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Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS)

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Provincial Tourism Workshop 27 July 2023



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Outline

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- Methodology used to conduct Survey
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- Components of the Labour Market
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Purpose of the Survey

- The objective of the QLFS is to collect quarterly information about persons in the labour market, i.e., those who are employed; those who are unemployed and those who are not economically active.
- The information is published as labour market indicators at the end of each quarter and an annual report after the end of each calendar year.

Methodology used to conduct Survey

- QLFS is a continuous quarterly household based survey.
- The sample size for the QLFS is around 30 000 dwellings and these are divided equally into four rotation groups, i.e. 7 500 dwellings.
- 25% of the sample is rotated out every quarter
- The sample is designed to be representative at national, provincial level and within provinces at the metro/non-metro level
- Computer Assisted Personal Interview(CAPI) data collection - Face-to-face interviews conducted for each household visited using the tablets.
- 0110 data collection methodology.

- The survey collects detailed labour market information from persons aged 15 years and above (15+ years) in households.

Contents of the questionnaire

Cover page of the QLFS questionnaire

The cover page contains details that enable **the tracking and monitoring of the questionnaire** such as a unique identify for the household, the dwelling number, household number and etc..

Section 1 of the QLFS questionnaire

This section has **socio-demographic questions** which are completed for all household members regardless of age.

Section 2 of the QLFS core questionnaire

The questions in this section determine those individuals, **aged 15+ years**, who are employed and those who are not employed.

Section 3 of the QLFS core questionnaire

This section determines which respondents are **unemployed** and which respondents are **not economically active**.

Section 4 of the QLFS core questionnaire

This section contains questions about the **work situation** of respondents who are employed. It includes questions about the number of jobs at which the respondent works, the hours of work, the industry and occupation of the respondent as well as whether or not the person is employed in the formal or informal sector etc.,

Section 5 of the QLFS core questionnaire

This section covers earning and non-market activities.

Components of the labour market

Classification of individuals into three mutually exclusive and exhaustive categories following ILO hierarchy:

→ Employed

→ Unemployed

→ Inactive / not in the labour force

Identify: (Priority rules)

1. Employed: 15+ yrs, worked for pay, profit or family gain or temporarily absent from job during reference week

Then

2. Unemployed: Without work, actively looked for work and would have been available to start work in the reference week

Then

3. Inactive: Neither employed nor unemployed

1 + 2 = Labour force

1 + 2 + 3 = Working age population

Key indicators

Unemployment rate	$\frac{\text{Unemployment}}{\text{Labour force}} \times 100$
Absorption Rate	$\frac{\text{Employed}}{\text{Working age (15-64 yrs)}} \times 100$
Labour Force Participation Rate	$\frac{\text{Labour force}}{\text{Working age (15-64 yrs)}} \times 100$
Inactivity Rate	$\frac{\text{Inactive}}{\text{Working age (15-64 yrs)}} \times 100$

- It also measures related aspects of the labour market:
 - Industry
 - Occupation
 - Sector
 - Hours of work
 - Earnings
 - Etc...

Limitations and Challenges

- Information not reported at districts and local municipalities
- Does not measure **tourism industry** because tourism is not a clearly defined industry in the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC), as it cut across several industries (e,g Trade, Transport, Finance and Community and Social services).

Latest results

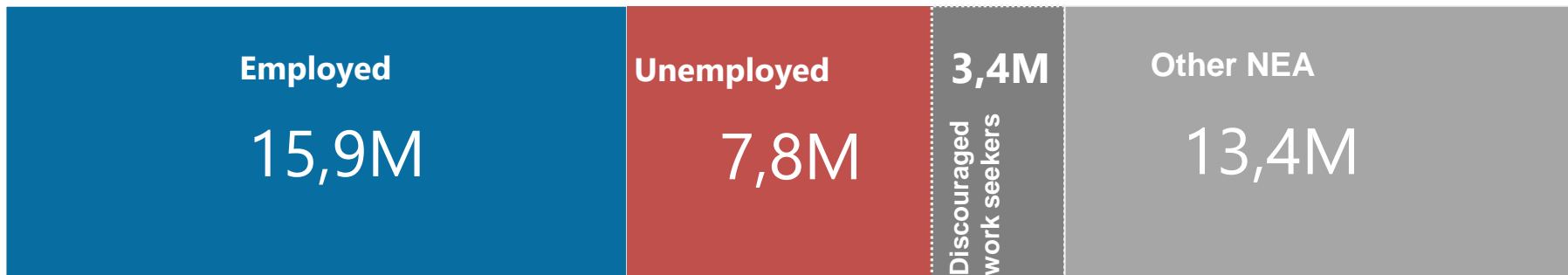
Q1: 2023



There were **16,2M (15-64 years)** employed in Q1:2023

Not Economically Active (NEA)

