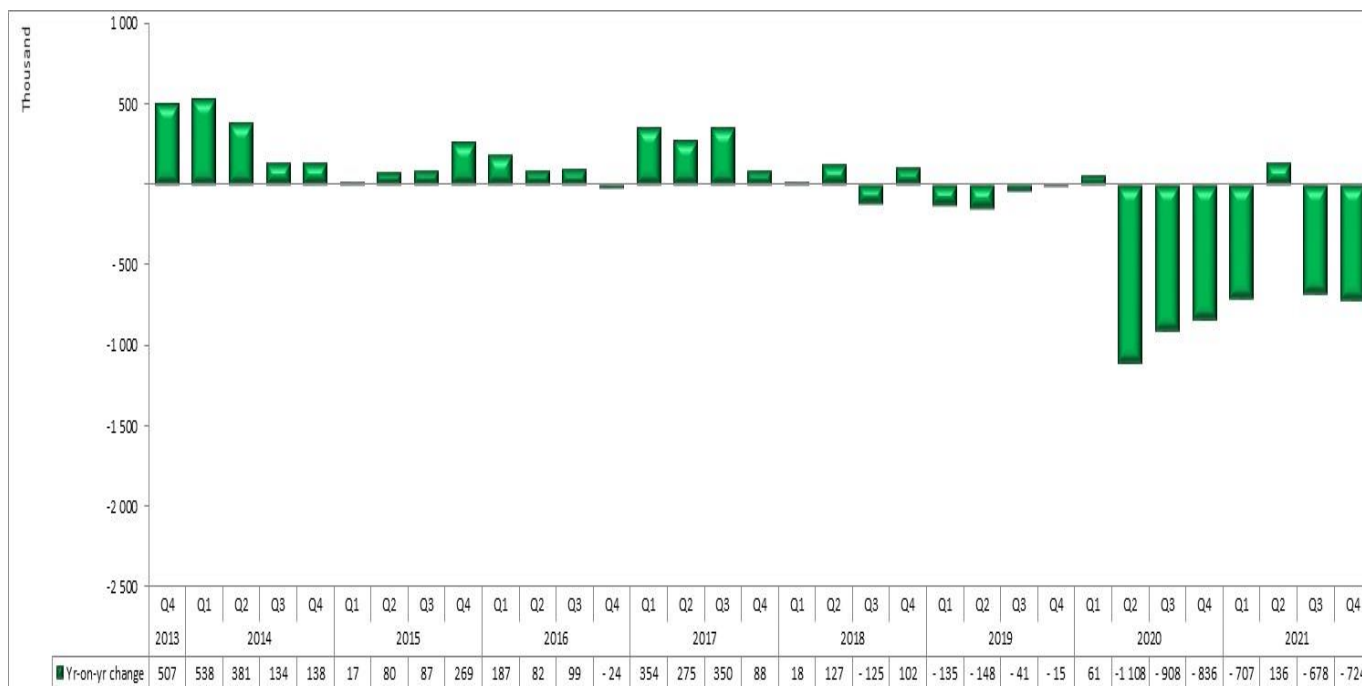
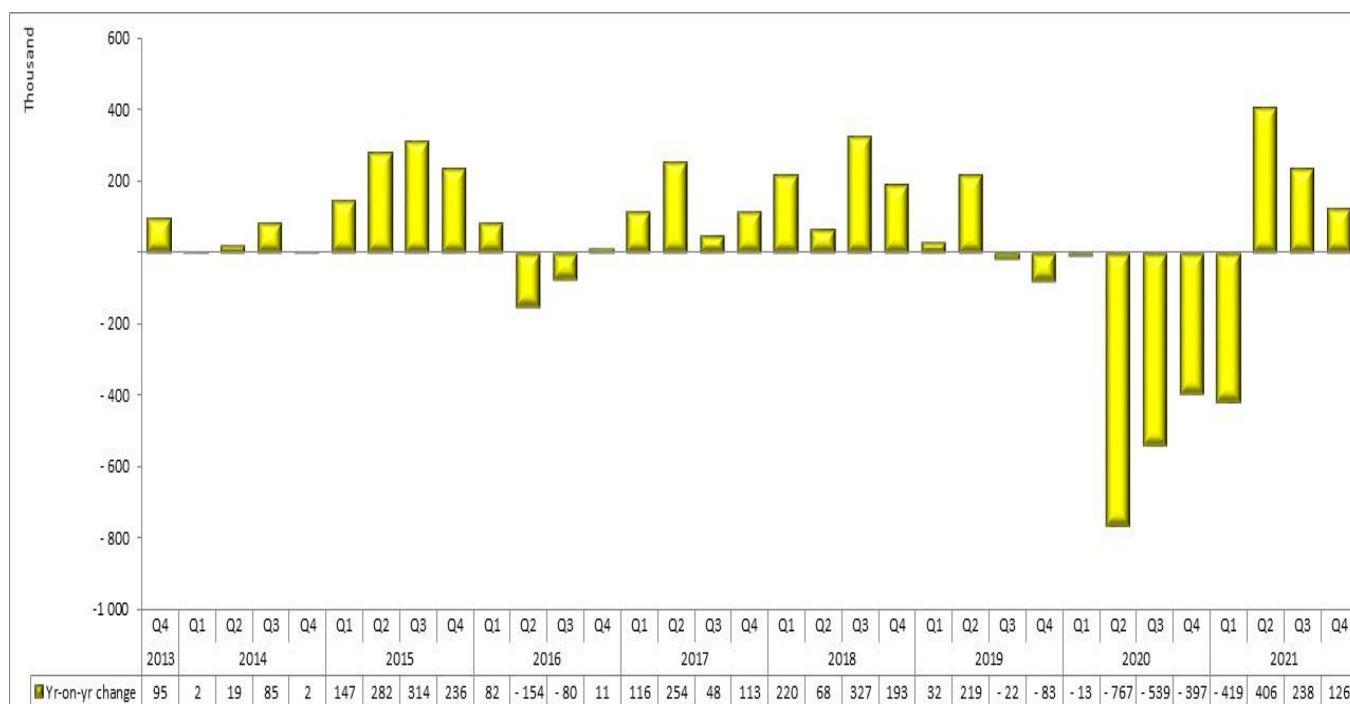


Figure 17: Year-on-year changes in informal sector employment, Q4: 2013 to Q4: 2021



6.2 Trends in unemployment rate

Figure 18: Unemployment rate by sex, Q4: 2013 to Q4: 2021

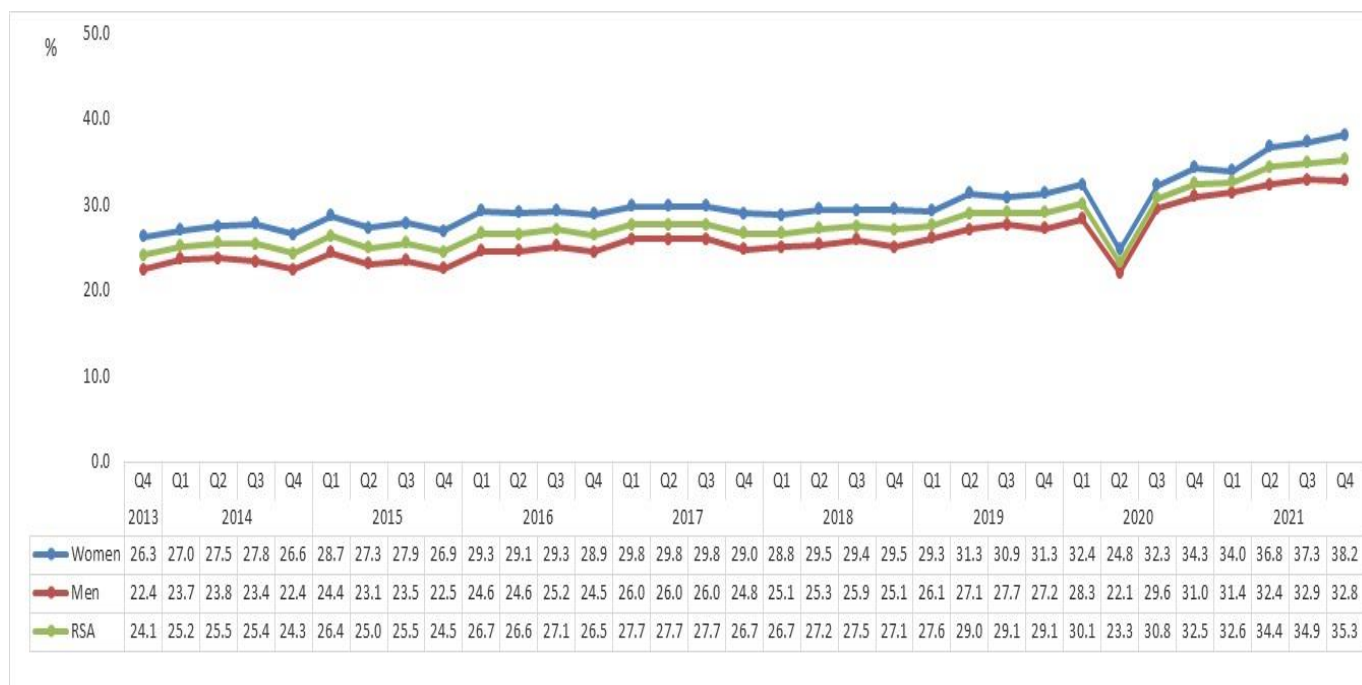
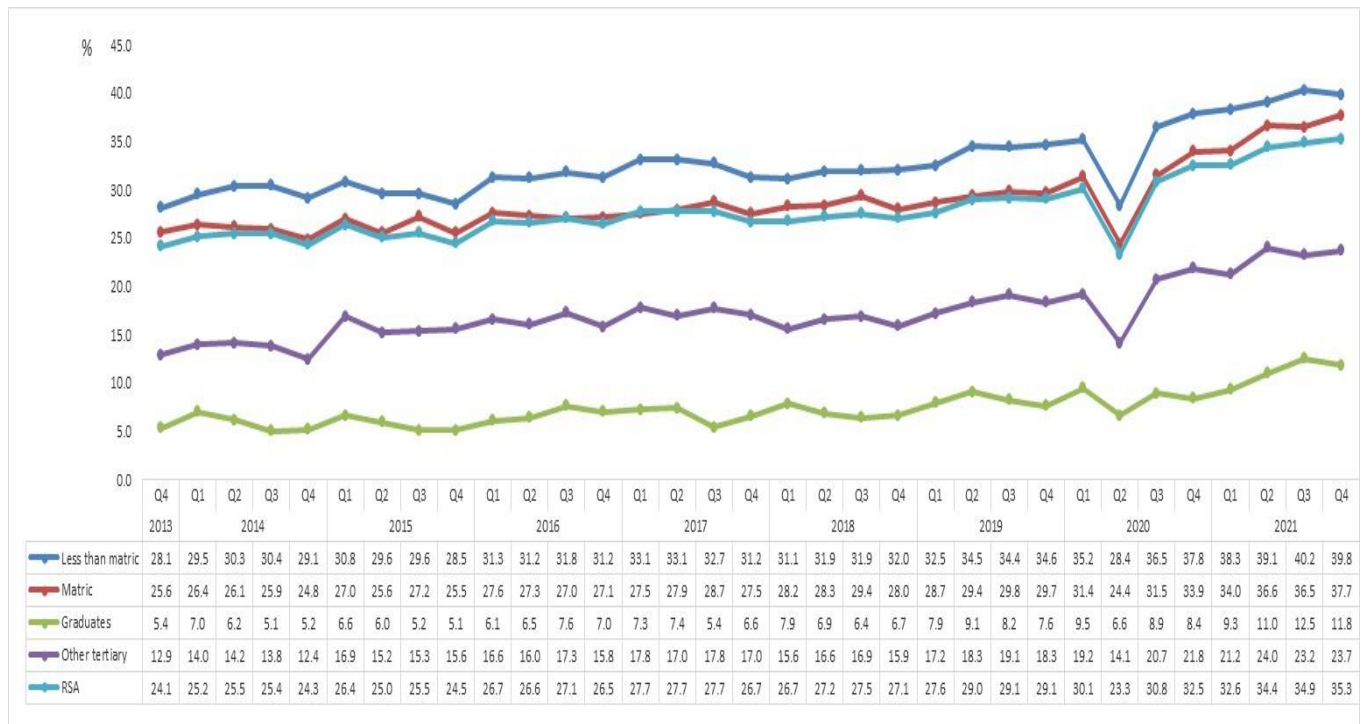


Figure 19: Unemployment rate by education status, Q4: 2013 to Q4: 2021



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

Stats SA conducts two official sources of employment statistics surveys: the QES (which is establishment based) and the QLFS (which is household-based). Each survey has its strengths and limitations. For example, the 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.

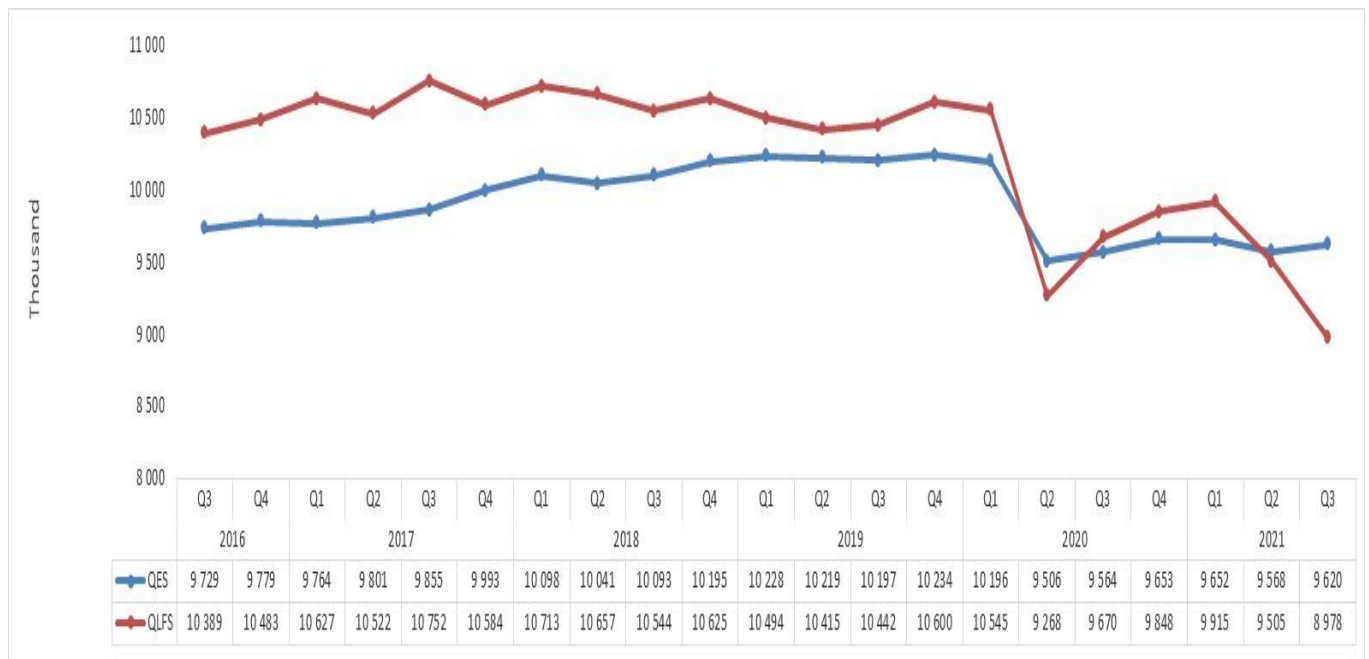
The QLFS is a survey of households that collects information from approximately 30 000 dwelling units and collects data on the labour market activities of individuals, whereas the QES is an enterprise-based survey that collects information from non-agricultural businesses and organisations from approximately 20 000 units. The numerous conceptual and methodological differences between the household- and enterprise-based surveys result in important distinctions in the employment estimates derived from the 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; while 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 income tax, VAT and number of employees in determining the formal sector, while QES surveys 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 G: 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 (excluding Agriculture and Private households)	Employers and own-account workers registered for VAT or income tax Employees paying income tax and those not paying tax but working in firms with five or more workers	Employees on a payroll of VAT-registered businesses

Figure 20: Formal sector employment trends in QLFS and QES, Q3: 2016 to Q3: 2021



8. Technical notes

8.1 Response details

Table H: Response rates by province

Province	Oct-Dec 2021
National	44,6
Western Cape	39,1
Eastern Cape	61,3
Northern Cape	44,6
Free State	57,5
KwaZulu-Natal	53,8
North West	40,6
Gauteng	23,8
Mpumalanga	56,4
Limpopo	59,2

8.2 Survey requirements and design

The Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) uses the Master Sample frame that has been developed as a general-purpose household survey frame that can be used by all other Stats SA household-based surveys having design requirements that are reasonably compatible with the QLFS. The 2013 Master Sample is based on information collected during the 2011 Census conducted by Stats SA. In preparation for Census 2011, the country was divided into 103 576 enumeration areas (EAs). The census EAs, together with the auxiliary information for the EAs, were used as the frame units or building blocks for the formation of primary sampling units (PSUs) for the Master Sample, since 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 to the previous 2008 Master Sample (which had 3 080 PSUs). The larger Master Sample of PSUs was selected to improve the precision (smaller coefficients of variation, known as CVs) of the QLFS estimates.

The Master Sample is designed to be representative at the provincial level and within provinces at metro/non-metro levels. Within the 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 the different geography types that may exist within that metro.

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

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.

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

The sample weights were constructed in order 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 due to only observing those households that can be contacted by telephone.

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). The eligible households in the 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.). The 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

The calibrated sample weights are constructed such that all individuals within a household are assigned the same adjusted base weight. The 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 the provinces. The 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.

8.4.3 Bias-adjustment procedure

The non-telephone households were not enumerated during the QLFS Q4: 2021 data collection because of COVID-19. Thus, the sample consisting of telephone-only households was a biased sample of the entire SA population due to differences in the characteristics of the telephone and non-telephone households, e.g. a significantly higher unemployment rate for the non-telephone households compared to the telephone households. The "Calibrated survey weights" defined in 8.4.2 would have been the final survey weights if both the telephone and non-telephone households sampled for Q4: 2021 were enumerated. Since only the telephone households were enumerated, we applied bias adjustment to the Q4: 2021 calibrated weights using the Q1: 2020 QLFS data. We computed the bias adjustment factors for various labour market dimensions (i.e. status, sector, industry and occupation) and demographic (i.e. age, race and gender groups) characteristics at national level and individual metropolitan and non-metropolitan area levels within provinces. The bias adjustment factors were computed as the ratio between the estimates for each cell of the selected variables (or cross-classification of the selected variables) for the combined (telephone and non-telephone) households and telephone-only households. The bias-adjustment factors based on the Q1: 2020 data were then used to compute the combined telephone and non-telephone estimates from the Q4: 2021 estimates that were based on the telephone sample only. These Q4: 2021 estimates will not be consistent with the demographic population estimates because the bias-adjustment factors are non-linear statistics. Therefore, the Q4: 2021 estimates that were adjusted for the non-telephone non-coverage bias were further adjusted to achieve consistency simultaneously with the known total population aged 15 and older, and the internal consistency across all variables (or cross-classification of variables). These adjusted estimates were then used as control totals to compute the final survey weights as described in the next sub-section.

8.4.4 Final survey weights

In the final step of constructing the sample weights, the calibrated sample weights were raked by applying the raking procedure twice with different sets of control totals at each stage of raking.

In the first application of the raking procedure, the following 4 control totals were used to compute the intermediate raked weights:

- Employment by Industry (13 cells)
- Employment by Occupation (13 cells)
- Sector (7 cells)
- Employment Status by Population Group (12 cells)

The intermediate raked weights computed above were further raked with the following 3 control totals to compute the final survey weights:

- Age by Gender (26 cells)
- Age by Population Group (52 cells)
- Age by Metro/Non-metro (51 cells)

The first application of the raking procedure uses employment status as control totals in various combinations with other variables. The second application of the raking procedure involves various combinations of population categories by age with gender, population group and metro/non-metro breakdown within the provinces. The advantage of applying the raking procedure twice would be that the population aged 15 and older would be consistent with the known population totals from Demographic Analysis. Moreover, the second application of raking would introduce variability in the estimates of employment/unemployment while correcting for the bias due to non-coverage of the non-telephone households.