Q4:2022



Q1:2023



258 000 More **Employed** between Q4:2022 and Q1:2023

179 000 More **Unemployed** between Q4:2022 and Q1:2023

87 000 Fewer **Discouraged** between Q4:2022 and Q1:2023

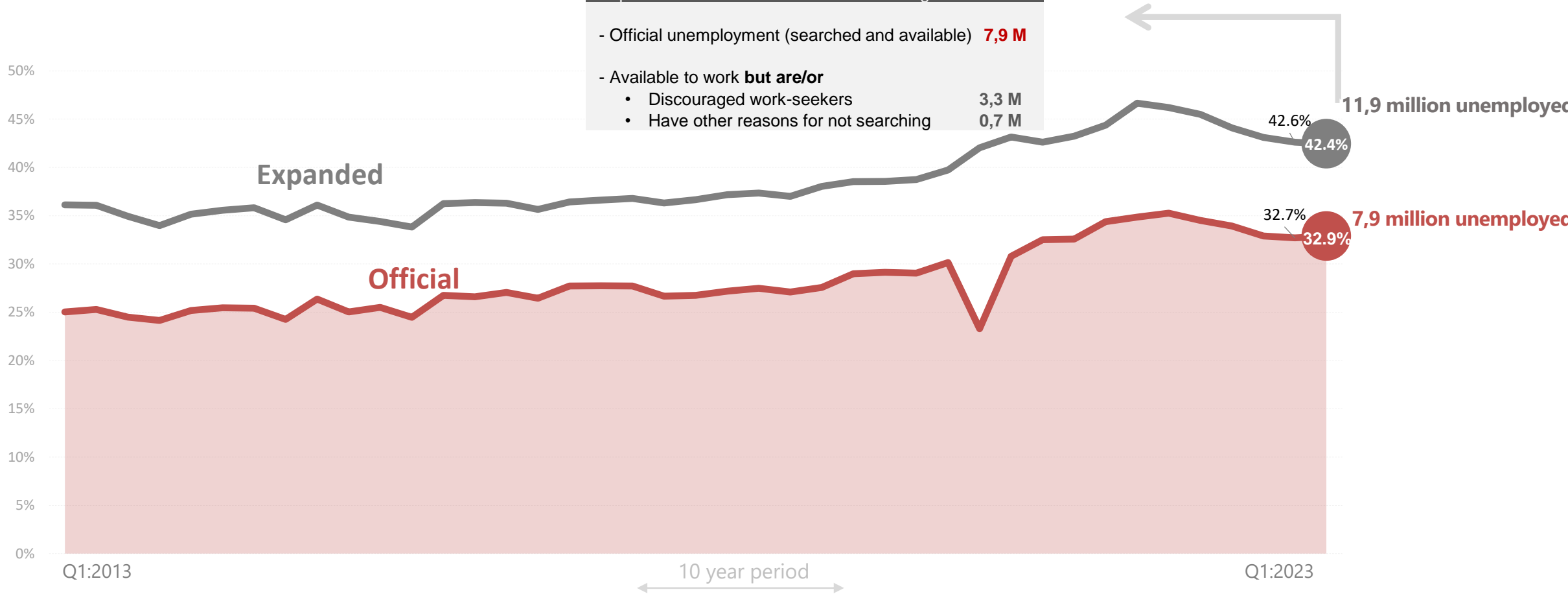
209 000 Fewer **Other Not Economically Active** between Q4:2022 and Q1:2023

The official unemployment rate **increased by 0,2** of a percentage point to **32.9%** in Q1:2023 compared to Q4:2022. Expanded unemployment **decreased** by 0,2 of a percentage point to 42,4% in the same period.

Official vs Expanded unemployment: Q1:2013-Q1:2023

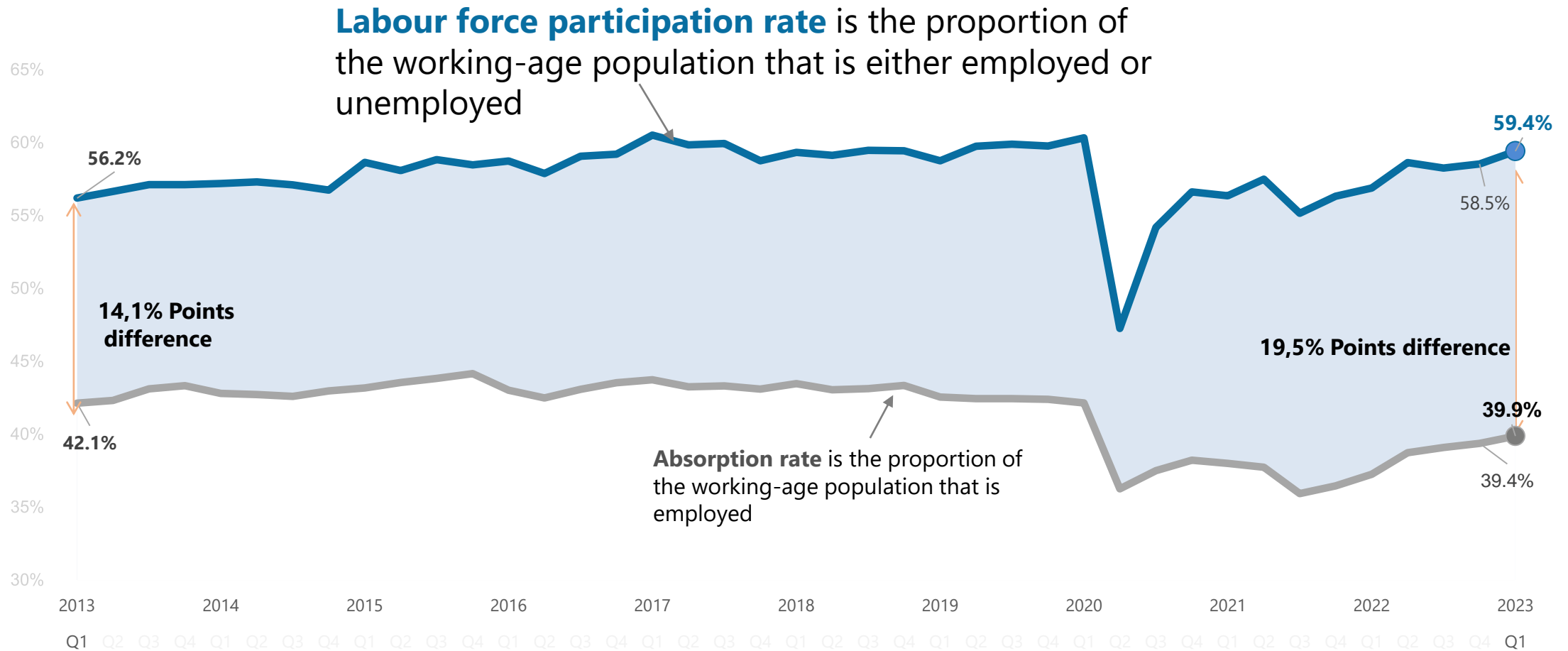
Expanded Definition includes the following

- Official unemployment (searched and available) **7,9 M**
- Available to work **but are/or**
 - Discouraged work-seekers **3,3 M**
 - Have other reasons for not searching **0,7 M**