8.5 Estimation

The 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

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

(iii) P-value of an estimate of change

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

9. Definitions

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.

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

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 medical aid contributions from their employer, and who do not have a written contract of employment.

Informal sector: The informal sector has the following two components:

- i) Employees working in establishments that employ fewer than five employees, who do not deduct income tax from their salaries/wages; and
- ii) Employers, own-account workers and persons helping unpaid in their household business who are not registered for either income tax or value-added tax.

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.

Not economically active: Persons aged 15–64 years who are neither employed nor unemployed in the reference week.

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.

Under-utilised labour comprises three groups that are defined as follows: persons who are underemployed, persons who are unemployed, and persons who are discouraged.

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.

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

- a) Fall under official unemployment (sought and available); **and**
- b) Were available to work but are/or:
 - Discouraged work-seekers
 - Have other reasons for not searching

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

The **working-age population** comprises all persons aged 15–64 years.

Appendix 1

Table 1: Population of working age (15–64 years)									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Both sexes	39 311	39 455	39 599	39 745	39 888	143	578	0,4	1,5
Women	19 837	19 907	19 977	20 047	20 117	70	281	0,3	1,4
Men	19 474	19 548	19 623	19 698	19 771	74	297	0,4	1,5
Population groups	39 311	39 455	39 599	39 745	39 888	143	578	0,4	1,5
Black/African	31 865	32 007	32 152	32 299	32 442	144	577	0,4	1,8
Coloured	3 523	3 531	3 537	3 543	3 550	7	28	0,2	0,8
Indian/Asian	1 024	1 026	1 029	1 031	1 033	2	9	0,2	0,8
White	2 899	2 891	2 881	2 872	2 863	-9	-36	-0,3	-1,3
South Africa	39 311	39 455	39 599	39 745	39 888	143	578	0,4	1,5
Western Cape	4 766	4 796	4 818	4 839	4 859	20	93	0,4	1,9
Eastern Cape	4 369	4 371	4 382	4 396	4 410	15	42	0,3	1,0
Northern Cape	816	815	817	819	821	2	5	0,2	0,6
Free State	1 917	1 918	1 920	1 922	1 923	2	6	0,1	0,3
KwaZulu-Natal	7 268	7 291	7 317	7 343	7 370	27	102	0,4	1,4
North West	2 661	2 672	2 682	2 692	2 702	10	41	0,4	1,5
Gauteng	10 634	10 704	10 753	10 799	10 843	43	208	0,4	2,0
Mpumalanga	3 016	3 023	3 034	3 045	3 057	11	41	0,4	1,4
Limpopo	3 864	3 865	3 877	3 890	3 904	13	39	0,3	1,0

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

Table 2: Labour force characteristics by sex – All population groups									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Both sexes									
Population 15–64 yrs	39 311	39 455	39 599	39 745	39 888	143	578	0,4	1,5
Labour force	22 257	22 237	22 768	21 925	22 466	540	209	2,5	0,9
Employed	15 024	14 995	14 942	14 282	14 544	262	-479	1,8	-3,2
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	10 495	10 574	10 200	9 628	9 771	143	-724	1,5	-6,9
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	2 521	2 502	2 686	2 695	2 647	-48	126	-1,8	5,0
Agriculture	810	792	862	829	868	38	57	4,6	7,1
Private households	1 197	1 127	1 194	1 130	1 258	129	62	11,4	5,2
Unemployed	7 233	7 242	7 826	7 643	7 921	278	688	3,6	9,5
Not economically active	17 054	17 218	16 832	17 820	17 423	-397	369	-2,2	2,2
Discouraged work-seekers	2 930	3 131	3 317	3 862	3 806	-56	876	-1,4	29,9
Other (not economically active)	14 124	14 086	13 515	13 958	13 617	-341	-507	-2,4	-3,6
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	32,5	32,6	34,4	34,9	35,3	0,4	2,8		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	38,2	38,0	37,7	35,9	36,5	0,6	-1,7		
Labour force participation rate	56,6	56,4	57,5	55,2	56,3	1,1	-0,3		
Women									
Population 15–64 yrs	19 837	19 907	19 977	20 047	20 117	70	281	0,3	1,4
Labour force	10 036	9 992	10 259	9 810	10 150	340	114	3,5	1,1
Employed	6 592	6 591	6 480	6 152	6 274	121	-318	2,0	-4,8
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	4 554	4 609	4 405	4 119	4 196	77	-358	1,9	-7,9
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	901	913	946	932	915	-17	13	-1,8	1,5
Agriculture	249	228	252	238	232	-6	-16	-2,5	-6,6
Private households	888	842	877	863	931	68	43	7,9	4,9
Unemployed	3 445	3 401	3 779	3 657	3 876	218	431	6,0	12,5
Not economically active	9 800	9 914	9 717	10 237	9 967	-270	167	-2,6	1,7
Discouraged work-seekers	1 604	1 693	1 855	2 085	2 094	8	490	0,4	30,5
Other (not economically active)	8 197	8 221	7 863	8 152	7 874	-279	-323	-3,4	-3,9
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	34,3	34,0	36,8	37,3	38,2	0,9	3,9		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	33,2	33,1	32,4	30,7	31,2	0,5	-2,0		
Labour force participation rate	50,6	50,2	51,4	48,9	50,5	1,6	-0,1		

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Table 2: Labour force characteristics by sex – All population groups (concluded)									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Men									
Population 15–64 yrs	19 474	19 548	19 623	19 698	19 771	74	297	0,4	1,5
Labour force	12 221	12 245	12 508	12 116	12 316	200	95	1,7	0,8
Employed	8 432	8 404	8 462	8 130	8 270	141	-162	1,7	-1,9
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	5 942	5 966	5 795	5 509	5 575	66	-366	1,2	-6,2
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	1 620	1 589	1 740	1 763	1 732	-30	113	-1,7	7,0
Agriculture	561	564	610	591	635	44	74	7,5	13,1
Private households	309	285	317	267	328	61	18	22,8	6,0
Unemployed	3 789	3 841	4 047	3 986	4 046	59	257	1,5	6,8
Not economically active	7 253	7 303	7 114	7 582	7 456	-126	202	-1,7	2,8
Discouraged work-seekers	1 326	1 439	1 462	1 776	1 713	-64	386	-3,6	29,1
Other (not economically active)	5 927	5 865	5 652	5 806	5 743	-62	-184	-1,1	-3,1
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	31,0	31,4	32,4	32,9	32,8	-0,1	1,8		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	43,3	43,0	43,1	41,3	41,8	0,5	-1,5		
Labour force participation rate	62,8	62,6	63,7	61,5	62,3	0,8	-0,5		

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Table 2.1: Labour force characteristics by population group									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
South Africa									
Population 15–64 yrs	39 311	39 455	39 599	39 745	39 888	143	578	0,4	1,5
Labour force	22 257	22 237	22 768	21 925	22 466	540	209	2,5	0,9
Employed	15 024	14 995	14 942	14 282	14 544	262	-479	1,8	-3,2
Unemployed	7 233	7 242	7 826	7 643	7 921	278	688	3,6	9,5
Not economically active	17 054	17 218	16 832	17 820	17 423	-397	369	-2,2	2,2
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	32,5	32,6	34,4	34,9	35,3	0,4	2,8		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	38,2	38,0	37,7	35,9	36,5	0,6	-1,7		
Labour force participation rate	56,6	56,4	57,5	55,2	56,3	1,1	-0,3		
Black/African									
Population 15–64 yrs	31 865	32 007	32 152	32 299	32 442	144	577	0,4	1,8
Labour force	17 696	17 693	18 240	17 434	17 845	411	149	2,4	0,8
Employed	11 228	11 205	11 264	10 699	10 875	176	-353	1,6	-3,1
Unemployed	6 468	6 488	6 976	6 735	6 970	235	503	3,5	7,8
Not economically active	14 169	14 314	13 912	14 865	14 598	-267	428	-1,8	3,0
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	36,5	36,7	38,2	38,6	39,1	0,5	2,6		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	35,2	35,0	35,0	33,1	33,5	0,4	-1,7		
Labour force participation rate	55,5	55,3	56,7	54,0	55,0	1,0	-0,5		
Coloured									
Population 15–64 yrs	3 523	3 531	3 537	3 543	3 550	7	28	0,2	0,8
Labour force	2 055	2 023	1 981	1 997	2 072	75	17	3,7	0,8
Employed	1 528	1 513	1 416	1 391	1 453	62	-74	4,5	-4,9
Unemployed	527	510	565	606	618	13	91	2,1	17,3
Not economically active	1 468	1 508	1 556	1 547	1 479	-68	11	-4,4	0,8
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	25,7	25,2	28,5	30,3	29,8	-0,5	4,1		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	43,4	42,9	40,0	39,3	40,9	1,6	-2,5		
Labour force participation rate	58,3	57,3	56,0	56,4	58,3	1,9	0,0		

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Table 2.1: Labour force characteristics by population group (concluded)									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Indian/Asian									
Population 15–64 yrs	1 024	1 026	1 029	1 031	1 033	2	9	0,2	0,8
Labour force	580	583	605	571	584	13	3	2,3	0,6
Employed	512	496	487	445	423	-22	-89	-5,0	-17,4
Unemployed	68	87	118	125	161	35	92	28,1	135,4
Not economically active	444	444	423	460	449	-11	5	-2,4	1,2
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	11,8	14,9	19,5	22,0	27,5	5,5	15,7		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	50,0	48,3	47,4	43,2	41,0	-2,2	-9,0		
Labour force participation rate	56,7	56,8	58,8	55,4	56,5	1,1	-0,2		
White									
Population 15–64 yrs	2 899	2 891	2 881	2 872	2 863	-9	-36	-0,3	-1,3
Labour force	1 926	1 938	1 941	1 924	1 965	42	39	2,2	2,0
Employed	1 756	1 781	1 774	1 747	1 793	46	37	2,6	2,1
Unemployed	170	157	167	177	172	-4	2	-2,5	1,1
Not economically active	973	952	940	948	897	-51	-75	-5,4	-7,8
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	8,8	8,1	8,6	9,2	8,8	-0,4	0,0		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	60,6	61,6	61,6	60,8	62,6	1,8	2,0		
Labour force participation rate	66,4	67,1	67,4	67,0	68,7	1,7	2,3		

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Table 2.2: Labour force characteristics by age group									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
15–64 years									
Population 15–64 yrs	39 311	39 455	39 599	39 745	39 888	143	578	0,4	1,5
Labour force	22 257	22 237	22 768	21 925	22 466	540	209	2,5	0,9
Employed	15 024	14 995	14 942	14 282	14 544	262	-479	1,8	-3,2
Unemployed	7 233	7 242	7 826	7 643	7 921	278	688	3,6	9,5
Not economically active	17 054	17 218	16 832	17 820	17 423	-397	369	-2,2	2,2
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	32,5	32,6	34,4	34,9	35,3	0,4	2,8		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	38,2	38,0	37,7	35,9	36,5	0,6	-1,7		
Labour force participation rate	56,6	56,4	57,5	55,2	56,3	1,1	-0,3		
15–24 years									
Population 15–24 yrs	10 253	10 247	10 240	10 235	10 233	-3	-20	0,0	-0,2
Labour force	2 111	2 111	2 340	2 226	2 321	95	210	4,3	10,0
Employed	776	775	833	745	778	33	2	4,5	0,3
Unemployed	1 335	1 336	1 507	1 481	1 543	62	208	4,2	15,6
Not economically active	8 142	8 136	7 900	8 010	7 912	-98	-231	-1,2	-2,8
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	63,2	63,3	64,4	66,5	66,5	0,0	3,3		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	7,6	7,6	8,1	7,3	7,6	0,3	0,0		
Labour force participation rate	20,6	20,6	22,9	21,7	22,7	1,0	2,1		
25–34 years									
Population 25–34 yrs	10 273	10 305	10 337	10 368	10 396	28	123	0,3	1,2
Labour force	7 304	7 207	7 384	6 986	7 231	245	-73	3,5	-1,0
Employed	4 298	4 230	4 214	3 927	4 088	162	-210	4,1	-4,9
Unemployed	3 006	2 977	3 170	3 059	3 142	83	137	2,7	4,6
Not economically active	2 969	3 098	2 954	3 382	3 166	-216	196	-6,4	6,6
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	41,2	41,3	42,9	43,8	43,5	-0,3	2,3		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	41,8	41,0	40,8	37,9	39,3	1,4	-2,5		
Labour force participation rate	71,1	69,9	71,4	67,4	69,6	2,2	-1,5		

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 (concluded)									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
35–44 years									
Population 35–44 yrs	8 504	8 547	8 591	8 637	8 683	46	179	0,5	2,1
Labour force	6 559	6 646	6 674	6 544	6 664	120	105	1,8	1,6
Employed	4 760	4 849	4 714	4 641	4 665	24	-95	0,5	-2,0
Unemployed	1 799	1 797	1 960	1 902	1 999	97	200	5,1	11,1
Not economically active	1 945	1 901	1 917	2 093	2 019	-74	74	-3,5	3,8
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	27,4	27,0	29,4	29,1	30,0	0,9	2,6		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	56,0	56,7	54,9	53,7	53,7	0,0	-2,3		
Labour force participation rate	77,1	77,8	77,7	75,8	76,8	1,0	-0,3		
45–54 years									
Population 45–54 yrs	6 181	6 233	6 285	6 337	6 387	51	206	0,8	3,3
Labour force	4 531	4 534	4 619	4 528	4 627	99	96	2,2	2,1
Employed	3 656	3 629	3 647	3 536	3 574	37	-82	1,1	-2,3
Unemployed	875	905	972	992	1 053	61	178	6,2	20,3
Not economically active	1 650	1 699	1 666	1 809	1 761	-48	110	-2,7	6,7
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	19,3	20,0	21,0	21,9	22,8	0,9	3,5		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	59,1	58,2	58,0	55,8	56,0	0,2	-3,1		
Labour force participation rate	73,3	72,7	73,5	71,5	72,4	0,9	-0,9		
55–64 years									
Population 55–64 yrs	4 100	4 123	4 146	4 168	4 189	21	90	0,5	2,2
Labour force	1 752	1 740	1 751	1 642	1 623	-19	-129	-1,2	-7,4
Employed	1 533	1 512	1 533	1 433	1 439	6	-95	0,4	-6,2
Unemployed	219	228	218	209	184	-25	-35	-12,0	-15,8
Not economically active	2 347	2 383	2 395	2 527	2 567	40	219	1,6	9,3
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	12,5	13,1	12,4	12,7	11,4	-1,3	-1,1		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	37,4	36,7	37,0	34,4	34,3	-0,1	-3,1		
Labour force participation rate	42,7	42,2	42,2	39,4	38,7	-0,7	-4,0		

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									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
South Africa									
Population 15–64 yrs	39 311	39 455	39 599	39 745	39 888	143	578	0,4	1,5
Labour force	22 257	22 237	22 768	21 925	22 466	540	209	2,5	0,9
Employed	15 024	14 995	14 942	14 282	14 544	262	-479	1,8	-3,2
Unemployed	7 233	7 242	7 826	7 643	7 921	278	688	3,6	9,5
Not economically active	17 054	17 218	16 832	17 820	17 423	-397	369	-2,2	2,2
Discouraged work-seekers	2 930	3 131	3 317	3 862	3 806	-56	876	-1,4	29,9
Other	14 124	14 086	13 515	13 958	13 617	-341	-507	-2,4	-3,6
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	32,5	32,6	34,4	34,9	35,3	0,4	2,8		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	38,2	38,0	37,7	35,9	36,5	0,6	-1,7		
Labour force participation rate	56,6	56,4	57,5	55,2	56,3	1,1	-0,3		
Western Cape									
Population 15–64 yrs	4 766	4 796	4 818	4 839	4 859	20	93	0,4	1,9
Labour force	3 018	3 027	3 040	3 019	3 144	124	126	4,1	4,2
Employed	2 338	2 309	2 256	2 225	2 263	37	-75	1,7	-3,2
Unemployed	680	718	784	794	881	87	201	10,9	29,6
Not economically active	1 748	1 769	1 778	1 819	1 715	-104	-34	-5,7	-1,9
Discouraged work-seekers	87	97	62	85	53	-32	-34	-37,9	-38,9
Other	1 662	1 672	1 716	1 734	1 662	-72	0	-4,1	0,0
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	22,5	23,7	25,8	26,3	28,0	1,7	5,5		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	49,0	48,1	46,8	46,0	46,6	0,6	-2,4		
Labour force participation rate	63,3	63,1	63,1	62,4	64,7	2,3	1,4		

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Table 2.3: Labour force characteristics by province and metro (continued)									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Eastern Cape									
Population 15–64 yrs	4 369	4 371	4 382	4 396	4 410	15	42	0,3	1,0
Labour force	2 374	2 314	2 335	2 314	2 266	-48	-107	-2,1	-4,5
Employed	1 236	1 301	1 235	1 216	1 247	31	12	2,6	0,9
Unemployed	1 138	1 013	1 100	1 098	1 019	-79	-119	-7,2	-10,5
Not economically active	1 995	2 057	2 048	2 081	2 144	63	149	3,0	7,5
Discouraged work-seekers	172	180	219	298	341	43	169	14,6	98,3
Other	1 823	1 877	1 828	1 783	1 803	19	-20	1,1	-1,1
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	47,9	43,8	47,1	47,4	45,0	-2,4	-2,9		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	28,3	29,8	28,2	27,7	28,3	0,6	0,0		
Labour force participation rate	54,3	52,9	53,3	52,7	51,4	-1,3	-2,9		
Northern Cape									
Population 15–64 yrs	816	815	817	819	821	2	5	0,2	0,6
Labour force	431	409	357	366	352	-14	-79	-3,9	-18,4
Employed	308	313	256	275	264	-11	-43	-4,0	-14,1
Unemployed	124	96	100	91	88	-3	-36	-3,5	-29,0
Not economically active	384	406	461	453	469	16	85	3,6	22,0
Discouraged work-seekers	74	98	125	137	136	0	62	-0,2	84,3
Other	311	309	335	316	333	17	22	5,2	7,1
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	28,7	23,4	28,1	24,9	25,0	0,1	-3,7		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	37,7	38,4	31,4	33,6	32,2	-1,4	-5,5		
Labour force participation rate	52,9	50,2	43,6	44,7	42,9	-1,8	-10,0		

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Table 2.3: Labour force characteristics by province and metro (continued)									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Free State									
Population 15–64 yrs	1 917	1 918	1 920	1 922	1 923	2	6	0,1	0,3
Labour force	1 119	1 091	1 138	1 163	1 148	-15	30	-1,3	2,7
Employed	745	703	723	720	727	8	-18	1,0	-2,4
Unemployed	374	388	415	443	421	-22	47	-5,0	12,7
Not economically active	798	827	782	758	775	17	-23	2,2	-2,9
Discouraged work-seekers	80	104	145	128	117	-11	37	-8,5	45,5
Other	718	723	636	631	658	27	-60	4,4	-8,4
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	33,4	35,6	36,5	38,1	36,7	-1,4	3,3		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	38,9	36,6	37,7	37,5	37,8	0,3	-1,1		
Labour force participation rate	58,4	56,9	59,3	60,5	59,7	-0,8	1,3		
KwaZulu-Natal									
Population 15–64 yrs	7 268	7 291	7 317	7 343	7 370	27	102	0,4	1,4
Labour force	3 488	3 496	3 584	3 221	3 585	363	97	11,3	2,8
Employed	2 454	2 429	2 421	2 297	2 424	126	-31	5,5	-1,3
Unemployed	1 034	1 067	1 163	924	1 161	237	127	25,7	12,3
Not economically active	3 780	3 795	3 732	4 122	3 785	-337	5	-8,2	0,1
Discouraged work-seekers	786	773	823	968	972	4	186	0,4	23,7
Other	2 994	3 022	2 910	3 154	2 813	-341	-181	-10,8	-6,0
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	29,6	30,5	32,5	28,7	32,4	3,7	2,8		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	33,8	33,3	33,1	31,3	32,9	1,6	-0,9		
Labour force participation rate	48,0	48,0	49,0	43,9	48,6	4,7	0,6		

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Table 2.3: Labour force characteristics by province and metro (continued)									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
North West									
Population 15–64 yrs	2 661	2 672	2 682	2 692	2 702	10	41	0,4	1,5
Labour force	1 416	1 376	1 511	1 323	1 297	-26	-119	-1,9	-8,4
Employed	944	933	979	851	858	7	-86	0,9	-9,1
Unemployed	472	443	533	472	439	-33	-33	-7,0	-7,0
Not economically active	1 245	1 295	1 170	1 369	1 405	36	160	2,6	12,9
Discouraged work-seekers	241	285	264	355	334	-21	93	-6,0	38,6
Other	1 004	1 010	906	1 014	1 071	57	67	5,6	6,7
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	33,3	32,2	35,2	35,7	33,8	-1,9	0,5		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	35,5	34,9	36,5	31,6	31,8	0,2	-3,7		
Labour force participation rate	53,2	51,5	56,4	49,1	48,0	-1,1	-5,2		
Gauteng									
Population 15–64 yrs	10 634	10 704	10 753	10 799	10 843	43	208	0,4	2,0
Labour force	6 935	7 052	7 196	7 056	7 135	80	200	1,1	2,9
Employed	4 570	4 626	4 648	4 448	4 524	76	-46	1,7	-1,0
Unemployed	2 365	2 426	2 548	2 607	2 612	4	246	0,2	10,4
Not economically active	3 699	3 652	3 557	3 744	3 707	-37	8	-1,0	0,2
Discouraged work-seekers	622	676	799	879	848	-31	226	-3,5	36,4
Other	3 077	2 975	2 758	2 865	2 859	-5	-218	-0,2	-7,1
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	34,1	34,4	35,4	37,0	36,6	-0,4	2,5		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	43,0	43,2	43,2	41,2	41,7	0,5	-1,3		
Labour force participation rate	65,2	65,9	66,9	65,3	65,8	0,5	0,6		

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Table 2.3: Labour force characteristics by province and metro (continued)									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Mpumalanga									
Population 15–64 yrs	3 016	3 023	3 034	3 045	3 057	11	41	0,4	1,4
Labour force	1 714	1 704	1 800	1 767	1 746	-21	32	-1,2	1,9
Employed	1 148	1 133	1 166	1 104	1 052	-51	-96	-4,7	-8,3
Unemployed	566	571	634	663	694	31	128	4,6	22,6
Not economically active	1 302	1 319	1 234	1 279	1 311	32	9	2,5	0,7
Discouraged work-seekers	296	326	301	347	404	57	108	16,4	36,6
Other	1 006	992	933	932	907	-25	-99	-2,7	-9,9
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	33,0	33,5	35,2	37,5	39,7	2,2	6,7		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	38,1	37,5	38,4	36,2	34,4	-1,8	-3,7		
Labour force participation rate	56,8	56,4	59,3	58,0	57,1	-0,9	0,3		
Limpopo									
Population 15–64 yrs	3 864	3 865	3 877	3 890	3 904	13	39	0,3	1,0
Labour force	1 762	1 767	1 807	1 696	1 792	96	30	5,7	1,7
Employed	1 281	1 248	1 257	1 145	1 184	39	-96	3,4	-7,5
Unemployed	481	519	550	551	607	57	126	10,3	26,3
Not economically active	2 102	2 098	2 070	2 194	2 112	-82	10	-3,8	0,5
Discouraged work-seekers	573	592	579	665	601	-64	28	-9,6	4,9
Other	1 529	1 506	1 491	1 529	1 511	-18	-18	-1,2	-1,2
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	27,3	29,4	30,4	32,5	33,9	1,4	6,6		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	33,1	32,3	32,4	29,4	30,3	0,9	-2,8		
Labour force participation rate	45,6	45,7	46,6	43,6	45,9	2,3	0,3		

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Table 2.4: Labour force characteristics by sex – Expanded definition of unemployment									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Both sexes									
Population 15–64 yrs	39 311	39 455	39 599	39 745	39 888	143	578	0,4	1,5
Labour force	26 179	26 417	26 865	26 766	27 037	270	857	1,0	3,3
Employed	15 024	14 995	14 942	14 282	14 544	262	-479	1,8	-3,2
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	10 495	10 574	10 200	9 628	9 771	143	-724	1,5	-6,9
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	2 521	2 502	2 686	2 695	2 647	-48	126	-1,8	5,0
Agriculture	810	792	862	829	868	38	57	4,6	7,1
Private households	1 197	1 127	1 194	1 130	1 258	129	62	11,4	5,2
Unemployed	11 156	11 422	11 923	12 484	12 492	8	1 337	0,1	12,0
Not economically active	13 132	13 038	12 735	12 979	12 852	-127	-280	-1,0	-2,1
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	42,6	43,2	44,4	46,6	46,2	-0,4	3,6		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	38,2	38,0	37,7	35,9	36,5	0,6	-1,7		
Labour force participation rate	66,6	67,0	67,8	67,3	67,8	0,5	1,2		
Women									
Population 15–64 yrs	19 837	19 907	19 977	20 047	20 117	70	281	0,3	1,4
Labour force	12 273	12 382	12 619	12 548	12 750	203	477	1,6	3,9
Employed	6 592	6 591	6 480	6 152	6 274	121	-318	2,0	-4,8
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	4 554	4 609	4 405	4 119	4 196	77	-358	1,9	-7,9
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	901	913	946	932	915	-17	13	-1,8	1,5
Agriculture	249	228	252	238	232	-6	-16	-2,5	-6,6
Private households	888	842	877	863	931	68	43	7,9	4,9
Unemployed	5 682	5 791	6 139	6 395	6 476	81	795	1,3	14,0
Not economically active	7 563	7 524	7 358	7 500	7 367	-133	-196	-1,8	-2,6
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	46,3	46,8	48,7	51,0	50,8	-0,2	4,5		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	33,2	33,1	32,4	30,7	31,2	0,5	-2,0		
Labour force participation rate	61,9	62,2	63,2	62,6	63,4	0,8	1,5		

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Table 2.4: Labour force characteristics by sex – Expanded definition of unemployment (concluded)									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Men									
Population 15–64 yrs	19 474	19 548	19 623	19 698	19 771	74	297	0,4	1,5
Labour force	13 906	14 035	14 246	14 218	14 286	68	380	0,5	2,7
Employed	8 432	8 404	8 462	8 130	8 270	141	-162	1,7	-1,9
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	5 942	5 966	5 795	5 509	5 575	66	-366	1,2	-6,2
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	1 620	1 589	1 740	1 763	1 732	-30	113	-1,7	7,0
Agriculture	561	564	610	591	635	44	74	7,5	13,1
Private households	309	285	317	267	328	61	18	22,8	6,0
Unemployed	5 474	5 631	5 784	6 089	6 016	-73	542	-1,2	9,9
Not economically active	5 569	5 513	5 377	5 479	5 485	6	-83	0,1	-1,5
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	39,4	40,1	40,6	42,8	42,1	-0,7	2,7		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	43,3	43,0	43,1	41,3	41,8	0,5	-1,5		
Labour force participation rate	71,4	71,8	72,6	72,2	72,3	0,1	0,9		

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Table 2.5: Labour force characteristics by population group – Expanded definition of unemployment									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
South Africa									
Population 15–64 yrs	39 311	39 455	39 599	39 745	39 888	143	578	0,4	1,5
Labour force	26 179	26 417	26 865	26 766	27 037	270	857	1,0	3,3
Employed	15 024	14 995	14 942	14 282	14 544	262	-479	1,8	-3,2
Unemployed	11 156	11 422	11 923	12 484	12 492	8	1 337	0,1	12,0
Not economically active	13 132	13 038	12 735	12 979	12 852	-127	-280	-1,0	-2,1
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	42,6	43,2	44,4	46,6	46,2	-0,4	3,6		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	38,2	38,0	37,7	35,9	36,5	0,6	-1,7		
Labour force participation rate	66,6	67,0	67,8	67,3	67,8	0,5	1,2		
Black/African									
Population 15–64 yrs	31 865	32 007	32 152	32 299	32 442	144	577	0,4	1,8
Labour force	21 281	21 504	21 978	21 885	22 050	164	769	0,8	3,6
Employed	11 228	11 205	11 264	10 699	10 875	176	-353	1,6	-3,1
Unemployed	10 053	10 299	10 714	11 187	11 175	-12	1 122	-0,1	11,2
Not economically active	10 584	10 503	10 174	10 413	10 393	-20	-191	-0,2	-1,8
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	47,2	47,9	48,7	51,1	50,7	-0,4	3,5		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	35,2	35,0	35,0	33,1	33,5	0,4	-1,7		
Labour force participation rate	66,8	67,2	68,4	67,8	68,0	0,2	1,2		
Coloured									
Population 15–64 yrs	3 523	3 531	3 537	3 543	3 550	7	28	0,2	0,8
Labour force	2 298	2 311	2 237	2 274	2 328	55	31	2,4	1,3
Employed	1 528	1 513	1 416	1 391	1 453	62	-74	4,5	-4,9
Unemployed	770	798	820	883	875	-8	105	-0,9	13,6
Not economically active	1 225	1 220	1 301	1 270	1 222	-48	-3	-3,7	-0,2
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	33,5	34,5	36,7	38,8	37,6	-1,2	4,1		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	43,4	42,9	40,0	39,3	40,9	1,6	-2,5		
Labour force participation rate	65,2	65,5	63,2	64,2	65,6	1,4	0,4		

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Table 2.5: Labour force characteristics by population group – Expanded definition of unemployment (concluded)									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Indian/Asian									
Population 15–64 yrs	1 024	1 026	1 029	1 031	1 033	2	9	0,2	0,8
Labour force	621	620	652	633	647	14	25	2,2	4,1
Employed	512	496	487	445	423	-22	-89	-5,0	-17,4
Unemployed	109	124	165	187	224	36	114	19,3	104,6
Not economically active	403	407	377	398	386	-12	-17	-3,0	-4,1
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	17,6	19,9	25,2	29,6	34,6	5,0	17,0		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	50,0	48,3	47,4	43,2	41,0	-2,2	-9,0		
Labour force participation rate	60,7	60,4	63,4	61,4	62,6	1,2	1,9		
White									
Population 15–64 yrs	2 899	2 891	2 881	2 872	2 863	-9	-36	-0,3	-1,3
Labour force	1 980	1 982	1 998	1 974	2 012	38	32	1,9	1,6
Employed	1 756	1 781	1 774	1 747	1 793	46	37	2,6	2,1
Unemployed	224	201	224	227	219	-8	-5	-3,6	-2,1
Not economically active	920	908	883	898	851	-47	-69	-5,2	-7,5
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	11,3	10,1	11,2	11,5	10,9	-0,6	-0,4		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	60,6	61,6	61,6	60,8	62,6	1,8	2,0		
Labour force participation rate	68,3	68,6	69,4	68,7	70,3	1,6	2,0		

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Table 2.6: Labour force characteristics by age group – Expanded definition of unemployment									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
15–64 years									
Population 15–64 yrs	39 311	39 455	39 599	39 745	39 888	143	578	0,4	1,5
Labour force	26 179	26 417	26 865	26 766	27 037	270	857	1,0	3,3
Employed	15 024	14 995	14 942	14 282	14 544	262	-479	1,8	-3,2
Unemployed	11 156	11 422	11 923	12 484	12 492	8	1 337	0,1	12,0
Not economically active	13 132	13 038	12 735	12 979	12 852	-127	-280	-1,0	-2,1
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	42,6	43,2	44,4	46,6	46,2	-0,4	3,6		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	38,2	38,0	37,7	35,9	36,5	0,6	-1,7		
Labour force participation rate	66,6	67,0	67,8	67,3	67,8	0,5	1,2		
15–24 years									
Population 15–24 yrs	10 253	10 247	10 240	10 235	10 233	-3	-20	0,0	-0,2
Labour force	2 966	3 062	3 307	3 298	3 388	90	422	2,7	14,2
Employed	776	775	833	745	778	33	2	4,5	0,3
Unemployed	2 190	2 287	2 474	2 553	2 610	57	420	2,2	19,2
Not economically active	7 287	7 185	6 934	6 937	6 844	-93	-443	-1,3	-6,1
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	73,8	74,7	74,8	77,4	77,0	-0,4	3,2		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	7,6	7,6	8,1	7,3	7,6	0,3	0,0		
Labour force participation rate	28,9	29,9	32,3	32,2	33,1	0,9	4,2		
25–34 years									
Population 25–34 yrs	10 273	10 305	10 337	10 368	10 396	28	123	0,3	1,2
Labour force	8 726	8 703	8 844	8 783	8 896	113	170	1,3	1,9
Employed	4 298	4 230	4 214	3 927	4 088	162	-210	4,1	-4,9
Unemployed	4 428	4 473	4 630	4 856	4 808	-48	379	-1,0	8,6
Not economically active	1 547	1 602	1 494	1 585	1 500	-85	-46	-5,4	-3,0
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	50,7	51,4	52,3	55,3	54,0	-1,3	3,3		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	41,8	41,0	40,8	37,9	39,3	1,4	-2,5		
Labour force participation rate	84,9	84,5	85,6	84,7	85,6	0,9	0,7		

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 2.6: Labour force characteristics by age group – Expanded definition of unemployment (concluded)									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
35–44 years									
Population 35–44 yrs	8 504	8 547	8 591	8 637	8 683	46	179	0,5	2,1
Labour force	7 463	7 575	7 573	7 622	7 670	48	206	0,6	2,8
Employed	4 760	4 849	4 714	4 641	4 665	24	-95	0,5	-2,0
Unemployed	2 703	2 725	2 859	2 980	3 005	24	301	0,8	11,1
Not economically active	1 040	973	1 018	1 015	1 013	-2	-27	-0,2	-2,6
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	36,2	36,0	37,7	39,1	39,2	0,1	3,0		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	56,0	56,7	54,9	53,7	53,7	0,0	-2,3		
Labour force participation rate	87,8	88,6	88,1	88,2	88,3	0,1	0,5		
45–54 years									
Population 45–54 yrs	6 181	6 233	6 285	6 337	6 387	51	206	0,8	3,3
Labour force	5 067	5 105	5 160	5 167	5 235	68	169	1,3	3,3
Employed	3 656	3 629	3 647	3 536	3 574	37	-82	1,1	-2,3
Unemployed	1 410	1 476	1 513	1 631	1 661	31	251	1,9	17,8
Not economically active	1 115	1 128	1 125	1 169	1 152	-17	37	-1,5	3,3
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	27,8	28,9	29,3	31,6	31,7	0,1	3,9		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	59,1	58,2	58,0	55,8	56,0	0,2	-3,1		
Labour force participation rate	82,0	81,9	82,1	81,5	82,0	0,5	0,0		
55–64 years									
Population 55–64 yrs	4 100	4 123	4 146	4 168	4 189	21	90	0,5	2,2
Labour force	1 957	1 972	1 981	1 896	1 847	-49	-110	-2,6	-5,6
Employed	1 533	1 512	1 533	1 433	1 439	6	-95	0,4	-6,2
Unemployed	424	460	448	463	408	-55	-15	-11,8	-3,6
Not economically active	2 143	2 151	2 165	2 272	2 342	70	200	3,1	9,3
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	21,6	23,3	22,6	24,4	22,1	-2,3	0,5		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	37,4	36,7	37,0	34,4	34,3	-0,1	-3,1		
Labour force participation rate	47,7	47,8	47,8	45,5	44,1	-1,4	-3,6		

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 2.7: Labour force characteristics by province and metro – Expanded definition of unemployment									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
South Africa									
Population 15–64 yrs	39 311	39 455	39 599	39 745	39 888	143	578	0,4	1,5
Labour force	26 179	26 417	26 865	26 766	27 037	270	857	1,0	3,3
Employed	15 024	14 995	14 942	14 282	14 544	262	-479	1,8	-3,2
Unemployed	11 156	11 422	11 923	12 484	12 492	8	1 337	0,1	12,0
Not economically active	13 132	13 038	12 735	12 979	12 852	-127	-280	-1,0	-2,1
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	42,6	43,2	44,4	46,6	46,2	-0,4	3,6		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	38,2	38,0	37,7	35,9	36,5	0,6	-1,7		
Labour force participation rate	66,6	67,0	67,8	67,3	67,8	0,5	1,2		
Western Cape									
Population 15–64 yrs	4 766	4 796	4 818	4 839	4 859	20	93	0,4	1,9
Labour force	3 193	3 200	3 181	3 191	3 250	59	57	1,9	1,8
Employed	2 338	2 309	2 256	2 225	2 263	37	-75	1,7	-3,2
Unemployed	855	892	925	966	988	22	132	2,2	15,5
Not economically active	1 573	1 596	1 637	1 647	1 608	-39	35	-2,4	2,2
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	26,8	27,9	29,1	30,3	30,4	0,1	3,6		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	49,0	48,1	46,8	46,0	46,6	0,6	-2,4		
Labour force participation rate	67,0	66,7	66,0	66,0	66,9	0,9	-0,1		
Eastern Cape									
Population 15–64 yrs	4 369	4 371	4 382	4 396	4 410	15	42	0,3	1,0
Labour force	2 597	2 579	2 629	2 675	2 668	-7	72	-0,3	2,8
Employed	1 236	1 301	1 235	1 216	1 247	31	12	2,6	0,9
Unemployed	1 361	1 278	1 394	1 459	1 421	-38	60	-2,6	4,4
Not economically active	1 772	1 792	1 754	1 721	1 742	22	-30	1,3	-1,7
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	52,4	49,6	53,0	54,5	53,2	-1,3	0,8		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	28,3	29,8	28,2	27,7	28,3	0,6	0,0		
Labour force participation rate	59,4	59,0	60,0	60,9	60,5	-0,4	1,1		

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Table 2.7: Labour force characteristics by province and metro – Expanded definition of unemployment (continued)									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Northern Cape									
Population 15–64 yrs	816	815	817	819	821	2	5	0,2	0,6
Labour force	529	542	516	540	530	-11	1	-2,0	0,2
Employed	308	313	256	275	264	-11	-43	-4,0	-14,1
Unemployed	221	229	259	265	266	0	45	0,2	20,2
Not economically active	287	273	302	279	291	13	4	4,5	1,4
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	41,8	42,2	50,3	49,1	50,1	1,0	8,3		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	37,7	38,4	31,4	33,6	32,2	-1,4	-5,5		
Labour force participation rate	64,8	66,5	63,1	66,0	64,5	-1,5	-0,3		
Free State									
Population 15–64 yrs	1 917	1 918	1 920	1 922	1 923	2	6	0,1	0,3
Labour force	1 239	1 241	1 320	1 328	1 303	-25	64	-1,9	5,1
Employed	745	703	723	720	727	8	-18	1,0	-2,4
Unemployed	494	538	597	608	575	-33	81	-5,4	16,4
Not economically active	678	677	600	593	621	27	-57	4,6	-8,4
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	39,9	43,4	45,2	45,8	44,2	-1,6	4,3		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	38,9	36,6	37,7	37,5	37,8	0,3	-1,1		
Labour force participation rate	64,6	64,7	68,7	69,1	67,7	-1,4	3,1		
KwaZulu-Natal									
Population 15–64 yrs	7 268	7 291	7 317	7 343	7 370	27	102	0,4	1,4
Labour force	4 545	4 529	4 580	4 469	4 724	255	178	5,7	3,9
Employed	2 454	2 429	2 421	2 297	2 424	126	-31	5,5	-1,3
Unemployed	2 091	2 100	2 159	2 171	2 300	129	209	5,9	10,0
Not economically active	2 723	2 762	2 737	2 874	2 646	-228	-76	-7,9	-2,8
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	46,0	46,4	47,1	48,6	48,7	0,1	2,7		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	33,8	33,3	33,1	31,3	32,9	1,6	-0,9		
Labour force participation rate	62,5	62,1	62,6	60,9	64,1	3,2	1,6		

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 2.7: Labour force characteristics by province metro – Expanded definition of unemployment (continued)									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
North West									
Population 15–64 yrs	2 661	2 672	2 682	2 692	2 702	10	41	0,4	1,5
Labour force	1 748	1 767	1 844	1 780	1 712	-69	-36	-3,9	-2,1
Employed	944	933	979	851	858	7	-86	0,9	-9,1
Unemployed	803	833	865	930	853	-76	50	-8,2	6,2
Not economically active	913	905	838	912	990	79	78	8,7	8,5
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	46,0	47,2	46,9	52,2	49,9	-2,3	3,9		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	35,5	34,9	36,5	31,6	31,8	0,2	-3,7		
Labour force participation rate	65,7	66,1	68,7	66,1	63,3	-2,8	-2,4		
Gauteng									
Population 15–64 yrs	10 634	10 704	10 753	10 799	10 843	43	208	0,4	2,0
Labour force	7 747	7 925	8 109	8 071	8 132	61	385	0,8	5,0
Employed	4 570	4 626	4 648	4 448	4 524	76	-46	1,7	-1,0
Unemployed	3 177	3 299	3 460	3 623	3 608	-15	431	-0,4	13,6
Not economically active	2 887	2 779	2 644	2 728	2 711	-18	-176	-0,6	-6,1
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	41,0	41,6	42,7	44,9	44,4	-0,5	3,4		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	43,0	43,2	43,2	41,2	41,7	0,5	-1,3		
Labour force participation rate	72,9	74,0	75,4	74,7	75,0	0,3	2,1		
Mpumalanga									
Population 15–64 yrs	3 016	3 023	3 034	3 045	3 057	11	41	0,4	1,4
Labour force	2 141	2 162	2 179	2 193	2 209	16	68	0,7	3,2
Employed	1 148	1 133	1 166	1 104	1 052	-51	-96	-4,7	-8,3
Unemployed	993	1 029	1 013	1 089	1 157	67	163	6,2	16,4
Not economically active	874	861	855	852	848	-5	-27	-0,5	-3,0
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	46,4	47,6	46,5	49,7	52,4	2,7	6,0		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	38,1	37,5	38,4	36,2	34,4	-1,8	-3,7		
Labour force participation rate	71,0	71,5	71,8	72,0	72,3	0,3	1,3		

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

Note: 'Employment' refers to market production activities.