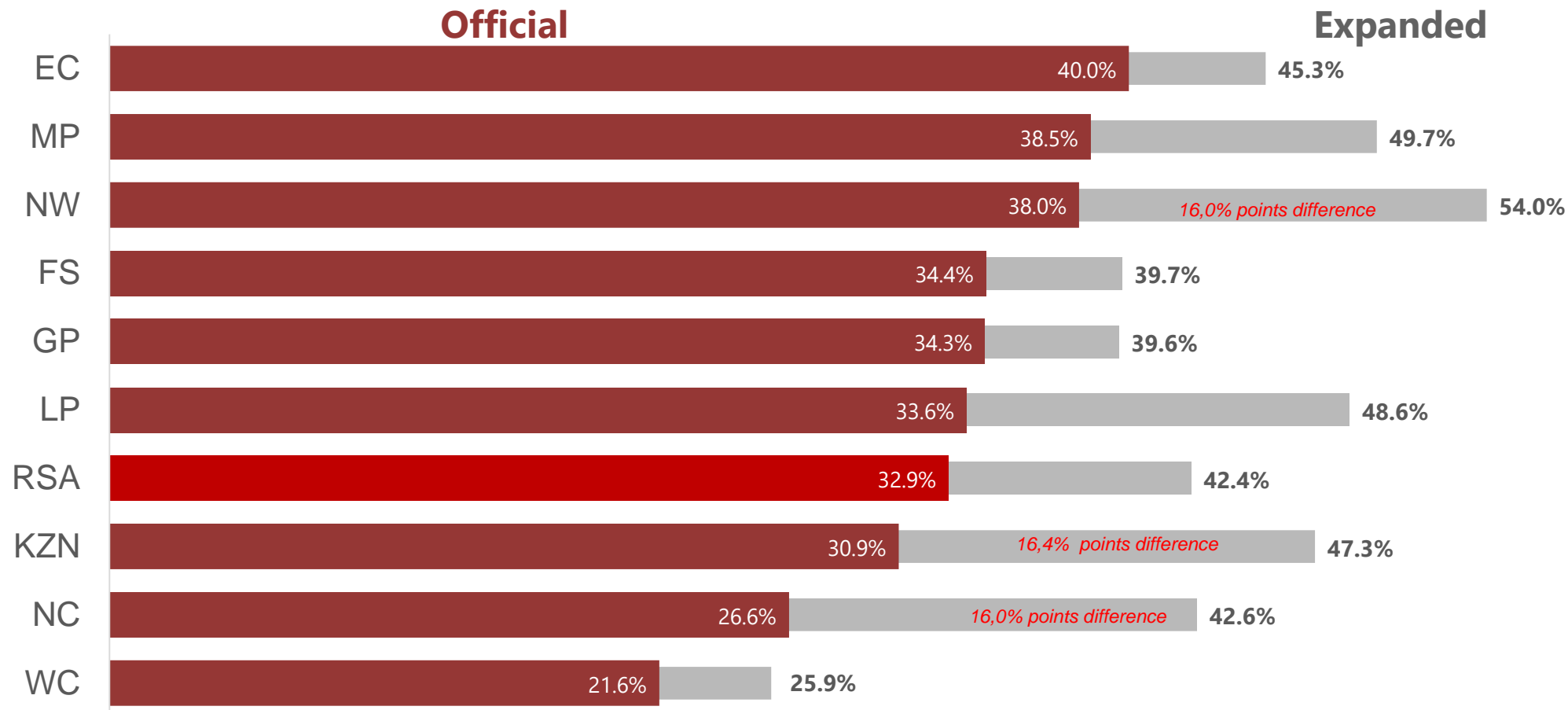
The **Labour force participation rate** increased by 0,9 of a percentage point from 58,5% in Q4:2022 to 59,4% in Q1:2023

Labour force participation and absorption rates Q1:2013-Q1:2023



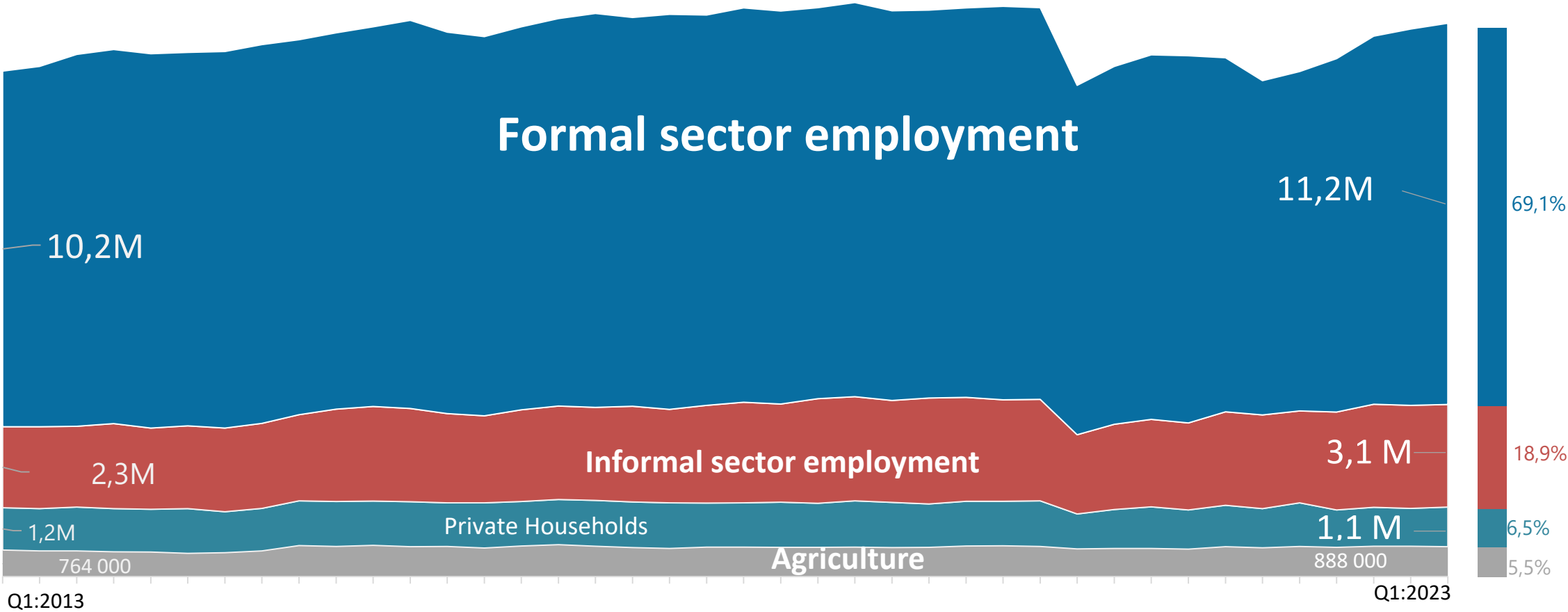
NW (54,0%) recorded the **highest expanded unemployment rate** in Q1:2023, followed by MP (49,7%). **NW, KZN and NC** recorded more than 15 percentage points difference between expanded and official unemployment rates