Table 2.7: Labour force characteristics by province metro – Expanded definition of unemployment (concluded)									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Limpopo									
Population 15–64 yrs	3 864	3 865	3 877	3 890	3 904	13	39	0,3	1,0
Labour force	2 440	2 472	2 509	2 518	2 509	-8	69	-0,3	2,8
Employed	1 281	1 248	1 257	1 145	1 184	39	-96	3,4	-7,5
Unemployed	1 159	1 224	1 252	1 373	1 325	-48	166	-3,5	14,3
Not economically active	1 424	1 393	1 368	1 372	1 394	22	-30	1,6	-2,1
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	47,5	49,5	49,9	54,5	52,8	-1,7	5,3		
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	33,1	32,3	32,4	29,4	30,3	0,9	-2,8		
Labour force participation rate	63,1	64,0	64,7	64,7	64,3	-0,4	1,2		

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									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Both sexes	15 024	14 995	14 942	14 282	14 544	262	-479	1,8	-3,2
Agriculture	810	792	862	829	868	38	57	4,6	7,1
Mining	384	395	398	345	370	25	-14	7,3	-3,5
Manufacturing	1 491	1 497	1 415	1 402	1 316	-85	-174	-6,1	-11,7
Utilities	99	115	118	96	82	-14	-18	-14,7	-17,7
Construction	1 166	1 079	1 222	1 157	1 133	-25	-33	-2,1	-2,8
Trade	3 063	2 979	3 087	2 778	2 896	118	-168	4,2	-5,5
Transport	943	903	969	964	951	-13	8	-1,4	0,8
Finance	2 312	2 527	2 248	2 386	2 404	18	93	0,8	4,0
Community and social services	3 551	3 567	3 401	3 191	3 264	73	-286	2,3	-8,1
Private households	1 197	1 127	1 194	1 130	1 258	129	62	11,4	5,2
Other	9	14	27	5	3	-2	-6	-45,0	-70,8
Women	6 592	6 591	6 480	6 152	6 274	121	-318	2,0	-4,8
Agriculture	249	228	252	238	232	-6	-16	-2,5	-6,6
Mining	64	68	84	45	44	-1	-20	-3,2	-31,5
Manufacturing	528	547	485	478	431	-48	-97	-10,0	-18,4
Utilities	32	36	37	28	20	-8	-11	-27,6	-36,0
Construction	131	120	164	150	159	8	28	5,5	21,3
Trade	1 392	1 337	1 391	1 239	1 268	29	-124	2,4	-8,9
Transport	182	150	167	157	163	6	-19	3,7	-10,7
Finance	944	1 073	887	987	1 018	31	73	3,2	7,8
Community and social services	2 175	2 179	2 122	1 967	2 008	42	-167	2,1	-7,7
Private households	888	842	877	863	931	68	43	7,9	4,9
Other	7	12	14						
Men	8 432	8 404	8 462	8 130	8 270	141	-162	1,7	-1,9
Agriculture	561	564	610	591	635	44	74	7,5	13,1
Mining	319	328	314	299	326	27	7	8,9	2,1
Manufacturing	963	951	930	924	886	-38	-77	-4,1	-8,0
Utilities	67	79	81	67	61	-6	-6	-9,3	-9,1
Construction	1 035	959	1 058	1 007	974	-33	-61	-3,3	-5,9
Trade	1 671	1 642	1 696	1 539	1 627	89	-44	5,8	-2,6
Transport	761	752	802	807	788	-19	27	-2,4	3,6
Finance	1 367	1 454	1 362	1 400	1 386	-13	19	-0,9	1,4
Community and social services	1 376	1 388	1 279	1 224	1 256	32	-120	2,6	-8,7
Private households	309	285	317	267	328	61	18	22,8	6,0
Other	2	2	13	5	3	-2	1	-45,0	30,0

Table 3.2: Employed by industry and province									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Agriculture	810	792	862	829	868	38	57	4,6	7,1
Western Cape	178	136	185	197	178	-19	0	-9,8	-0,1
Eastern Cape	101	101	82	107	108	1	8	1,1	7,7
Northern Cape	28	39	31	34	41	7	13	20,8	46,0
Free State	54	55	74	72	66	-6	13	-8,4	23,5
KwaZulu-Natal	141	130	137	113	132	19	-9	17,0	-6,3
North West	40	40	70	52	71	18	31	35,4	76,2
Gauteng	33	43	35	28	41	13	8	46,4	24,9
Mpumalanga	100	113	95	92	106	13	6	14,5	6,2
Limpopo	136	136	153	133	124	-9	-12	-6,5	-8,6
Mining	384	395	398	345	370	25	-14	7,3	-3,5
Western Cape	5	8	3	4	7	3	2	59,4	44,0
Eastern Cape	2	1	1	1	4	3	2	378,1	106,7
Northern Cape	32	28	18	20	10	-10	-22	-50,4	-68,8
Free State	13	16	18	19	23	4	9	20,3	71,0
KwaZulu-Natal	2	2	3	6	7	1	5	18,6	296,0
North West	120	123	138	124	126	2	6	1,4	4,8
Gauteng	59	61	73	34	53	19	-6	53,9	-10,2
Mpumalanga	61	62	47	50	65	15	4	30,0	6,1
Limpopo	90	95	98	86	76	-10	-14	-12,1	-15,3
Manufacturing	1 491	1 497	1 415	1 402	1 316	-85	-174	-6,1	-11,7
Western Cape	311	311	265	283	305	22	-6	7,9	-1,9
Eastern Cape	102	108	115	126	115	-12	13	-9,2	12,3
Northern Cape	14	20	11	11	5	-6	-9	-52,1	-63,8
Free State	49	48	45	31	33	1	-16	4,7	-32,8
KwaZulu-Natal	272	277	253	271	228	-43	-44	-15,9	-16,3
North West	51	72	44	63	39	-24	-12	-38,1	-23,9
Gauteng	525	510	505	459	454	-4	-70	-0,9	-13,4
Mpumalanga	90	82	106	98	78	-20	-12	-20,2	-13,7
Limpopo	76	69	72	60	60	-1	-16	-1,1	-21,4

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

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

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Table 3.2: Employed by industry and province (continued)									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Utilities	99	115	118	96	82	-14	-18	-14,7	-17,7
Western Cape	3	7	5	5					
Eastern Cape	5	10	4	5	5	0	-1	-0,3	-13,2
Northern Cape	1	3	1	3					
Free State	12	5	5	5	4	-1	-8	-21,9	-64,7
KwaZulu-Natal	7	9	2		11		3		42,0
North West	7	9	5	5	5	0	-1	3,2	-20,4
Gauteng	30	42	45	33	20	-13	-9	-38,1	-31,5
Mpumalanga	26	23	40	29	27	-2	1	-5,4	5,2
Limpopo	9	7	11	10	9	-1	0	-11,0	2,6
Construction	1 166	1 079	1 222	1 157	1 133	-25	-33	-2,1	-2,8
Western Cape	199	179	198	192	169	-23	-30	-11,9	-15,0
Eastern Cape	115	120	112	122	128	6	13	4,9	10,9
Northern Cape	20	11	19	10	12	2	-8	22,6	-39,7
Free State	46	30	34	33	32	0	-14	-1,0	-29,8
KwaZulu-Natal	199	184	228	227	211	-16	13	-7,1	6,5
North West	60	64	82	60	56	-4	-3	-7,3	-5,9
Gauteng	329	315	339	307	290	-17	-40	-5,6	-12,0
Mpumalanga	75	80	88	69	80	11	5	15,8	7,1
Limpopo	124	96	121	137	154	17	31	12,5	24,7
Trade	3 063	2 979	3 087	2 778	2 896	118	-168	4,2	-5,5
Western Cape	473	447	423	370	443	73	-30	19,6	-6,4
Eastern Cape	231	244	252	198	228	30	-3	14,9	-1,4
Northern Cape	46	40	40	46	38	-8	-8	-17,6	-16,6
Free State	149	159	155	163	190	27	41	16,3	27,3
KwaZulu-Natal	564	543	532	480	514	35	-49	7,3	-8,8
North West	176	175	187	160	154	-6	-22	-3,4	-12,2
Gauteng	906	909	971	899	909	10	3	1,1	0,4
Mpumalanga	251	235	269	235	185	-50	-66	-21,3	-26,2
Limpopo	268	227	257	226	234	8	-34	3,7	-12,6

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

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Table 3.2: Employed by industry and province (continued)									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Transport	943	903	969	964	951	-13	8	-1,4	0,8
Western Cape	123	128	139	147	125	-23	2	-15,5	1,4
Eastern Cape	82	81	70	78	84	6	2	7,2	2,3
Northern Cape	7	9	5	4	6	2	-1	55,3	-17,6
Free State	46	35	49	48	54	6	8	11,8	17,1
KwaZulu-Natal	180	168	173	163	163	0	-17	0,1	-9,7
North West	29	30	38	28	19	-8	-10	-29,9	-33,0
Gauteng	362	333	378	381	387	6	25	1,6	6,9
Mpumalanga	64	48	70	68	59	-8	-4	-12,3	-6,6
Limpopo	50	70	48	47	54	6	4	13,4	7,7
Finance	2 312	2 527	2 248	2 386	2 404	18	93	0,8	4,0
Western Cape	407	483	447	481	464	-17	57	-3,5	14,1
Eastern Cape	125	157	118	133	147	14	21	10,4	17,1
Northern Cape	37	31	16	21	21	0	-16	0,4	-42,7
Free State	59	72	65	88	74	-14	14	-15,9	24,5
KwaZulu-Natal	313	355	309	303	361	58	48	19,1	15,3
North West	107	96	92	93	92	-1	-15	-0,6	-14,1
Gauteng	1 013	1 063	996	1 047	1 021	-26	7	-2,5	0,7
Mpumalanga	147	152	120	130	125	-5	-22	-3,5	-14,8
Limpopo	102	119	87	91	99	8	-3	9,1	-3,0
Community and social services	3 551	3 567	3 401	3 191	3 264	73	-286	2,3	-8,1
Western Cape	513	492	441	417	448	31	-66	7,4	-12,8
Eastern Cape	365	365	376	367	333	-34	-32	-9,3	-8,7
Northern Cape	106	119	98	102	106	4	0	3,9	0,2
Free State	222	190	195	178	171	-7	-51	-3,7	-22,9
KwaZulu-Natal	589	577	563	529	551	22	-38	4,1	-6,4
North West	282	265	269	216	224	8	-59	3,6	-20,8
Gauteng	907	957	912	874	920	45	13	5,2	1,4
Mpumalanga	243	251	238	236	227	-9	-16	-3,8	-6,5
Limpopo	324	352	310	272	286	14	-38	5,0	-11,8

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.

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Table 3.2: Employed by industry and province (concluded)									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Private households	1 197	1 127	1 194	1 130	1 258	129	62	11,4	5,2
Western Cape	126	118	146	128	124	-4	-2	-3,1	-1,5
Eastern Cape	107	111	105	79	97	18	-9	22,7	-8,9
Northern Cape	17	11	18	24	25	1	8	3,5	48,6
Free State	94	93	84	82	80	-2	-15	-2,6	-15,5
KwaZulu-Natal	188	186	222	206	246	40	58	19,5	31,2
North West	72	59	51	50	72	22	0	44,4	-0,6
Gauteng	398	383	375	381	426	45	28	11,8	7,1
Mpumalanga	92	89	92	97	100	3	8	2,8	8,3
Limpopo	103	78	101	82	88	6	-14	7,5	-14,0

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.

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Table 3.3: Employed by sector and industry – South Africa									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Total employed	15 024	14 995	14 942	14 282	14 544	262	-479	1,8	-3,2
Formal and informal sector (non-agricultural)	13 017	13 076	12 886	12 323	12 418	95	-598	0,8	-4,6
Mining	384	395	398	345	370	25	-14	7,3	-3,5
Manufacturing	1 491	1 497	1 415	1 402	1 316	-85	-174	-6,1	-11,7
Utilities	99	115	118	96	82	-14	-18	-14,7	-17,7
Construction	1 166	1 079	1 222	1 157	1 133	-25	-33	-2,1	-2,8
Trade	3 063	2 979	3 087	2 778	2 896	118	-168	4,2	-5,5
Transport	943	903	969	964	951	-13	8	-1,4	0,8
Finance	2 312	2 527	2 248	2 386	2 404	18	93	0,8	4,0
Community and social services	3 551	3 567	3 401	3 191	3 264	73	-286	2,3	-8,1
Other	9	14	27	5	3	-2	-6	-45,0	-70,8
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	10 495	10 574	10 200	9 628	9 771	143	-724	1,5	-6,9
Mining	382	393	391	342	347	5	-35	1,5	-9,1
Manufacturing	1 317	1 323	1 218	1 197	1 155	-41	-162	-3,5	-12,3
Utilities	97	113	112	91	78	-13	-19	-14,0	-19,8
Construction	741	683	794	739	698	-41	-43	-5,6	-5,8
Trade	2 039	2 024	1 982	1 710	1 801	92	-238	5,4	-11,7
Transport	650	611	642	631	669	38	19	6,0	2,9
Finance	2 074	2 253	2 024	2 130	2 152	22	78	1,0	3,7
Community and social services	3 186	3 161	3 010	2 784	2 868	84	-318	3,0	-10,0
Other	9	14	26	5	3	-2	-6	-45,0	-70,8
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	2 521	2 502	2 686	2 695	2 647	-48	126	-1,8	5,0
Mining	1	2	7	2	23	20	21	813,1	1549,7
Manufacturing	174	175	197	205	161	-44	-13	-21,5	-7,3
Utilities	2	2	6	5	4	-1	2	-26,1	86,1
Construction	425	396	428	418	435	17	10	4,0	2,3
Trade	1 024	955	1 105	1 068	1 094	26	70	2,5	6,9
Transport	293	291	326	333	282	-52	-11	-15,5	-3,8
Finance	237	274	224	256	252	-4	15	-1,4	6,3
Community and social services	365	406	391	407	396	-11	31	-2,6	8,6
Other			1						
Agriculture	810	792	862	829	868	38	57	4,6	7,1
Private households	1 197	1 127	1 194	1 130	1 258	129	62	11,4	5,2

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

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

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Quarter 4:2021

Table 3.4: Employed by province and sector									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
South Africa	15 024	14 995	14 942	14 282	14 544	262	-479	1,8	-3,2
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	10 495	10 574	10 200	9 628	9 771	143	-724	1,5	-6,9
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	2 521	2 502	2 686	2 695	2 647	-48	126	-1,8	5,0
Agriculture	810	792	862	829	868	38	57	4,6	7,1
Private households	1 197	1 127	1 194	1 130	1 258	129	62	11,4	5,2
Western Cape	2 338	2 309	2 256	2 225	2 263	37	-75	1,7	-3,2
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	1 815	1 815	1 708	1 691	1 744	52	-71	3,1	-3,9
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	219	240	217	208	217	8	-2	4,0	-0,9
Agriculture	178	136	185	197	178	-19	0	-9,8	-0,1
Private households	126	118	146	128	124	-4	-2	-3,1	-1,5
Eastern Cape	1 236	1 301	1 235	1 216	1 247	31	12	2,6	0,9
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	728	765	736	723	720	-3	-8	-0,5	-1,1
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	300	324	312	306	322	16	22	5,1	7,2
Agriculture	101	101	82	107	108	1	8	1,1	7,7
Private households	107	111	105	79	97	18	-9	22,7	-8,9
Northern Cape	308	313	256	275	264	-11	-43	-4,0	-14,1
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	242	245	188	197	174	-23	-68	-11,7	-28,1
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	20	19	20	20	24	4	4	21,4	18,4
Agriculture	28	39	31	34	41	7	13	20,8	46,0
Private households	17	11	18	24	25	1	8	3,5	48,6
Free State	745	703	723	720	727	8	-18	1,0	-2,4
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	466	438	457	445	452	7	-14	1,6	-3,0
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	131	116	108	120	129	9	-2	7,2	-1,4
Agriculture	54	55	74	72	66	-6	13	-8,4	23,5
Private households	94	93	84	82	80	-2	-15	-2,6	-15,5

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

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

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Table 3.4: Employed by province and sector (continued)									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
KwaZulu-Natal	2 454	2 429	2 421	2 297	2 424	126	-31	5,5	-1,3
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	1 657	1 655	1 617	1 500	1 594	94	-63	6,3	-3,8
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	468	458	445	478	451	-27	-17	-5,7	-3,7
Agriculture	141	130	137	113	132	19	-9	17,0	-6,3
Private households	188	186	222	206	246	40	58	19,5	31,2
North West	944	933	979	851	858	7	-86	0,9	-9,1
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	730	722	692	613	588	-25	-142	-4,0	-19,4
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	102	112	166	136	128	-8	26	-6,2	25,0
Agriculture	40	40	70	52	71	18	31	35,4	76,2
Private households	72	59	51	50	72	22	0	44,4	-0,6
Gauteng	4 570	4 626	4 648	4 448	4 524	76	-46	1,7	-1,0
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	3 469	3 511	3 469	3 238	3 274	36	-195	1,1	-5,6
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	670	689	770	801	782	-18	113	-2,3	16,8
Agriculture	33	43	35	28	-	-	-	-	-
Private households	398	383	375	381	426	45	28	11,8	7,1
Mpumalanga	1 148	1 133	1 166	1 104	1 052	-51	-96	-4,7	-8,3
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	687	669	672	610	586	-23	-101	-3,8	-14,7
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	269	262	306	305	260	-44	-9	-14,6	-3,3
Agriculture	100	113	95	92	106	13	6	14,5	6,2
Private households	92	89	92	97	100	3	8	2,8	8,3
Limpopo	1 281	1 248	1 257	1 145	1 184	39	-96	3,4	-7,5
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	701	753	661	610	638	28	-62	4,6	-8,9
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	342	282	342	320	334	14	-8	4,3	-2,3
Agriculture	136	136	153	133	124	-9	-12	-6,5	-8,6
Private households	103	78	101	82	88	6	-14	7,5	-14,0

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.

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 30% cannot be published and are replaced with a dash (-) in the tables

Table 3.5: Employed by sex and occupation – South Africa									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Both sexes	15 024	14 995	14 942	14 282	14 544	262	-479	1,8	-3,2
Manager	1 324	1 342	1 406	1 342	1 257	-85	-68	-6,4	-5,1
Professional	952	990	992	946	933	-13	-19	-1,4	-2,0
Technician	1 352	1 399	1 320	1 235	1 265	30	-87	2,4	-6,4
Clerk	1 579	1 595	1 474	1 411	1 371	-40	-208	-2,8	-13,1
Sales and services	2 476	2 483	2 322	2 149	2 316	167	-160	7,8	-6,5
Skilled agriculture	85	62	45	63	68	4	-18	6,7	-20,6
Craft and related trade	1 660	1 630	1 599	1 526	1 519	-6	-141	-0,4	-8,5
Plant and machine operator	1 257	1 285	1 242	1 219	1 236	16	-22	1,3	-1,7
Elementary	3 393	3 317	3 605	3 534	3 630	96	237	2,7	7,0
Domestic worker	897	848	892	856	949	93	52	10,9	5,9
Women	6 592	6 591	6 480	6 152	6 274	121	-318	2,0	-4,8
Manager	428	419	465	432	394	-37	-34	-8,6	-7,9
Professional	472	486	435	430	400	-31	-72	-7,2	-15,3
Technician	745	814	751	713	744	31	-2	4,3	-0,2
Clerk	1 147	1 152	1 106	1 072	1 060	-12	-86	-1,1	-7,5
Sales and services	1 126	1 109	1 032	920	1 018	98	-107	10,7	-9,5
Skilled agriculture	22	11	16	13	-	-	-	-	-
Craft and related trade	173	172	190	170	143	-27	-30	-15,9	-17,5
Plant and machine operator	161	156	158	137	122	-15	-39	-10,9	-24,3
Elementary	1 441	1 448	1 467	1 441	1 487	46	46	3,2	3,2
Domestic worker	861	815	843	825	898	73	36	8,9	4,2
Men	8 432	8 404	8 462	8 130	8 270	141	-162	1,7	-1,9
Manager	896	923	941	911	862	-48	-34	-5,3	-3,8
Professional	480	504	557	516	534	18	53	3,5	11,1
Technician	607	585	568	522	521	-1	-85	-0,2	-14,1
Clerk	432	443	368	339	311	-28	-121	-8,3	-28,1
Sales and services	1 351	1 373	1 289	1 229	1 297	69	-53	5,6	-3,9
Skilled agriculture	64	51	29	51	60	9	-4	18,3	-5,9
Craft and related trade	1 487	1 458	1 408	1 356	1 376	21	-110	1,5	-7,4
Plant and machine operator	1 097	1 129	1 084	1 083	1 114	31	17	2,9	1,6
Elementary	1 952	1 869	2 138	2 093	2 143	50	190	2,4	9,8
Domestic worker	35	33	49	31	51	20	16	64,4	45,9

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.

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 30% cannot be published and are replaced with a dash (-) in the tables

Table 3.6: Employed by sex and status in employment – South Africa									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Both sexes	15 024	14 995	14 942	14 282	14 544	262	-479	1,8	-3,2
Employee	12 615	12 649	12 460	11 892	12 034	143	-581	1,2	-4,6
Employer	808	826	883	806	812	6	4	0,8	0,4
Own-account worker	1 485	1 409	1 495	1 499	1 554	55	69	3,7	4,7
Unpaid household member	115	112	103	86	144	58	29	68,1	24,8
Women	6 592	6 591	6 480	6 152	6 274	121	-318	2,0	-4,8
Employee	5 757	5 772	5 642	5 317	5 457	140	-301	2,6	-5,2
Employer	187	194	196	179	172	-8	-16	-4,3	-8,3
Own-account worker	588	568	601	623	607	-16	19	-2,5	3,3
Unpaid household member	59	58	40	34	39	5	-20	14,7	-34,7
Men	8 432	8 404	8 462	8 130	8 270	141	-162	1,7	-1,9
Employee	6 858	6 877	6 818	6 575	6 578	3	-280	0,0	-4,1
Employer	621	632	687	626	640	14	19	2,2	3,1
Own-account worker	897	841	894	876	947	71	50	8,1	5,6
Unpaid household member	56	54	63	52	105	53	49	102,5	87,1

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 3.7: Employed by sex and usual hours of work – South Africa									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Both sexes	15 024	14 995	14 942	14 282	14 544	262	-479	1,8	-3,2
Working less than 15 hours per week	421	366	469	399	378	-21	-44	-5,4	-10,4
Working 15–29 hours per week	1 098	1 050	1 106	1 081	1 156	75	58	6,9	5,3
Working 30–39 hours per week	1 116	1 144	1 096	1 050	1 013	-36	-103	-3,4	-9,2
Working 40–45 hours per week	8 306	8 397	8 348	8 045	8 159	114	-147	1,4	-1,8
Working more than 45 hours per week	4 081	4 039	3 923	3 707	3 837	129	-245	3,5	-6,0
Women	6 592	6 591	6 480	6 152	6 274	121	-318	2,0	-4,8
Working less than 15 hours per week	212	215	253	212	213	1	1	0,5	0,5
Working 15–29 hours per week	708	662	648	670	681	11	-26	1,7	-3,7
Working 30–39 hours per week	683	721	642	610	573	-37	-110	-6,0	-16,1
Working 40–45 hours per week	3 688	3 733	3 704	3 466	3 666	199	-23	5,7	-0,6
Working more than 45 hours per week	1 300	1 261	1 233	1 194	1 139	-54	-161	-4,6	-12,4
Men	8 432	8 404	8 462	8 130	8 270	141	-162	1,7	-1,9
Working less than 15 hours per week	209	151	216	187	164	-22	-45	-12,0	-21,4
Working 15–29 hours per week	391	388	458	411	475	64	84	15,5	21,6
Working 30–39 hours per week	433	423	453	440	441	1	7	0,1	1,7
Working 40–45 hours per week	4 618	4 664	4 644	4 578	4 493	-85	-125	-1,9	-2,7
Working more than 45 hours per week	2 781	2 778	2 691	2 514	2 697	184	-84	7,3	-3,0

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

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

Table 3.8: Conditions of employment – South Africa									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Pension/retirement fund contribution									
Both sexes	12 615	12 649	12 460	11 892	12 034	143	-581	1,2	-4,6
Yes	6 358	6 424	6 082	5 636	5 405	-232	-953	-4,1	-15,0
No	6 090	6 086	6 166	6 010	6 350	340	260	5,7	4,3
Don't know	167	139	213	245	279	34	112	14,0	66,8
Women	5 757	5 772	5 642	5 317	5 457	140	-301	2,6	-5,2
Yes	2 732	2 765	2 583	2 340	2 334	-5	-397	-0,2	-14,5
No	2 948	2 948	2 959	2 877	3 008	131	60	4,6	2,0
Don't know	78	58	100	100	114	14	37	13,9	47,3
Men	6 858	6 877	6 818	6 575	6 578	3	-280	0,0	-4,1
Yes	3 626	3 659	3 499	3 296	3 070	-226	-556	-6,9	-15,3
No	3 142	3 138	3 206	3 134	3 342	209	200	6,7	6,4
Don't know	90	80	113	145	165	20	75	14,1	83,5
Entitled to any paid leave									
Both sexes	12 615	12 649	12 460	11 892	12 034	143	-581	1,2	-4,6
Yes	8 948	9 136	8 666	8 171	8 050	-120	-898	-1,5	-10,0
No	3 611	3 475	3 729	3 602	3 859	257	248	7,1	6,9
Don't know	56	38	65	119	125	6	69	4,7	123,7
Women	5 757	5 772	5 642	5 317	5 457	140	-301	2,6	-5,2
Yes	4 054	4 102	3 851	3 594	3 603	9	-451	0,3	-11,1
No	1 680	1 657	1 763	1 681	1 798	117	118	7,0	7,0
Don't know	24	12	27	42	56	14	32	32,4	137,7
Men	6 858	6 877	6 818	6 575	6 578	3	-280	0,0	-4,1
Yes	4 894	5 033	4 815	4 577	4 447	-129	-446	-2,8	-9,1
No	1 931	1 818	1 965	1 921	2 061	140	130	7,3	6,7
Don't know	32	26	38	77	69	-8	37	-10,4	113,5

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

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

Table 3.8: Conditions of employment – South Africa (continued)									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Entitled to paid sick leave									
Both sexes	12 615	12 649	12 460	11 892	12 034	143	-581	1,2	-4,6
Yes	9 595	9 822	9 343	8 839	8 748	-91	-847	-1,0	-8,8
No	2 941	2 761	3 042	2 939	3 160	221	219	7,5	7,5
Don't know	79	66	75	114	126	12	47	10,9	60,3
Women	5 757	5 772	5 642	5 317	5 457	140	-301	2,6	-5,2
Yes	4 313	4 389	4 135	3 911	3 930	20	-383	0,5	-8,9
No	1 402	1 360	1 469	1 366	1 475	109	74	8,0	5,3
Don't know	43	24	38	40	51	11	8	28,3	18,7
Men	6 858	6 877	6 818	6 575	6 578	3	-280	0,0	-4,1
Yes	5 282	5 434	5 208	4 928	4 818	-111	-465	-2,3	-8,8
No	1 539	1 401	1 573	1 572	1 685	113	145	7,2	9,5
Don't know	36	43	37	74	75	1	39	1,5	109,8
Entitled to maternity/paternity leave									
Both sexes	12 615	12 649	12 459	11 892	12 034	143	-581	1,2	-4,6
Yes	10 542	10 666	10 402	6 534	6 364	-171	-4 178	-2,6	-39,6
No	2 073	1 983	2 057	5 130	5 406	275	3 332	5,4	160,7
Women	5 757	5 772	5 641	5 317	5 457	140	-301	2,6	-5,2
Yes	4 383	4 491	4 333	3 076	3 016	-60	-1 367	-2,0	-31,2
No	1 375	1 280	1 309	2 175	2 352	177	977	8,1	71,1
Men	6 858	6 877	6 818	6 575	6 578	3	-280	0,0	-4,1
Yes	6 159	6 174	6 069	3 458	3 348	-110	-2 811	-3,2	-45,6
No	699	703	748	2 955	3 053	98	2 355	3,3	337,0

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

Table 3.8: Conditions of employment – South Africa (continued)									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
UIF contribution									
Both sexes	12 615	12 649	12 460	11 892	12 034	143	-581	1,2	-4,6
Yes	8 018	8 015	7 875	7 518	7 604	86	-413	1,1	-5,2
No	4 475	4 469	4 449	4 166	4 216	50	-260	1,2	-5,8
Don't know	122	165	136	207	214	7	92	3,3	75,6
Women	5 757	5 772	5 642	5 317	5 457	140	-301	2,6	-5,2
Yes	3 448	3 381	3 315	3 141	3 230	89	-218	2,8	-6,3
No	2 249	2 316	2 273	2 096	2 136	41	-113	1,9	-5,0
Don't know	60	74	54	80	90	10	30	12,7	49,5
Men	6 858	6 877	6 818	6 575	6 578	3	-280	0,0	-4,1
Yes	4 570	4 635	4 560	4 377	4 374	-3	-195	-0,1	-4,3
No	2 226	2 152	2 176	2 070	2 079	9	-147	0,4	-6,6
Don't know	62	90	81	128	124	-3	62	-2,6	101,0
Medical aid benefits									
Both sexes	12 615	12 649	12 460	11 892	12 034	143	-581	1,2	-4,6
Yes	3 983	4 090	3 884	3 617	3 482	-135	-501	-3,7	-12,6
No	8 539	8 486	8 499	8 175	8 450	275	-89	3,4	-1,0
Don't know	93	73	77	100	103	3	9	3,0	10,1
Women	5 757	5 772	5 642	5 317	5 457	140	-301	2,6	-5,2
Yes	1 809	1 847	1 757	1 620	1 595	-25	-214	-1,6	-11,8
No	3 920	3 887	3 846	3 657	3 812	156	-108	4,3	-2,7
Don't know	29	37	39	40	49	9	21	23,5	71,9
Men	6 858	6 877	6 818	6 575	6 578	3	-280	0,0	-4,1
Yes	2 174	2 242	2 126	1 996	1 886	-110	-287	-5,5	-13,2
No	4 619	4 599	4 653	4 518	4 637	119	18	2,6	0,4
Don't know	65	36	38	60	54	-6	-11	-10,6	-17,1

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 3.8: Conditions of employment – South Africa (continued)									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Income tax (PAYE/SITE) deduction									
Both sexes	12 615	12 649	12 460	11 892	12 034	143	-581	1,2	-4,6
Yes	7 347	7 406	7 069	6 611	6 591	-21	-756	-0,3	-10,3
No	4 990	5 012	5 095	4 997	5 162	166	172	3,3	3,5
Don't know	278	231	295	283	281	-2	3	-0,8	1,1
Women	5 757	5 772	5 642	5 317	5 457	140	-301	2,6	-5,2
Yes	3 151	3 185	3 064	2 799	2 838	39	-313	1,4	-9,9
No	2 486	2 488	2 448	2 413	2 502	89	16	3,7	0,6
Don't know	120	98	131	105	117	12	-3	11,1	-2,6
Men	6 858	6 877	6 818	6 575	6 578	3	-280	0,0	-4,1
Yes	4 195	4 221	4 006	3 813	3 753	-60	-443	-1,6	-10,5
No	2 504	2 524	2 648	2 584	2 660	77	157	3,0	6,3
Don't know	159	133	164	179	165	-14	6	-7,8	3,8
Condition of employment									
Both sexes	12 615	12 649	12 460	11 892	12 034	143	-581	1,2	-4,6
Written contract	10 703	10 827	10 402	9 843	9 909	66	-794	0,7	-7,4
Verbal agreement	1 912	1 822	2 057	2 049	2 125	76	213	3,7	11,1
Women	5 757	5 772	5 642	5 317	5 457	140	-301	2,6	-5,2
Written contract	4 862	4 900	4 706	4 417	4 511	94	-351	2,1	-7,2
Verbal agreement	895	872	937	900	946	46	50	5,1	5,6
Men	6 858	6 877	6 818	6 575	6 578	3	-280	0,0	-4,1
Written contract	5 841	5 927	5 697	5 426	5 398	-28	-442	-0,5	-7,6
Verbal agreement	1 017	950	1 121	1 149	1 179	30	162	2,6	16,0

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

Table 3.8: Conditions of employment – South Africa (continued)									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Nature of contract/agreement (both sexes)									
Both sexes	12 615	12 649	12 460	11 892	12 034	142	-581	1,2	-4,6
Limited duration	1 669	1 754	1 681	1 551	1 715	164	46	10,6	2,8
Permanent nature	8 257	8 280	7 786	7 448	7 208	-240	-1 049	-3,2	-12,7
Unspecified duration	2 690	2 615	2 993	2 892	3 111	219	421	7,6	15,7
Women	5 757	5 772	5 642	5 317	5 457	140	-300	2,6	-5,2
Limited duration	846	925	882	812	914	102	68	12,6	8,0
Permanent nature	3 657	3 649	3 409	3 250	3 184	-66	-473	-2,0	-12,9
Unspecified duration	1 254	1 198	1 352	1 255	1 359	104	105	8,3	8,4
Men	6 858	6 877	6 818	6 575	6 578	3	-280	0,0	-4,1
Limited duration	823	829	800	739	801	62	-22	8,4	-2,7
Permanent nature	4 599	4 630	4 377	4 199	4 024	-175	-575	-4,2	-12,5
Unspecified duration	1 435	1 418	1 641	1 637	1 752	115	317	7,0	22,1
Trade union membership (both sexes)									
Both sexes	12 615	12 649	12 460	11 892	12 034	142	-581	1,2	-4,6
Yes	4 245	4 331	4 125	3 875	3 690	-185	-555	-4,8	-13,1
No	8 072	8 016	8 032	7 717	8 040	323	-32	4,2	-0,4
Don't know	299	303	302	300	304	4	5	1,3	1,7
Women	5 757	5 772	5 642	5 317	5 457	140	-300	2,6	-5,2
Yes	1 847	1 894	1 779	1 670	1 627	-43	-220	-2,6	-11,9
No	3 784	3 753	3 737	3 541	3 720	179	-64	5,1	-1,7
Don't know	127	124	126	105	110	5	-17	4,8	-13,4
Men	6 858	6 877	6 818	6 575	6 578	3	-280	0,0	-4,1
Yes	2 398	2 436	2 346	2 204	2 063	-141	-335	-6,4	-14,0
No	4 288	4 263	4 295	4 176	4 320	144	32	3,4	0,7
Don't know	171	178	177	194	195	1	24	0,5	14,0

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

Table 3.8: Conditions of employment – South Africa (concluded)									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
How annual salary increment is negotiated									
Both sexes	12 615	12 649	12 460	11 892	12 034	142	-581	1,2	-4,6
Individual and employer	1 099	952	866	849	1 124	275	25	32,4	2,3
Union and employer	3 220	3 357	3 154	2 930	2 781	-149	-439	-5,1	-13,6
Bargaining council	1 149	1 186	1 146	1 133	1 075	-58	-74	-5,1	-6,4
Employer only	6 512	6 478	6 545	6 197	6 308	111	-204	1,8	-3,1
No regular increment	620	637	732	764	717	-47	97	-6,2	15,6
Other	14	39	17	18	29	11	15	61,1	107,1
Women	5 757	5 772	5 642	5 317	5 457	140	-300	2,6	-5,2
Individual and employer	456	408	384	352	530	178	74	50,6	16,2
Union and employer	1 297	1 375	1 278	1 199	1 194	-5	-103	-0,4	-7,9
Bargaining council	630	647	618	547	549	2	-81	0,4	-12,9
Employer only	3 057	3 017	2 977	2 821	2 793	-28	-264	-1,0	-8,6
No regular increment	311	308	379	389	377	-12	66	-3,1	21,2
Other	7	18	5	8	13	5	6	62,5	85,7
Men	6 858	6 877	6 818	6 575	6 578	3	-280	0,0	-4,1
Individual and employer	643	544	482	497	594	97	-49	19,5	-7,6
Union and employer	1 923	1 982	1 876	1 731	1 587	-144	-336	-8,3	-17,5
Bargaining council	519	539	527	586	526	-60	7	-10,2	1,3
Employer only	3 456	3 461	3 568	3 376	3 515	139	59	4,1	1,7
No regular increment	309	330	353	376	340	-36	31	-9,6	10,0
Other	7	21	12	10	16	6	9	60,0	128,6

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

Table 3.9: Time-related underemployment – South Africa									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Both sexes	827	785	937	846	862	16	35	1,9	4,3
Women	474	438	494	463	454	-10	-21	-2,1	-4,4
Men	353	348	443	383	409	26	56	6,7	15,9
As percentage of the labour force (both sexes)	3,7	3,5	4,1	3,9	3,8	-0,1	0,1		
Women	4,7	4,4	4,8	4,7	4,5	-0,2	-0,2		
Men	2,9	2,8	3,5	3,2	3,3	0,1	0,4		
As percentage of total employment (both sexes)	5,5	5,2	6,3	5,9	5,9	0,0	0,4		
Women	7,2	6,6	7,6	7,5	7,2	-0,3	0,0		
Men	4,2	4,1	5,2	4,7	4,9	0,2	0,7		
Industry	827	785	937	846	862	16	35	1,9	4,3
Agriculture	24	22	21	23	23	0	-1	-1,9	-4,5
Mining			4		27				
Manufacturing	41	31	36	34	27	-7	-14	-19,8	-33,7
Utilities		2							
Construction	111	84	135	130	127	-2	16	-1,6	14,4
Trade	148	161	173	144	146	2	-2	1,4	-1,5
Transport	21	12	37	29	22	-7	1	-23,9	2,6
Finance	63	74	70	78	57	-22	-6	-27,7	-9,5
Community and social services	141	142	177	138	143	6	2	4,1	1,8
Private households	278	257	284	271	291	19	12	7,1	4,4
Occupation	827	785	937	846	862	16	35	1,9	4,3
Manager	18	11	30	45	15	-30	-3	-66,9	-16,1
Professional	7	11	16	3	18	15	12	496,1	175,4
Technician	37	29	31	37	29	-8	-8	-20,8	-21,4
Clerk	23	30	26	16	17	1	-5	4,1	-24,1
Sales and services	81	105	86	54	69	15	-12	27,1	-15,0
Skilled agriculture	5	4	0	2					
Craft and related trade	115	82	96	93	98	5	-17	5,1	-14,8
Plant and machine operator	28	20	41	25	26	1	-2	2,2	-6,7
Elementary	319	317	423	388	389	1	69	0,3	21,7
Domestic worker	196	175	188	184	202	19	6	10,1	3,2