Provincial unemployment rate: Official vs Expanded Q1:2023



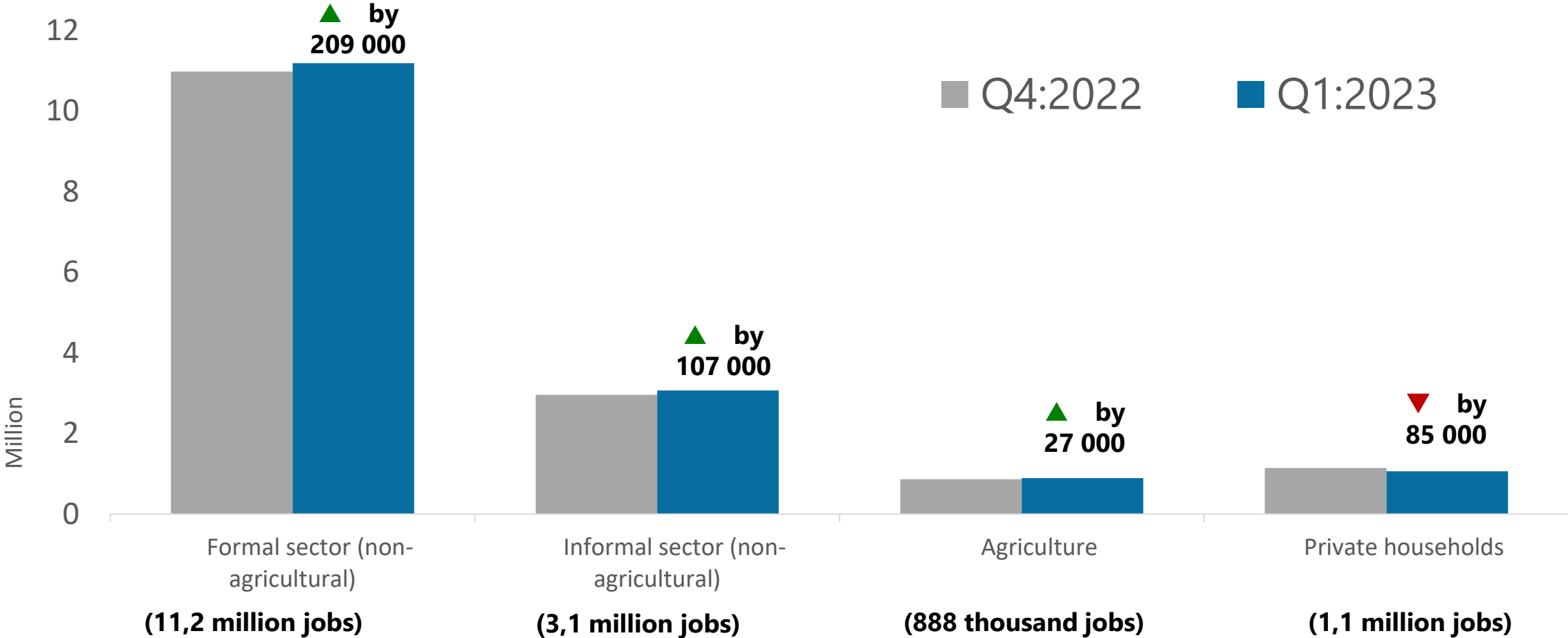
The **formal sector** in South Africa accounts for **69,1%** of total employment.