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									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Unemployed	7 233	7 242	7 826	7 643	7 921	278	688	3,6	9,5
Job losers	2 241	2 188	2 312	2 246	2 177	-69	-64	-3,1	-2,8
Job leavers	392	373	324	289	267	-22	-125	-7,7	-31,9
New entrants	2 850	2 926	3 114	3 158	3 415	257	565	8,1	19,8
Re-entrants	358	360	335	305	332	27	-26	8,8	-7,4
Other	1 392	1 395	1 741	1 645	1 730	86	338	5,2	24,3
Unemployed	7 233	7 242	7 826	7 643	7 921	278	688	3,6	9,5
Long-term unemployment (1 year and more)	5 199	5 450	5 987	6 003	6 334	331	1 135	5,5	21,8
Short-term unemployment (less than 1 year)	2 034	1 792	1 839	1 641	1 587	-53	-447	-3,2	-22,0
Long-term unemployment (%)									
Proportion of the labour force	23,4	24,5	26,3	27,4	28,2	0,8	4,8		
Proportion of the unemployed	71,9	75,3	76,5	78,5	80,0	1,5	8,1		
Those who have worked in the past 5 years									
Previous occupation	2 991	2 921	2 971	2 840	2 776	-64	-215	-2,3	-7,2
Manager	91	68	55	83	86	3	-5	3,1	-5,7
Professional	76	47	65	49	72	23	-5	47,5	-6,2
Technician	181	156	170	153	161	8	-21	5,0	-11,5
Clerk	329	306	348	371	340	-31	11	-8,3	3,4
Sales and services	527	546	521	523	491	-32	-36	-6,1	-6,8
Skilled agriculture	8	7	7	5	3	-2	-5	-30,4	-58,7
Craft and related trade	463	438	421	454	382	-71	-80	-15,7	-17,3
Plant and machine operator	274	226	243	238	206	-32	-68	-13,3	-24,8
Elementary	869	929	883	773	821	48	-48	6,2	-5,5
Domestic worker	165	167	212	192	213	21	48	11,0	29,0
Other	7	32	46						

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

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

Table 4: Characteristics of the unemployed – South Africa (concluded)									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Previous industry	2 991	2 921	2 971	2 840	2 776	-64	-215	-2,3	-7,2
Agriculture	126	144	164	132	151	19	25	14,3	20,1
Mining	49	39	56	47	33	-14	-16	-30,1	-33,0
Manufacturing	300	336	299	271	250	-21	-50	-7,9	-16,7
Utilities	19	19	24	18	15	-4	-4	-21,0	-23,5
Construction	504	478	459	439	420	-19	-84	-4,4	-16,6
Trade	645	591	555	540	504	-36	-141	-6,6	-21,9
Transport	197	167	173	182	181	-1	-16	-0,6	-8,4
Finance	437	425	439	480	440	-41	3	-8,5	0,6
Community and social services	466	440	485	462	455	-7	-11	-1,4	-2,3
Private households	243	275	313	268	327	59	84	22,1	34,4
Other	4	7	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 5: Characteristics of the not economically active – South Africa									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Not economically active	17 054	17 218	16 832	17 820	17 423	-397	369	-2,2	2,2
Student	6 922	6 674	6 507	6 586	6 599	13	-323	0,2	-4,7
Homemaker	2 688	2 620	2 755	2 784	2 716	-68	28	-2,5	1,0
Illness/disability	1 478	1 496	1 508	1 604	1 539	-66	60	-4,1	4,1
Too old/young to work	1 565	1 578	1 626	1 681	1 808	127	243	7,5	15,5
Discouraged work-seekers	2 930	3 131	3 317	3 862	3 806	-56	876	-1,4	29,9
Other	1 471	1 719	1 119	1 302	956	-346	-515	-26,6	-35,0
Inactivity rate by age (both sexes)	43,4	43,6	42,5	44,8	43,7	-1,1	0,3		
15–24 yrs	79,4	79,4	77,1	78,3	77,3	-1,0	-2,1		
25–54 yrs	26,3	26,7	25,9	28,7	27,3	-1,4	1,0		
55–64 yrs	57,3	57,8	57,8	60,6	61,3	0,7	4,0		
Inactivity rate by age (women)	49,4	49,8	48,6	51,1	49,5	-1,6	0,1		
15–24 yrs	81,0	81,3	78,7	79,6	78,9	-0,7	-2,1		
25–54 yrs	33,7	34,2	33,4	36,4	34,5	-1,9	0,8		
55–64 yrs	64,4	64,8	65,5	68,2	67,4	-0,8	3,0		
Inactivity rate by age (men)	37,2	37,4	36,3	38,5	37,7	-0,8	0,5		
15–24 yrs	77,8	77,5	75,6	76,9	75,8	-1,1	-2,0		
25–54 yrs	18,9	19,2	18,5	21,1	20,1	-1,0	1,2		
55–64 yrs	48,4	49,2	48,2	51,2	53,7	2,5	5,3		

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

Table 6: Sociodemographic characteristics – South Africa									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Age group of the employed	15 024	14 995	14 942	14 282	14 544	262	-479	1,8	-3,2
15–24 yrs	776	775	833	745	778	33	2	4,5	0,3
25–34 yrs	4 298	4 230	4 214	3 927	4 088	162	-210	4,1	-4,9
35–44 yrs	4 760	4 849	4 714	4 641	4 665	24	-95	0,5	-2,0
45–54 yrs	3 656	3 629	3 647	3 536	3 574	37	-82	1,1	-2,3
55–64 yrs	1 533	1 512	1 533	1 433	1 439	6	-95	0,4	-6,2
Age group of the unemployed	7 233	7 242	7 826	7 643	7 921	278	688	3,6	9,5
15–24 yrs	1 335	1 336	1 507	1 481	1 543	62	208	4,2	15,6
25–34 yrs	3 006	2 977	3 170	3 059	3 142	83	137	2,7	4,6
35–44 yrs	1 799	1 797	1 960	1 902	1 999	97	200	5,1	11,1
45–54 yrs	875	905	972	992	1 053	61	178	6,2	20,3
55–64 yrs	219	228	218	209	184	-25	-35	-12,0	-15,8
Age group of the not economically active	17 054	17 218	16 832	17 820	17 423	-397	369	-2,2	2,2
15–24 yrs	8 142	8 136	7 900	8 010	7 912	-98	-231	-1,2	-2,8
25–34 yrs	2 969	3 098	2 954	3 382	3 166	-216	196	-6,4	6,6
35–44 yrs	1 945	1 901	1 917	2 093	2 019	-74	74	-3,5	3,8
45–54 yrs	1 650	1 699	1 666	1 809	1 761	-48	110	-2,7	6,7
55–64 yrs	2 347	2 383	2 395	2 527	2 567	40	219	1,6	9,3
Highest level of education of the employed	15 024	14 995	14 942	14 282	14 544	262	-479	1,8	-3,2
No schooling	178	148	194	209	212	3	34	1,5	19,3
Less than primary completed	741	675	719	662	737	75	-4	11,3	-0,5
Primary completed	512	449	513	424	428	3	-85	0,8	-16,5
Secondary not completed	4 825	4 902	4 892	4 613	4 819	207	-6	4,5	-0,1
Secondary completed	5 328	5 296	5 144	5 043	5 051	8	-277	0,2	-5,2
Tertiary	3 327	3 423	3 359	3 229	3 188	-42	-140	-1,3	-4,2
Other	112	101	122	102	109	8	-3	7,5	-2,7

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

Table 6: Sociodemographic characteristics – South Africa (continued)									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Highest level of education of the unemployed	7 233	7 242	7 826	7 643	7 921	278	688	3,6	9,5
No schooling	36	39	56	49	63	14	27	27,7	74,6
Less than primary completed	322	314	288	286	333	47	11	16,5	3,4
Primary completed	249	207	224	267	291	23	41	8,6	16,6
Secondary not completed	3 181	3 256	3 467	3 365	3 410	45	229	1,4	7,2
Secondary completed	2 739	2 731	2 972	2 893	3 056	164	318	5,7	11,6
Tertiary	670	676	779	748	731	-17	62	-2,3	9,2
Other	36	20	40	35	37	2	1	5,3	1,7
Highest level of education of the not economically active	17 054	17 218	16 832	17 820	17 423	-397	369	-2,2	2,2
No schooling	401	415	470	521	515	-6	113	-1,2	28,3
Less than primary completed	1 288	1 154	1 262	1 323	1 281	-42	-7	-3,2	-0,6
Primary completed	1 021	833	904	911	975	65	-45	7,1	-4,4
Secondary not completed	9 124	9 153	8 958	9 600	9 511	-89	387	-0,9	4,2
Secondary completed	4 305	4 785	4 378	4 590	4 283	-308	-23	-6,7	-0,5
Tertiary	768	724	679	728	748	20	-20	2,8	-2,6
Other	147	154	180	147	110	-37	-37	-25,2	-24,9
Employed	15 024	14 995	14 942	14 282	14 544	262	-479	1,8	-3,2
Attending educational institution	220	183	207	156	188	32	-32	20,5	-14,6
Not attending educational institution	14 804	14 812	14 735	14 126	14 356	230	-447	1,6	-3,0
Unemployed	7 233	7 242	7 826	7 643	7 921	278	688	3,6	9,5
Attending educational institution	114	118	132	90	117	27	4	30,0	3,4
Not attending educational institution	7 120	7 124	7 694	7 553	7 804	251	684	3,3	9,6
Not economically active	17 054	17 218	16 832	17 820	17 423	-397	369	-2,2	2,2
Attending educational institution	6 830	6 515	6 353	6 420	6 450	29	-380	0,5	-5,6
Not attending educational institution	10 223	10 702	10 479	11 399	10 973	-426	749	-3,7	7,3

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

Table 6: Sociodemographic characteristics – South Africa (concluded)									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Current marital status of the employed	15 024	14 995	14 942	14 282	14 544	262	-479	1,8	-3,2
Married	5 941	5 968	5 769	5 619	5 580	-39	-361	-0,7	-6,1
Living together like husband and wife	1 798	1 786	1 929	1 753	1 842	89	44	5,1	2,5
Widow/widower	386	373	386	385	349	-36	-37	-9,3	-9,5
Divorced or separated	431	445	442	419	376	-43	-55	-10,3	-12,8
Never married	6 467	6 424	6 416	6 105	6 396	291	-71	4,8	-1,1
Current marital status of the unemployed	7 233	7 242	7 826	7 643	7 921	278	688	3,6	9,5
Married	1 174	1 150	1 313	1 222	1 282	60	108	4,9	9,2
Living together like husband and wife	719	652	761	631	681	50	-38	7,9	-5,3
Widow/widower	91	81	87	63	63	0	-27	0,7	-30,3
Divorced or separated	123	102	142	123	136	13	12	10,2	9,9
Never married	5 126	5 257	5 523	5 605	5 760	155	634	2,8	12,4
Current marital status of the not economically active	17 054	17 218	16 832	17 820	17 423	-397	369	-2,2	2,2
Married	3 005	3 049	2 897	3 033	2 968	-64	-37	-2,1	-1,2
Living together like husband and wife	827	856	885	900	814	-87	-13	-9,6	-1,6
Widow/widower	589	613	624	626	675	49	85	7,8	14,5
Divorced or separated	288	295	293	308	293	-15	4	-5,0	1,4
Never married	12 344	12 405	12 132	12 953	12 674	-279	330	-2,2	2,7

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

Table 7: Profile of those not in employment, education or training – South Africa									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Both sexes	17 343	17 826	18 173	18 952	18 777	-175	1 434	-0,9	8,3
Women	9 782	10 013	10 263	10 601	10 513	-88	731	-0,8	7,5
Men	7 561	7 813	7 909	8 352	8 264	-88	703	-1,1	9,3
Age group	17 343	17 826	18 173	18 952	18 777	-175	1 434	-0,9	8,3
15–24 yrs	3 053	3 318	3 384	3 432	3 357	-75	304	-2,2	10,0
25–34 yrs	5 527	5 640	5 721	6 044	5 870	-173	343	-2,9	6,2
35–44 yrs	3 683	3 663	3 826	3 952	3 995	43	312	1,1	8,5
45–54 yrs	2 514	2 594	2 629	2 789	2 805	16	291	0,6	11,6
55–64 yrs	2 566	2 611	2 613	2 736	2 750	14	184	0,5	7,2
Population groups	17 343	17 826	18 173	18 952	18 777	-175	1 434	-0,9	8,3
Black/African	14 772	15 218	15 374	16 073	15 972	-101	1 200	-0,6	8,1
Coloured	1 476	1 513	1 669	1 724	1 699	-25	223	-1,4	15,1
Indian/Asian	369	383	429	449	466	16	96	3,7	26,1
White	726	712	700	706	640	-66	-86	-9,3	-11,8
South Africa	17 343	17 826	18 173	18 952	18 777	-175	1 434	-0,9	8,3
Western Cape	1 695	1 746	1 869	1 921	1 926	5	231	0,3	13,6
Eastern Cape	2 202	2 111	2 284	2 340	2 295	-45	94	-1,9	4,3
Northern Cape	394	403	453	442	446	4	52	0,9	13,2
Free State	778	862	857	889	876	-13	98	-1,4	12,6
KwaZulu-Natal	3 493	3 615	3 594	3 716	3 639	-77	146	-2,1	4,2
North West	1 246	1 311	1 327	1 433	1 431	-2	186	-0,1	14,9
Gauteng	4 460	4 552	4 581	4 781	4 764	-17	305	-0,4	6,8
Mpumalanga	1 312	1 372	1 322	1 403	1 450	47	138	3,4	10,6
Limpopo	1 765	1 856	1 884	2 028	1 950	-78	185	-3,9	10,5

Table 8: Involvement in non-market activities and labour market status by province									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
South Africa									
Subsistence farming	2 793	2 996	2 350	2 285	2 436	151	-356	6,6	-12,8
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	4 396	4 445	4 611	4 908	4 384	-524	-12	-10,7	-0,3
Producing other goods for household use	187	243	287	319	193	-126	5	-39,6	2,9
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	405	370	392	441	516	75	111	16,9	27,3
Hunting or fishing for household use	25	45	24	38	108	70	82	182,2	325,0
Involvement in at least one activity	6 057	6 219	5 937	6 231	5 843	-388	-214	-6,2	-3,5
Employed	1 529	1 563	1 444	1 381	1 360	-21	-169	-1,5	-11,1
Unemployed	1 472	1 517	1 487	1 508	1 446	-62	-26	-4,1	-1,8
Not economically active	3 056	3 139	3 006	3 342	3 037	-305	-19	-9,1	-0,6
Western Cape									
Subsistence farming	37	82	63	132	82	-50	45	-38,1	122,9
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	139	138	97	153	138	-15	-1	-9,7	-0,5
Producing other goods for household use	1	9		2	7	5	6	264,6	464,9
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	1	1	3	5	15	10	14	193,9	1 619,8
Hunting or fishing for household use				1	2	1		54,9	
Involvement in at least one activity	178	220	160	290	230	-60	53	-20,5	29,6
Employed	80	114	80	123	104	-19	25	-15,1	30,7
Unemployed	42	53	31	96	77	-18	35	-19,2	83,7
Not economically active	56	53	49	71	48	-23	-7	-31,8	-12,9
Eastern Cape									
Subsistence farming	882	982	668	515	597	82	-285	15,9	-32,3
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	1 081	962	1 124	1 253	1 126	-127	45	-10,1	4,2
Producing other goods for household use	10	10	15	17	9	-9	-1	-48,9	-6,6
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	160	142	167	172	163	-9	3	-5,0	1,9
Hunting or fishing for household use	3	1	8	5	1	-3	-1	-69,5	-45,5
Involvement in at least one activity	1 537	1 558	1 483	1 582	1 490	-92	-47	-5,8	-3,1
Employed	294	324	278	302	322	21	29	6,9	9,8
Unemployed	537	472	457	479	410	-69	-127	-14,3	-23,6
Not economically active	707	762	748	802	757	-45	51	-5,6	7,2

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 (continued)									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Northern Cape									
Subsistence farming	26	24	17	13	13	0	-13	1,1	-49,8
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	124	146	121	92	113	21	-11	23,2	-8,6
Producing other goods for household use	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	89,1	-25,0
Construction or major repairs to own or household'	1	1		1					
Hunting or fishing for household use	1	1	1						
Involvement in at least one activity	136	161	130	102	123	21	-13	20,2	-9,5
Employed	31	41	21	29	19	-11	-12	-36,0	-39,4
Unemployed	35	26	25	27	29	2	-6	7,9	-17,6
Not economically active	69	95	84	46	75	29	5	63,3	7,9
Free State									
Subsistence farming	181	91	46	40	48	9	-132	21,7	-73,1
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	71	57	47	31	31	0	-40	0,0	-56,3
Producing other goods for household use	2	3	3						
Construction or major repairs to own or household'		2	1		2				
Hunting or fishing for household use	2	1	1						
Involvement in at least one activity	235	132	82	69	79	10	-156	14,6	-66,3
Employed	86	54	32	21	25	4	-61	17,2	-70,7
Unemployed	66	38	28	22	32	10	-34	44,4	-51,2
Not economically active	84	40	22	25	22	-3	-62	-13,6	-73,7
KwaZulu-Natal									
Subsistence farming	1 004	954	853	1 034	1 012	-23	8	-2,2	0,8
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	1 407	1 569	1 521	1 673	1 355	-318	-52	-19,0	-3,7
Producing other goods for household use	126	140	200	263	134	-129	9	-48,9	7,0
Construction or major repairs to own or household	143	132	125	175	279	103	135	59,0	94,4
Hunting or fishing for household use	8	13	10	24	92	69	84	289,6	995,4
Involvement in at least one activity	1 955	2 028	1 946	2 149	1 875	-274	-79	-12,7	-4,1
Employed	453	438	426	410	359	-52	-94	-12,6	-20,8
Unemployed	377	393	410	403	378	-25	1	-6,2	0,3
Not economically active	1 125	1 197	1 110	1 335	1 139	-197	14	-14,7	1,2

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 (continued)									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on-year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
North West									
Subsistence farming	62	79	51	54	64	10	2	18,4	3,0
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	375	348	436	458	495	37	120	8,1	32,0
Producing other goods for household use	7	9	14	11	14	3	7	30,0	99,3
Construction or major repairs to own or household	10	6	7	11	7	-4	-3	-39,4	-30,8
Hunting or fishing for household use			4	6					
Involvement in at least one activity	409	393	482	508	549	40	139	7,9	34,0
Employed	102	94	123	93	125	31	23	33,5	22,3
Unemployed	48	53	70	61	67	6	19	9,4	40,7
Not economically active	260	246	289	353	357	3	97	0,9	37,4
Gauteng									
Subsistence farming	52	79	47	33	61	28	10	85,9	18,9
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	107	105	101	68	66	-2	-41	-2,8	-38,2
Producing other goods for household use	2	10	19		3		1		71,7
Construction or major repairs to own or household	23	16	6	21					
Hunting or fishing for household use	2	8			3		1		60,3
Involvement in at least one activity	184	200	166	115	124	10	-59	8,4	-32,2
Employed	70	89	66	43	55	12	-15	27,4	-20,8
Unemployed	45	48	61	44	50	6	5	13,8	11,8
Not economically active	69	63	39	27	19	-8	-50	-30,8	-72,6
Mpumalanga									
Subsistence farming	180	247	188	133	158	25	-22	19,0	-12,2
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	434	438	432	458	370	-88	-64	-19,2	-14,7
Producing other goods for household use	35	49	32	24	21	-3	-14	-13,5	-40,5
Construction or major repairs to own or household	37	42	46	35	41	7	5	18,6	13,5
Hunting or fishing for household use	3	9			1		-2		-74,3
Involvement in at least one activity	599	649	592	563	506	-57	-93	-10,1	-15,6
Employed	170	182	164	137	124	-14	-47	-9,9	-27,4
Unemployed	129	184	170	171	153	-18	23	-10,8	18,0
Not economically active	299	283	257	254	229	-25	-70	-9,9	-23,3

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

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

Table 8: Involvement in non-market activities and labour market status by province (concluded)									
	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan-Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	Per cent	Per cent
Limpopo									
Subsistence farming	370	457	416	331	401	70	31	21,1	8,3
Fetching water or collecting wood/dung	657	683	731	722	688	-33	32	-4,6	4,8
Producing other goods for household use	4	11	3	1	3	2	-1	148,5	-16,4
Construction or major repairs to own or household	32	30	37	21	9	-12	-22	-57,2	-71,3
Hunting or fishing for household use	5	12	1	2	8	5	2	241,6	40,1
Involvement in at least one activity	825	878	897	853	867	14	42	1,7	5,1
Employed	244	227	254	221	227	6	-17	2,6	-6,9
Unemployed	193	250	235	204	249	45	56	21,9	28,9
Not economically active	388	401	408	428	391	-37	3	-8,5	0,7

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.