Employment share by sector, Q1:2013 to Q1:2023



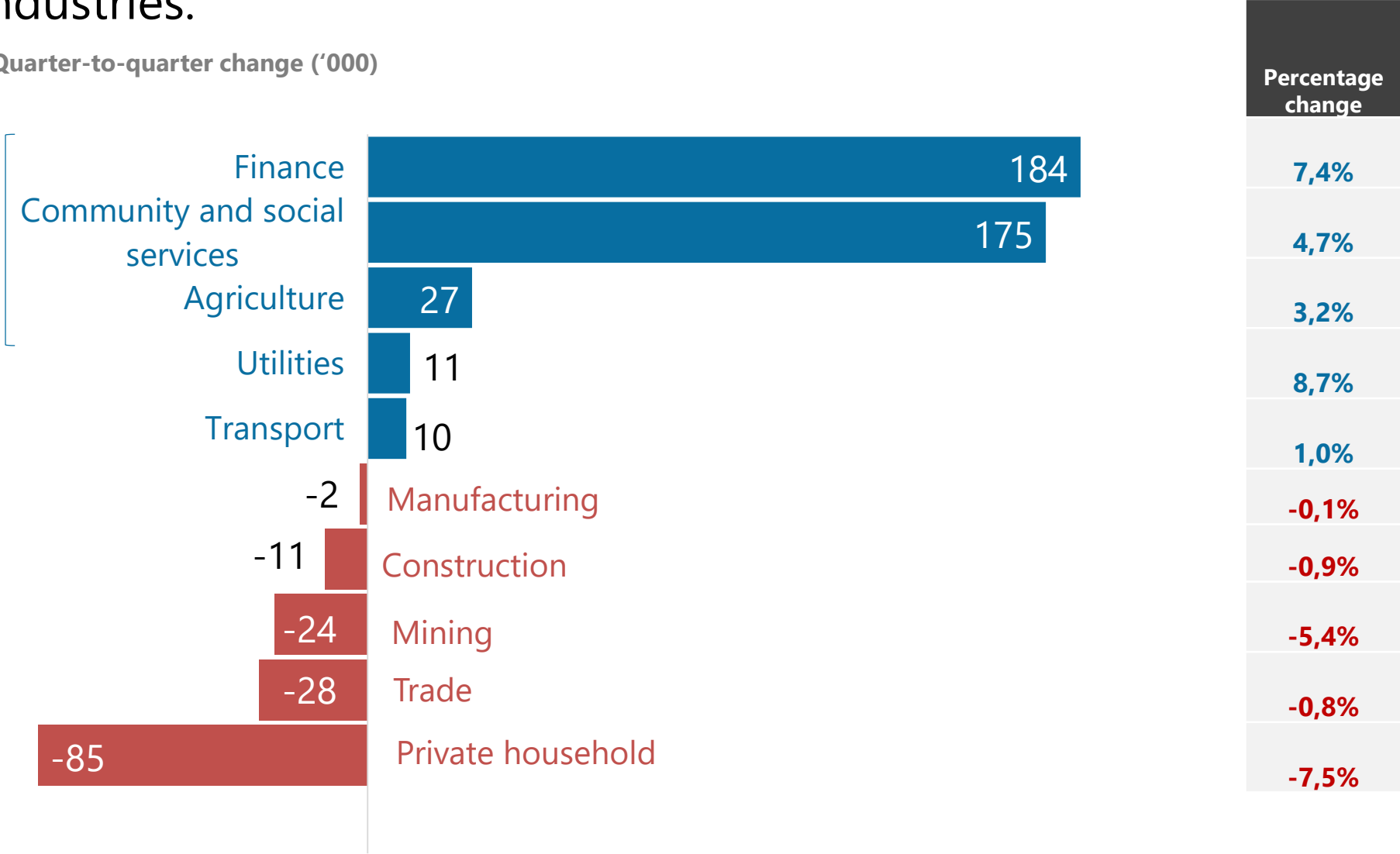
Formal sector employment increased by **209 thousand jobs** between Q4:2022 and Q1:2023.

Employment changes by sector, (Quarter-on-quarter)



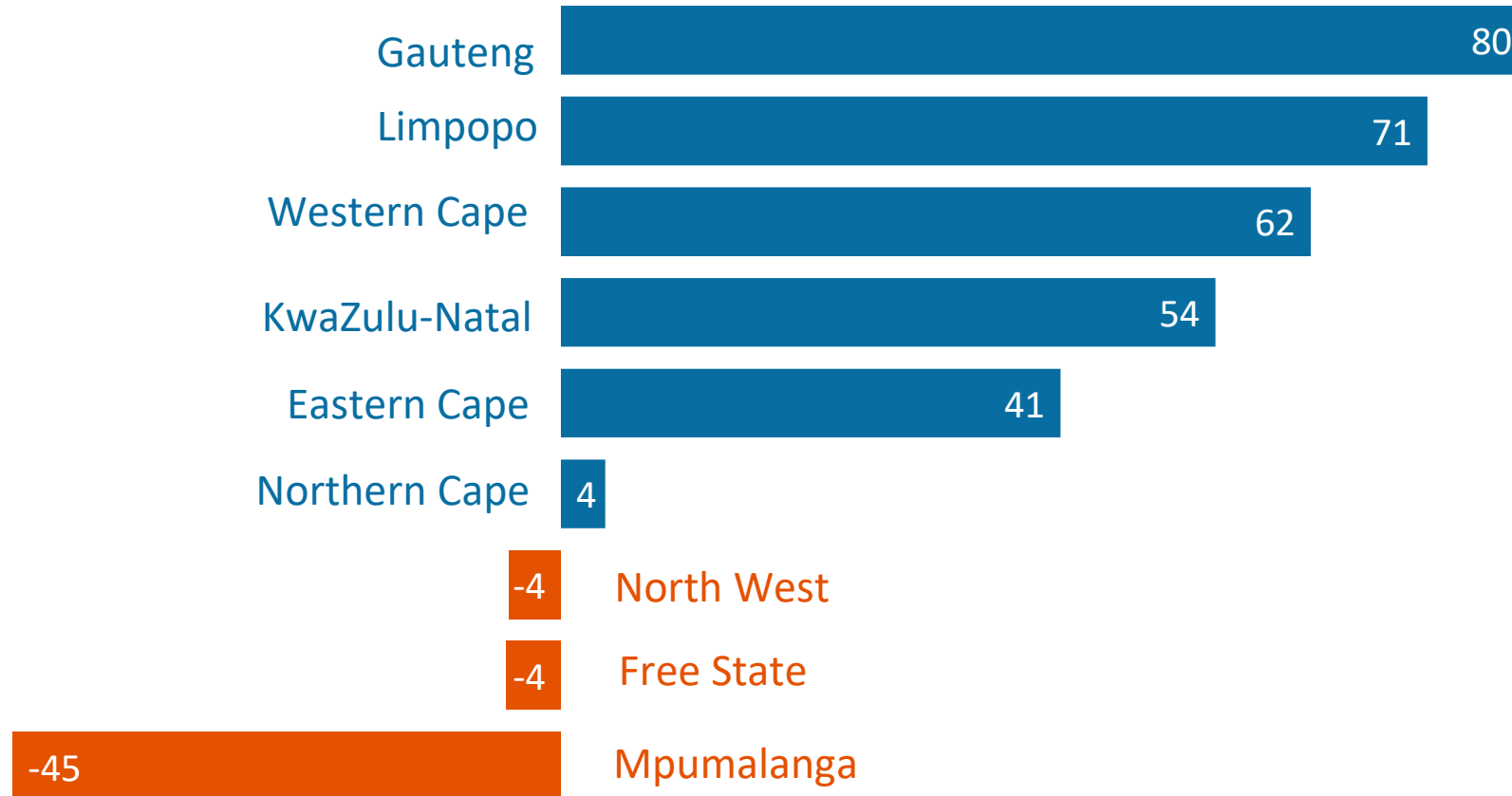
Employment increases were mainly in finance, community and social services and agricultural industries.