Appendix 2

Table 2A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by sex						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021				
Both sexes						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,3	0,3	540	402	678	0,00
Employed	0,3	0,3	262	158	366	0,00
Formal sector (non-agriculture)	0,3	0,4	143	64	221	0,00
Informal sector (non-agriculture)	0,5	0,5	-48	-81	-14	0,01
Agriculture	0,8	0,8	38	25	51	0,00
Private households	0,7	0,8	129	105	152	0,00
Unemployed	0,3	0,3	278	225	331	0,00
Not economically active	0,3	0,3	-397	-534	-259	0,00
Discouraged work-seekers	0,3	0,3	-56	-86	-26	0,00
Other (not economically active)	0,5	0,5	-341	-494	-188	0,00
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	0,2	0,2	0,4	0,2	0,6	0,00
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	0,3	0,3	0,5	0,3	0,8	0,00
Labour force participation rate	0,3	0,3	1,2	0,8	1,5	0,00
Women						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,7	0,8	340	145	535	0,00
Employed	1,0	1,1	121	-38	281	0,14
Formal sector (non-agriculture)	1,4	1,6	77	-82	236	0,34
Informal sector (non-agriculture)	3,6	4,1	-17	-107	72	0,71
Agriculture	9,2	8,9	-6	-53	41	0,80
Private households	1,6	1,8	68	29	107	0,00
Unemployed	1,4	1,6	218	77	360	0,00
Not economically active	0,7	0,8	-270	-465	-76	0,01
Discouraged work-seekers	1,9	2,2	8	-93	110	0,87
Other (not economically active)	0,8	0,9	-279	-444	-114	0,00
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	1,2	1,3	0,9	-0,2	2,1	0,12
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	1,0	1,1	0,5	-0,3	1,3	0,22
Labour force participation rate	0,7	0,8	1,5	0,6	2,5	0,00

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Note: Estimates with CVS of more than 30% cannot be published and are replaced with a dash (-) in the tables

Table 2A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by sex (concluded)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021				
Men						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,5	0,6	200	45	356	0,01
Employed	0,7	0,8	141	-2	283	0,05
Formal sector (non-agriculture)	1,0	1,1	66	-76	208	0,36
Informal sector (non-agriculture)	1,9	2,2	-30	-119	58	0,50
Agriculture	3,6	3,3	44	-4	93	0,08
Private households	4,9	3,9	61	27	94	0,00
Unemployed	1,2	1,5	59	-79	198	0,40
Not economically active	0,8	1,0	-126	-282	29	0,11
Discouraged work-seekers	2,3	2,7	-64	-166	38	0,22
Other (not economically active)	1,1	1,1	-62	-198	73	0,37
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	1,1	1,3	-0,1	-1,0	0,9	0,92
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	0,7	0,8	0,6	-0,2	1,3	0,13
Labour force participation rate	0,5	0,6	0,8	0,0	1,6	0,05

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Note: Estimates with CVS of more than 30% cannot be published and are replaced with a dash (-) in the tables

Table 2.1A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by population group						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021				
South Africa						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,3	0,3	540	402	678	0,00
Employed	0,3	0,3	262	158	366	0,00
Unemployed	0,3	0,3	278	225	331	0,00
Not economically active	0,3	0,3	-397	-534	-259	0,00
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	0,2	0,2	0,4	0,2	0,6	0,00
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	0,3	0,3	0,5	0,3	0,8	0,00
Labour force participation rate	0,3	0,3	1,2	0,8	1,5	0,00
Black/African						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,3	0,3	411	280	541	0,00
Employed	0,3	0,4	176	83	269	0,00
Unemployed	0,3	0,3	235	184	285	0,00
Not economically active	0,4	0,4	-267	-398	-136	0,00
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	0,1	0,2	0,4	0,3	0,6	0,00
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	0,3	0,4	0,4	0,1	0,7	0,01
Labour force participation rate	0,3	0,3	1,0	0,6	1,4	0,00
Coloured						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,8	0,5	75	43	106	0,00
Employed	1,0	0,6	62	37	87	0,00
Unemployed	0,7	0,5	13	3	22	0,01
Not economically active	1,0	0,8	-68	-99	-37	0,00
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	0,6	0,3	-0,5	-0,8	-0,2	0,00
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	0,9	0,6	1,7	1,0	2,4	0,00
Labour force participation rate	0,8	0,5	2,0	1,1	2,9	0,00

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 30% cannot be published and are replaced with a dash (-) in the tables

Table 2.1A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by population group (concluded)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021				
Indian/Asian						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,2	1,3	13	-5	31	0,15
Employed	1,4	1,3	-22	-37	-7	0,01
Unemployed	1,0	1,6	35	31	40	0,00
Not economically active	1,4	1,7	-11	-29	7	0,22
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	1,1	0,9	5,5	4,9	6,1	0,00
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	1,4	1,3	-2,2	-3,7	-0,7	0,00
Labour force participation rate	1,2	1,3	1,2	-0,6	2,9	0,19
White						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,1	0,9	42	-5	88	0,08
Employed	1,1	1,1	46	0	92	0,05
Unemployed	1,2	2,7	-4	-14	5	0,37
Not economically active	2,2	2,1	-51	-97	-4	0,03
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	1,1	2,9	-0,4	-1,0	0,1	0,12
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	1,1	1,1	1,8	0,2	3,4	0,03
Labour force participation rate	1,1	0,9	1,7	0,1	3,3	0,04

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 30% cannot be published and are replaced with a dash (-) in the tables

Table 2.3A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021				
South Africa						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,3	0,3	540	402	678	0,00
Employed	0,3	0,3	262	158	366	0,00
Unemployed	0,3	0,3	278	225	331	0,00
Not economically active	0,3	0,3	-397	-534	-259	0,00
Discouraged work-seekers	0,3	0,3	-56	-86	-26	0,00
Other (not economically active)	0,5	0,5	-341	-494	-188	0,00
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	0,2	0,2	0,4	0,2	0,6	0,00
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	0,3	0,3	0,5	0,3	0,8	0,00
Labour force participation rate	0,3	0,3	1,2	0,8	1,5	0,00
Western Cape						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,7	1,6	124	45	204	0,00
Employed	2,4	2,4	37	-72	146	0,50
Unemployed	4,2	3,8	87	17	157	0,02
Not economically active	2,9	2,9	-104	-184	-25	0,01
Discouraged work-seekers	24,9	27,0	-32	-74	9	0,13
Other (not economically active)	2,6	2,8	-72	-148	4	0,06
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	4,1	3,8	1,7	-0,7	4,2	0,16
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	2,4	2,4	0,6	-1,7	2,8	0,61
Labour force participation rate	1,7	1,6	2,3	0,7	3,9	0,01

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 30% cannot be published and are replaced with a dash (-) in the tables

Table 2.3A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021				
Eastern Cape						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,4	2,7	-48	-142	46	0,32
Employed	4,2	4,4	31	-43	105	0,41
Unemployed	3,9	4,4	-79	-171	12	0,09
Not economically active	2,7	2,9	63	-31	157	0,19
Discouraged work-seekers	10,7	9,6	43	-22	109	0,19
Other (not economically active)	2,9	3,0	19	-64	103	0,65
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	3,4	3,8	-2,5	-5,5	0,6	0,11
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	4,2	4,4	0,6	-1,1	2,3	0,47
Labour force participation rate	2,4	2,7	-1,3	-3,4	0,9	0,24
Northern Cape						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	7,7	7,0	-14	-62	33	0,56
Employed	8,4	7,2	-11	-46	24	0,53
Unemployed	19,6	14,3	-3	-32	26	0,83
Not economically active	6,2	5,2	16	-31	64	0,50
Discouraged work-seekers	10,7	10,5	0	-39	38	0,99
Other (not economically active)	6,2	6,8	17	-7	40	0,17
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	16,4	11,4	0,1	-6,1	6,3	0,98
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	8,4	7,2	-1,4	-5,7	2,8	0,51
Labour force participation rate	7,7	7,0	-1,9	-7,7	4,0	0,53

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Note: Estimates with CVS of more than 30% cannot be published and are replaced with a dash (-) in the tables

Table 2.3A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021				
Free State						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,4	2,5	-15	-66	37	0,57
Employed	3,9	3,5	8	-43	58	0,77
Unemployed	5,9	6,4	-22	-73	28	0,39
Not economically active	3,7	3,7	17	-35	68	0,53
Discouraged work-seekers	9,5	11,4	-11	-47	26	0,56
Other (not economically active)	3,6	4,2	27	-26	81	0,32
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	5,2	5,3	-1,5	-5,3	2,4	0,46
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	3,9	3,5	0,4	-2,3	3,0	0,79
Labour force participation rate	2,4	2,5	-0,8	-3,5	1,9	0,54
KwaZulu-Natal						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,8	2,4	363	210	516	0,00
Employed	2,5	2,5	126	1	252	0,05
Unemployed	9,1	7,3	237	103	371	0,00
Not economically active	2,2	2,2	-337	-490	-184	0,00
Discouraged work-seekers	8,3	7,1	4	-177	186	0,96
Other (not economically active)	2,9	3,1	-341	-514	-168	0,00
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	7,1	5,7	3,7	0,4	7,0	0,03
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	2,5	2,5	1,6	-0,1	3,3	0,07
Labour force participation rate	2,8	2,4	4,8	2,7	6,9	0,00

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 30% cannot be published and are replaced with a dash (-) in the tables

Table 2.3A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021				
North West						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	3,0	3,1	-26	-145	94	0,67
Employed	5,0	4,7	7	-88	103	0,88
Unemployed	7,7	10,5	-33	-117	51	0,44
Not economically active	2,9	2,9	36	-84	155	0,56
Discouraged work-seekers	10,5	10,9	-21	-100	58	0,60
Other (not economically active)	4,1	2,9	57	-38	152	0,24
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	7,1	9,1	-1,9	-7,1	3,4	0,49
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	5,0	4,7	0,2	-3,4	3,7	0,93
Labour force participation rate	3,0	3,1	-1,1	-5,6	3,3	0,62
Gauteng						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,3	1,5	80	-196	356	0,57
Employed	1,5	2,7	76	-182	334	0,56
Unemployed	3,1	3,8	4	-249	257	0,97
Not economically active	2,4	2,8	-37	-312	239	0,79
Discouraged work-seekers	7,4	9,4	-31	-241	179	0,77
Other (not economically active)	2,6	3,1	-5	-241	230	0,96
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	2,4	3,6	-0,4	-3,4	2,7	0,82
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	1,5	2,7	0,5	-1,9	2,9	0,66
Labour force participation rate	1,3	1,5	0,5	-2,1	3,0	0,71

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Note: Estimates with CVS of more than 30% cannot be published and are replaced with a dash (-) in the tables

Table 2.3A: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021				
Mpumalanga						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,9	3,1	-21	-160	119	0,77
Employed	3,0	3,3	-51	-151	48	0,31
Unemployed	4,3	7,7	31	-90	151	0,62
Not economically active	2,7	4,1	32	-108	172	0,65
Discouraged work-seekers	8,4	9,7	57	-47	161	0,28
Other (not economically active)	2,6	3,3	-25	-100	50	0,51
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	3,9	5,5	2,2	-2,9	7,3	0,40
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	3,0	3,3	-1,8	-5,1	1,4	0,27
Labour force participation rate	1,9	3,1	-0,9	-5,5	3,7	0,70
Limpopo						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	3,3	3,0	96	-71	263	0,26
Employed	3,6	3,8	39	-83	161	0,53
Unemployed	6,6	6,6	57	-50	163	0,30
Not economically active	2,5	2,6	-82	-250	85	0,33
Discouraged work-seekers	7,8	7,6	-64	-200	71	0,35
Other (not economically active)	3,1	3,5	-18	-165	128	0,81
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	5,1	5,5	1,4	-3,1	6,0	0,54
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	3,6	3,8	0,9	-2,2	4,0	0,57
Labour force participation rate	3,3	3,0	2,3	-2,0	6,6	0,29

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Note: Estimates with CVS of more than 30% cannot be published and are replaced with a dash (-) in the tables

Table 3.1A: Sampling variability for the employed by industry and sex						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021				
Both sexes	0,3	0,3	262	158	366	0,00
Agriculture	0,8	0,8	38	25	51	0,00
Mining	0,7	0,8	25	19	32	0,00
Manufacturing	0,5	0,7	-85	-107	-64	0,00
Utilities	0,4	0,7	-14	-15	-13	0,00
Construction	0,7	0,7	-25	-45	-4	0,02
Trade	0,4	0,4	118	93	143	0,00
Transport	0,5	0,6	-13	-26	-1	0,03
Finance	0,7	0,6	18	-17	53	0,31
Community and social services	0,3	0,4	73	42	105	0,00
Private households	0,7	0,8	129	105	152	0,00
Women	1,0	1,1	121	-38	281	0,14
Agriculture	9,2	8,9	-6	-53	41	0,8
Mining	17,2	20,8	-1	-25	22	0,91
Manufacturing	6,1	5,7	-48	-103	8	0,1
Utilities	22,2	28,5	-8	-25	10	0,38
Construction	11,2	11,3	8	-30	46	0,67
Trade	3,0	3,4	29	-69	127	0,56
Transport	11,1	11,8	6	-38	49	0,79
Finance	3,7	4,1	31	-72	134	0,55
Community and social services	1,8	2,1	42	-57	140	0,4
Private households	1,6	1,8	68	29	107	0,00
Men	0,7	0,8	141	-2	283	0,05
Agriculture	3,6	3,3	44	-4	93	0,08
Mining	2,7	3,2	27	1	53	0,05
Manufacturing	3,1	2,7	-38	-92	17	0,17
Utilities	9,3	9,6	-6	-24	11	0,48
Construction	1,6	2,0	-33	-73	7	0,1
Trade	2,4	2,6	89	-7	184	0,07
Transport	2,2	2,6	-19	-63	25	0,39
Finance	2,4	2,9	-13	-110	84	0,79
Community and social services	2,9	3,3	32	-63	127	0,51
Private households	4,9	3,9	61	27	94	0,00

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Table 3.4 A: Sampling variability for the employed by province and sector						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021				
South Africa	0,3	0,3	262	158	366	0,00
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	0,3	0,4	143	64	221	0,00
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	0,5	0,5	-48	-81	-14	0,01
Agriculture	0,8	0,8	38	25	51	0,00
Private households	0,7	0,8	129	105	152	0,00
Western Cape	2,4	2,4	37	-72	146	0,50
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	3,2	3,3	52	-69	174	0,40
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	10,1	8,9	8	-43	60	0,75
Agriculture	21,6	19,7	-19	-58	19	0,32
Private households	15,6	11,3	-4	-42	34	0,84
Eastern Cape	4,2	4,4	31	-43	105	0,41
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	4,5	5,3	-3	-63	56	0,91
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	8,1	8,4	16	-36	67	0,55
Agriculture	13,7	23,6	1	-38	40	0,95
Private households	13,0	13,2	18	-7	43	0,15
Northern Cape	8,4	7,2	-11	-46	24	0,53
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	11,1	9,1	-23	-51	5	0,10
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	18,6	17,9	4	-8	17	0,51
Agriculture	28,3	22,5	7	-8	22	0,34
Private households	18,2	17,5	1	-5	7	0,79
Free State	3,9	3,5	8	-43	58	0,77
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	7,0	6,1	7	-36	50	0,75
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	12,7	11,9	9	-13	30	0,43
Agriculture	16,0	11,8	-6	-25	13	0,54
Private households	12,1	14,5	-2	-18	13	0,79

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Note: Estimates with CVS of more than 30% cannot be published and are replaced with a dash (-) in the tables

Table 3.4A: Sampling variability for the employed by province and sector (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021				
KwaZulu-Natal	2,5	2,5	126	1	252	0,05
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	2,8	2,8	94	-15	203	0,09
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	6,0	6,7	-27	-86	32	0,36
Agriculture	16,4	14,0	19	-17	55	0,29
Private households	8,7	9,0	40	-2	82	0,06
North West	5,0	4,7	7	-88	103	0,88
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	5,6	5,7	-25	-123	74	0,62
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	12,8	14,0	-8	-37	20	0,55
Agriculture	18,0	16,8	18	4	33	0,01
Private households	20,1	15,5	22	-3	47	0,08
Gauteng	1,5	2,7	76	-182	334	0,56
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	2,0	2,9	36	-201	273	0,77
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	4,9	5,8	-18	-138	102	0,77
Agriculture	36,0	36,0	13	-22	48	0,46
Private households	5,4	7,8	45	-24	114	0,20
Mpumalanga	3,0	3,3	-51	-151	48	0,31
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	4,3	4,8	-23	-85	39	0,46
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	8,5	11,7	-44	-126	37	0,28
Agriculture	12,3	13,4	13	-22	49	0,46
Private households	11,0	15,1	3	-34	39	0,88
Limpopo	3,6	3,8	39	-83	161	0,53
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	6,2	5,9	28	-85	141	0,63
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	7,1	6,5	14	-52	80	0,68
Agriculture	13,0	12,1	-9	-48	31	0,67
Private households	15,2	14,1	6	-24	36	0,69

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 30% cannot be published and are replaced with a dash (-) in the tables

Table 3.5A: Sampling variability for the employed by sex and occupation						
	Coefficient of variation		Qtr-to-qtr change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Jul-Sep 2021	Oct-Dec 2021				
Both sexes	0,3	0,3	262	158	366	0,00
Manager	0,9	0,9	-85	-111	-59	0,00
Professional	1,1	1,3	-13	-40	14	0,35
Technician	0,4	0,4	30	17	42	0,00
Clerk	0,4	0,7	-40	-62	-18	0,00
Sales and services	0,3	0,4	167	147	186	0,00
Skilled agriculture	3,6	5,4	4	-4	13	0,34
Craft and related trade	0,6	0,7	-6	-30	17	0,58
Plant and machine operator	0,6	0,6	16	-1	34	0,06
Elementary	0,4	0,4	96	62	130	0,00
Domestic worker	0,8	1,0	93	72	115	0,00
Women	1,0	1,1	121	-38	281	0,14
Manager	8,0	7,6	-37	-121	47	0,38
Professional	5,8	6,9	-31	-93	31	0,33
Technician	3,4	3,7	31	-33	94	0,34
Clerk	2,5	2,4	-12	-80	57	0,74
Sales and services	3,3	3,9	98	6	190	0,04
Skilled agriculture	28,5	46,2	-5	-15	5	0,32
Craft and related trade	10,4	11,4	-27	-68	14	0,20
Plant and machine operator	10,3	12,4	-15	-49	19	0,39
Elementary	2,7	3,1	46	-55	147	0,37
Domestic worker	1,4	1,6	73	41	105	0,00
Men	0,7	0,8	141	-2	283	0,05
Manager	3,9	3,8	-48	-135	39	0,28
Professional	5,6	5,4	18	-47	84	0,59
Technician	4,7	5,2	-1	-63	61	0,98
Clerk	8,0	8,5	-28	-98	42	0,43
Sales and services	2,6	3,0	69	-20	158	0,13
Skilled agriculture	8,7	8,7	9	-4	23	0,18
Craft and related trade	1,3	1,4	21	-26	67	0,39
Plant and machine operator	1,5	1,6	31	-9	72	0,13
Elementary	1,8	2,1	50	-48	147	0,32
Domestic worker	28,3	21,4	20	-4	44	0,11

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 30% cannot be published and are replaced with a dash (-) in the tables

Table 2B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by sex						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2020	Oct-Dec 2021				
Both sexes						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,1	0,3	209	94	323	0,00
Employed	0,1	0,3	-479	-569	-390	0,00
Formal sector (non-agriculture)	0,1	0,4	-724	-791	-657	0,00
Informal sector (non-agriculture)	0,3	0,5	126	98	154	0,00
Agriculture	0,6	0,8	57	41	74	0,00
Private households	0,6	0,8	62	38	85	0,00
Unemployed	0,1	0,3	688	644	732	0,00
Not economically active	0,1	0,3	369	254	484	0,00
Discouraged work-seekers	0,0	0,3	876	852	900	0,00
Other (not economically active)	0,1	0,5	-507	-633	-382	0,00
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	0,1	0,2	2,8	2,6	2,9	0,00
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	0,1	0,3	-1,8	-2,0	-1,5	0,00
Labour force participation rate	0,1	0,3	-0,3	-0,6	0,0	0,04
Women						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,5	0,8	114	-68	295	0,22
Employed	0,8	1,1	-318	-482	-153	0,00
Formal sector (non-agriculture)	1,2	1,6	-358	-515	-201	0,00
Informal sector (non-agriculture)	2,9	4,1	13	-76	102	0,77
Agriculture	8,7	8,9	-16	-83	50	0,63
Private households	1,6	1,8	43	4	82	0,03
Unemployed	1,4	1,6	431	272	591	0,00
Not economically active	0,5	0,8	167	-15	348	0,07
Discouraged work-seekers	2,1	2,2	490	383	597	0,00
Other (not economically active)	0,6	0,9	-323	-479	-167	0,00
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	1,3	1,3	3,9	2,5	5,2	0,00
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	0,8	1,1	-2,0	-2,9	-1,2	0,00
Labour force participation rate	0,5	0,8	-0,1	-1,1	0,8	0,76

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Table 2B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by sex (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2020	Oct-Dec 2021				
Men						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,4	0,6	95	-68	258	0,25
Employed	0,6	0,8	-162	-323	-1	0,05
Formal sector (non-agriculture)	0,9	1,1	-366	-521	-212	0,00
Informal sector (non-agriculture)	1,6	2,2	113	23	202	0,01
Agriculture	3,6	3,3	74	10	138	0,02
Private households	4,8	3,9	18	-16	53	0,29
Unemployed	1,3	1,5	257	100	413	0,00
Not economically active	0,7	1,0	202	39	366	0,02
Discouraged work-seekers	2,6	2,7	386	279	493	0,00
Other (not economically active)	0,8	1,1	-184	-328	-40	0,01
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	1,2	1,3	1,8	0,7	3,0	0,00
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	0,6	0,8	-1,5	-2,3	-0,7	0,00
Labour force participation rate	0,4	0,6	-0,5	-1,3	0,4	0,27

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 30% cannot be published and are replaced with a dash (-) in the tables

Table 2.1B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by population group						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2020	Oct-Dec 2021				
South Africa						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,1	0,3	209.0	94.0	323.0	0,00
Employed	0,1	0,3	-479.0	-569.0	-390.0	0,00
Unemployed	0,1	0,3	688.0	644.0	732.0	0,00
Not economically active	0,1	0,3	369.0	254.0	484.0	0,00
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	0,1	0,2	2,8	2,6	2,9	0,00
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	0,1	0,3	-1,8	-2,0	-1,5	0,00
Labour force participation rate	0,1	0,3	-0,3	-0,6	0,0	0,04
Black/African						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,1	0,3	149	38	260	0,01
Employed	0,2	0,4	-353	-438	-268	0,00
Unemployed	0,1	0,3	503	461	544	0,00
Not economically active	0,2	0,4	428	316	540	0,00
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	0,1	0,2	2,5	2,3	2,7	0,00
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	0,2	0,4	-1,7	-2,0	-1,5	0,00
Labour force participation rate	0,1	0,3	-0,5	-0,9	-0,2	0,00
Coloured						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,6	0,5	17	-18	51	0,34
Employed	0,6	0,6	-74	-100	-48	0,00
Unemployed	0,6	0,5	91	82	101	0,00
Not economically active	0,8	0,8	11	-23	45	0,53
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	0,3	0,3	4,2	4,0	4,4	0,00
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	0,6	0,6	-2,4	-3,2	-1,7	0,00
Labour force participation rate	0,6	0,5	0,0	-1,0	1,0	0,98

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Note: Estimates with CVS of more than 30% cannot be published and are replaced with a dash (-) in the tables

Table 2.1B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by population group (concluded)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2020	Oct-Dec 2021				
Indian/Asian						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,3	1,3	3	-17	24	0,74
Employed	1,4	1,3	-89	-106	-72	0,00
Unemployed	1,1	1,6	92	87	97	0,00
Not economically active	1,7	1,7	5	-15	26	0,61
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	0,8	0,9	15,8	15,3	16,2	0,00
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	1,4	1,3	-9,0	-10,7	-7,4	0,00
Labour force participation rate	1,3	1,3	-0,1	-2,1	1,8	0,89
White						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,8	0,9	39	-6	84	0,09
Employed	0,8	1,1	37	-8	83	0,11
Unemployed	1,0	2,7	2	-8	12	0,71
Not economically active	1,6	2,1	-75	-120	-30	0,00
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	1,0	2,9	-0,1	-0,6	0,5	0,77
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	0,8	1,1	2,1	0,5	3,7	0,01
Labour force participation rate	0,8	0,9	2,2	0,6	3,8	0,01

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 30% cannot be published and are replaced with a dash (-) in the tables

Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2020	Oct-Dec 2021				
South Africa						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	0,1	0,3	209	94	323	0,00
Employed	0,1	0,3	-479	-569	-390	0,00
Unemployed	0,1	0,3	688	644	732	0,00
Not economically active	0,1	0,3	369	254	484	0,00
Discouraged work-seekers	0,0	0,3	876	852	900	0,00
Other (not economically active)	0,1	0,5	-507	-633	-382	0,00
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	0,1	0,2	2,8	2,6	2,9	0,00
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	0,1	0,3	-1,8	-2,0	-1,5	0,00
Labour force participation rate	0,1	0,3	-0,3	-0,6	0,0	0,04
Western Cape						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,4	1,6	126	-3	255	0,06
Employed	1,6	2,4	-75	-188	38	0,19
Unemployed	6,5	3,8	201	76	326	0,00
Not economically active	2,5	2,9	-34	-162	95	0,61
Discouraged work-seekers	29,7	27,0	-34	-75	8	0,11
Other (not economically active)	2,9	2,8	0	-127	128	1,00
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	5,7	3,8	5,5	1,9	9,1	0,00
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	1,6	2,4	-2,5	-4,8	-0,2	0,04
Labour force participation rate	1,4	1,6	1,4	-1,3	4,1	0,31

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 30% cannot be published and are replaced with a dash (-) in the tables

Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2020	Oct-Dec 2021				
Eastern Cape						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,1	2,7	-107	-259	45	0,17
Employed	3,9	4,4	12	-118	142	0,86
Unemployed	4,1	4,4	-119	-240	2	0,05
Not economically active	2,4	2,9	149	-5	303	0,06
Discouraged work-seekers	13,7	9,6	169	94	245	0,00
Other (not economically active)	2,6	3,0	-20	-156	115	0,77
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	3,6	3,8	-3,0	-7,3	1,3	0,17
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	3,9	4,4	0,0	-3,0	3,0	1,00
Labour force participation rate	2,0	2,7	-3,0	-6,4	0,5	0,10
Northern Cape						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	4,8	7,0	-79	-139	-19	0,01
Employed	7,7	7,2	-43	-102	16	0,15
Unemployed	13,7	14,3	-36	-79	7	0,10
Not economically active	5,8	5,2	85	23	146	0,01
Discouraged work-seekers	18,5	10,5	62	38	87	0,00
Other (not economically active)	8,4	6,8	22	-43	87	0,50
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	13,4	11,4	-3,7	-13,6	6,1	0,46
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	7,8	7,2	-5,5	-12,8	1,7	0,13
Labour force participation rate	5,0	7,0	-10,0	-17,4	-2,6	0,01

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Note: Estimates with CVS of more than 30% cannot be published and are replaced with a dash (-) in the tables

Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2020	Oct-Dec 2021				
Free State						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,7	2,5	30	-27	87	0,31
Employed	3,6	3,5	-18	-71	35	0,51
Unemployed	6,6	6,4	47	-12	106	0,12
Not economically active	3,6	3,7	-23	-80	33	0,41
Discouraged work-seekers	12,4	11,4	37	4	69	0,03
Other (not economically active)	4,2	4,2	-60	-120	0	0,05
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	5,7	5,3	3,3	-1,2	7,7	0,15
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	3,6	3,5	-1,0	-3,8	1,8	0,46
Labour force participation rate	2,6	2,5	1,4	-1,6	4,3	0,37
KwaZulu-Natal						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,4	2,4	97	-70	263	0,25
Employed	2,2	2,5	-31	-173	112	0,67
Unemployed	6,9	7,3	127	-31	286	0,11
Not economically active	2,1	2,2	5	-161	172	0,95
Discouraged work-seekers	7,4	7,1	186	58	315	0,01
Other (not economically active)	2,4	3,1	-181	-342	-20	0,03
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	5,3	5,7	2,8	-1,0	6,5	0,15
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	2,2	2,5	-0,9	-2,8	1,1	0,37
Labour force participation rate	2,3	2,4	0,7	-1,6	2,9	0,57

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Note: Estimates with CVS of more than 30% cannot be published and are replaced with a dash (-) in the tables

Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2020	Oct-Dec 2021				
North West						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	3,1	3,1	-119	-231	-7	0,04
Employed	4,5	4,7	-86	-200	28	0,14
Unemployed	7,7	10,5	-33	-117	51	0,44
Not economically active	3,6	2,9	160	48	272	0,01
Discouraged work-seekers	10,8	10,9	93	17	169	0,02
Other (not economically active)	4,4	2,9	67	-11	145	0,09
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	6,9	9,1	0,5	-5,4	6,4	0,86
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	4,5	4,7	-3,7	-8,0	0,5	0,09
Labour force participation rate	3,1	3,1	-5,2	-9,4	-1,1	0,01
Gauteng						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	1,1	1,5	200	-22	422	0,08
Employed	1,5	2,7	-46	-301	209	0,72
Unemployed	2,9	3,8	246	39	453	0,02
Not economically active	2,0	2,8	8	-211	228	0,94
Discouraged work-seekers	6,9	9,4	226	75	377	0,00
Other (not economically active)	2,2	3,1	-218	-423	-12	0,04
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	2,5	3,6	2,5	-0,3	5,3	0,08
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	1,5	2,7	-1,3	-3,6	1,1	0,30
Labour force participation rate	1,0	1,5	0,6	-1,4	2,6	0,57

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 30% cannot be published and are replaced with a dash (-) in the tables

Table 2.3B: Sampling variability for labour force characteristics by province (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2020	Oct-Dec 2021				
Mpumalanga						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	2,5	3,1	32	-96	160	0,62
Employed	2,9	3,3	-96	-181	-10	0,03
Unemployed	8,4	7,7	128	-4	259	0,06
Not economically active	3,2	4,1	9	-118	136	0,89
Discouraged work-seekers	10,4	9,7	108	18	198	0,02
Other (not economically active)	3,4	3,3	-99	-188	-11	0,03
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	6,9	5,5	6,7	1,0	12,4	0,02
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	2,9	3,3	-3,6	-6,4	-0,9	0,01
Labour force participation rate	2,5	3,1	0,3	-3,9	4,5	0,89
Limpopo						
Population 15–64 yrs						
Labour force	3,0	3,0	30	-124	184	0,70
Employed	3,6	3,8	-96	-226	33	0,14
Unemployed	7,7	6,6	126	16	237	0,03
Not economically active	2,6	2,6	10	-145	164	0,90
Discouraged work-seekers	7,0	7,6	28	-82	138	0,62
Other (not economically active)	3,8	3,5	-18	-191	155	0,84
Rates (%)						
Unemployment rate	6,6	5,5	6,6	1,4	11,8	0,01
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	3,6	3,8	-2,8	-6,2	0,6	0,10
Labour force participation rate	3,0	3,0	0,3	-3,6	4,3	0,88

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Note: Estimates with CVS of more than 30% cannot be published and are replaced with a dash (-) in the tables

Table 3.1B: Sampling variability for the employed by industry and sex						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2020	Oct-Dec 2021				
Both sexes	0,1	0,3	-479	-569	-390	0,00
Agriculture	0,6	0,8	57	41	74	0,00
Mining	0,6	0,8	-14	-21	-6	0,00
Manufacturing	0,4	0,7	-174	-197	-152	0,00
Utilities	0,2	0,7	-18	-19	-16	0,00
Construction	0,4	0,7	-33	-52	-15	0,00
Trade	0,2	0,4	-168	-190	-145	0,00
Transport	0,5	0,6	8	-4	20	0,20
Finance	0,3	0,6	93	64	121	0,00
Community and social services	0,2	0,4	-286	-318	-255	0,00
Private households	0,6	0,8	62	38	85	0,00
Women	0,8	1,1	-318	-482	-153	0,00
Agriculture	8,7	8,9	-16	-83	50	0,63
Mining	16,5	20,8	-20	-48	7	0,15
Manufacturing	4,7	5,7	-97	-163	-32	0,00
Utilities	21,5	28,5	-11	-29	6	0,19
Construction	11,0	11,3	28	-11	67	0,16
Trade	2,5	3,4	-124	-232	-16	0,02
Transport	8,7	11,8	-19	-64	25	0,39
Finance	3,0	4,1	73	-28	175	0,16
Community and social services	1,4	2,1	-167	-259	-74	0,00
Private households	1,6	1,8	43	4	82	0,03
Men	0,6	0,8	-162	-323	-1	0,05
Agriculture	3,6	3,3	74	10	138	0,02
Mining	3,5	3,2	7	-24	37	0,67
Manufacturing	2,7	2,7	-77	-144	-10	0,03
Utilities	10,2	9,6	-6	-23	11	0,49
Construction	1,3	2,0	-61	-105	-18	0,01
Trade	2,1	2,6	-44	-150	63	0,42
Transport	2,1	2,6	27	-20	74	0,25
Finance	2,2	2,9	19	-79	117	0,70
Community and social services	2,3	3,3	-120	-213	-27	0,01
Private households	4,8	3,9	18	-16	53	0,29

Table 3.4B: Sampling variability for the employed by province and sector						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2020	Oct-Dec 2021				
South Africa	0,1	0,3	-479	-569	-390	0,00
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	0,1	0,4	-724	-791	-657	0,00
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	0,3	0,5	126	98	154	0,00
Agriculture	0,6	0,8	57	41	74	0,00
Private households	0,6	0,8	62	38	85	0,00
Western Cape	1,6	2,4	-75	-188	38	0,19
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	2,0	3,3	-71	-190	48	0,24
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	9,2	8,9	-2	-57	53	0,95
Agriculture	10,1	19,7	0	-82	81	1,00
Private households	12,0	11,3	-2	-41	38	0,93
Eastern Cape	3,9	4,4	12	-118	142	0,86
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	5,6	5,3	-8	-107	90	0,87
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	7,4	8,4	22	-43	86	0,51
Agriculture	14,4	23,6	8	-60	75	0,82
Private households	12,6	13,2	-9	-45	26	0,60
Northern Cape	7,7	7,2	-43	-102	16	0,15
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	8,9	9,1	-68	-108	-28	0,00
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	31,5	17,9	4	-10	18	0,60
Agriculture	28,1	22,5	13	-7	33	0,20
Private households	21,8	17,5	8	1	15	0,02
Free State	3,6	3,5	-18	-71	35	0,51
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	5,3	6,1	-14	-71	44	0,64
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	12,8	11,9	-2	-28	25	0,89
Agriculture	13,2	11,8	13	-5	31	0,17
Private households	12,6	14,5	-15	-32	3	0,11

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Note: Estimates with CVS of more than 30% cannot be published and are replaced with a dash (-) in the tables

Table 3.4B: Sampling variability for the employed by province and sector (continued)						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2020	Oct-Dec 2021				
KwaZulu-Natal	2,2	2,5	-31	-173	112	0,67
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	2,7	2,8	-63	-182	56	0,30
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	5,6	6,7	-17	-90	56	0,64
Agriculture	17,4	14,0	-9	-51	33	0,68
Private households	9,0	9,0	58	11	106	0,02
North West	4,5	4,7	-86	-200	28	0,14
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	4,7	5,7	-142	-244	-39	0,01
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	17,3	14,0	26	-9	60	0,15
Agriculture	22,9	16,8	31	13	48	0,00
Private households	15,5	15,5	0	-36	35	0,98
Gauteng	1,5	2,7	-46	-301	209	0,72
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	1,8	2,9	-195	-404	14	0,07
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	4,4	5,8	113	3	222	0,04
Agriculture	35,7	36,0	8	-26	42	0,64
Private households	6,0	7,8	28	-54	111	0,50
Mpumalanga	2,9	3,3	-96	-181	-10	0,03
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	4,1	4,8	-101	-173	-28	0,01
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	7,6	11,7	-9	-71	53	0,78
Agriculture	15,6	13,4	6	-31	43	0,74
Private households	10,4	15,1	8	-27	42	0,66
Limpopo	3,6	3,8	-96	-226	33	0,14
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	5,4	5,9	-62	-172	47	0,26
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	6,0	6,5	-8	-57	41	0,75
Agriculture	23,8	12,1	-12	-82	59	0,74
Private households	10,6	14,1	-14	-49	20	0,41

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution

Note: Estimates with CVS of more than 30% cannot be published and are replaced with a dash (-) in the tables

Table 3.5B: Sampling variability for the employed by sex and occupation						
	Coefficient of variation		Year-on-year change	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	P-value
	Oct-Dec 2020	Oct-Dec 2021				
Both sexes	0,1	0,3	-479	-569	-390	0,00
Manager	0,6	0,9	-68	-96	-40	0,00
Professional	0,4	1,3	-19	-44	6	0,14
Technician	0,4	0,4	-87	-102	-72	0,00
Clerk	0,3	0,7	-208	-228	-187	0,00
Sales and services	0,2	0,4	-160	-179	-141	0,00
Skilled agriculture	2,6	5,4	-18	-26	-9	0,00
Craft and related trade	0,3	0,7	-141	-164	-118	0,00
Plant and machine operator	0,4	0,6	-22	-38	-5	0,01
Elementary	0,2	0,4	237	205	268	0,00
Domestic worker	1,2	1,0	52	27	78	0,00
Women	0,8	1,1	-318	-482	-153	0,00
Manager	6,3	7,6	-34	-111	43	0,39
Professional	4,3	6,9	-72	-128	-16	0,01
Technician	3,1	3,7	-2	-73	69	0,96
Clerk	2,1	2,4	-86	-150	-23	0,01
Sales and services	2,8	3,9	-107	-201	-13	0,03
Skilled agriculture	23,8	46,2	-14	-25	-3	0,02
Craft and related trade	9,8	11,4	-30	-76	15	0,19
Plant and machine operator	8,4	12,4	-39	-79	1	0,05
Elementary	2,7	3,1	46	-76	168	0,46
Domestic worker	1,5	1,6	36	3	70	0,03
Men	0,6	0,8	-162	-323	-1	0,05
Manager	3,0	3,8	-34	-114	47	0,41
Professional	4,1	5,4	53	-2	109	0,06
Technician	3,6	5,2	-85	-155	-15	0,02
Clerk	5,4	8,5	-121	-185	-58	0,00
Sales and services	2,4	3,0	-53	-146	40	0,26
Skilled agriculture	9,4	8,7	-4	-18	10	0,60
Craft and related trade	1,2	1,4	-110	-161	-60	0,00
Plant and machine operator	1,3	1,6	17	-28	63	0,45
Elementary	1,9	2,1	190	72	309	0,00
Domestic worker	23,8	21,4	16	-7	39	0,17

Note: Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% should be used with caution