Employment changes by industry, Quarter-to-quarter change ('000)



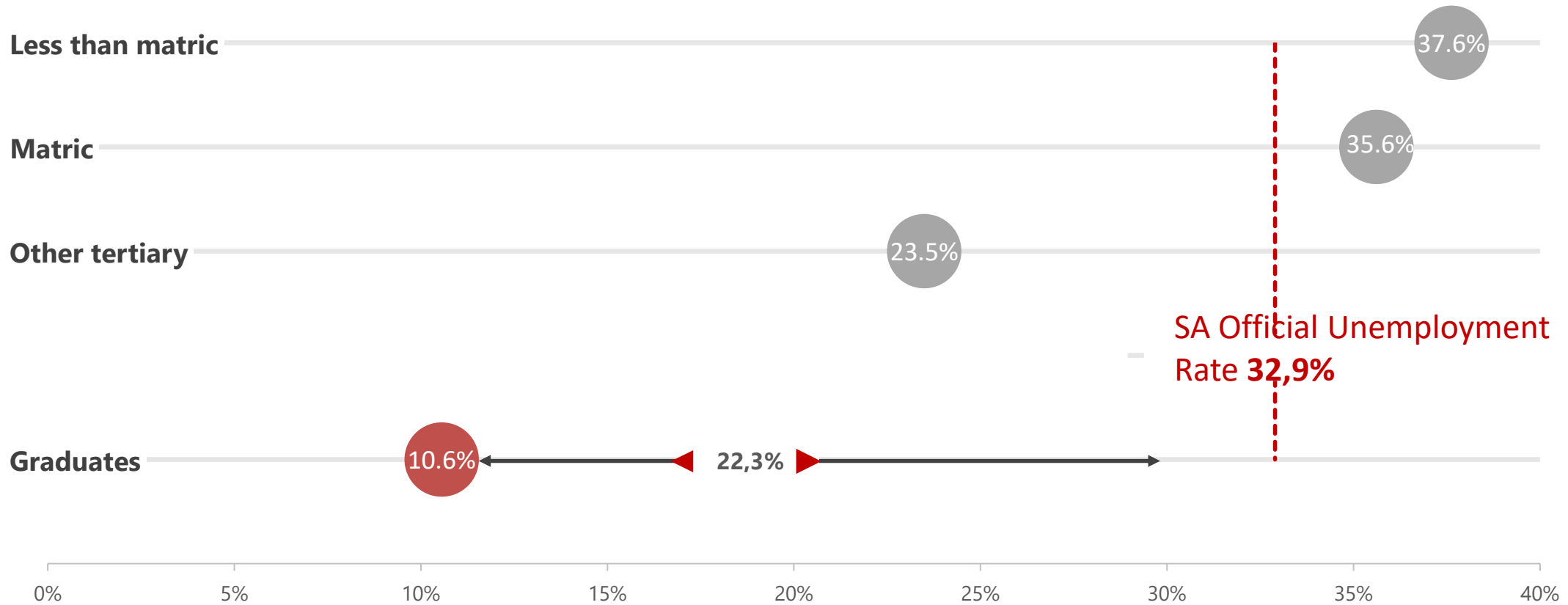
GP, LP and WC recorded the largest employment increases in Q1: 2023

Quarter-to-quarter change in employment by province ('000)
(Q1:2023 and Q4:2022)



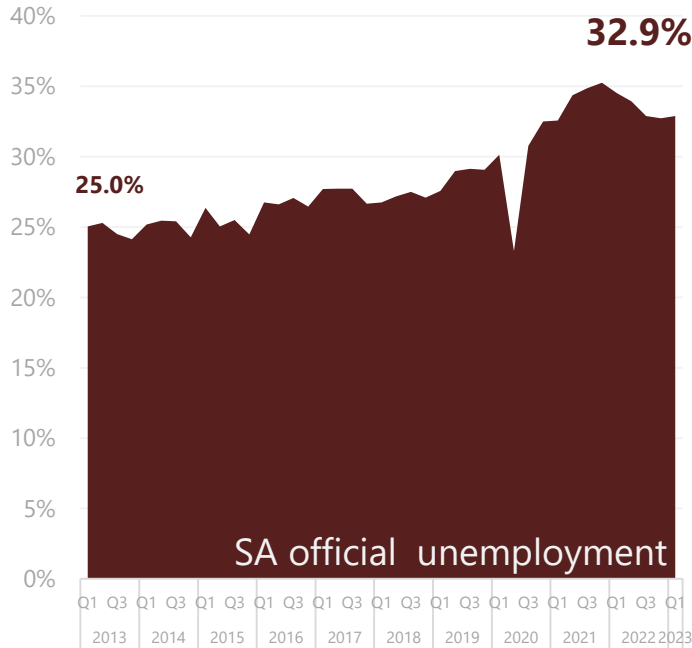
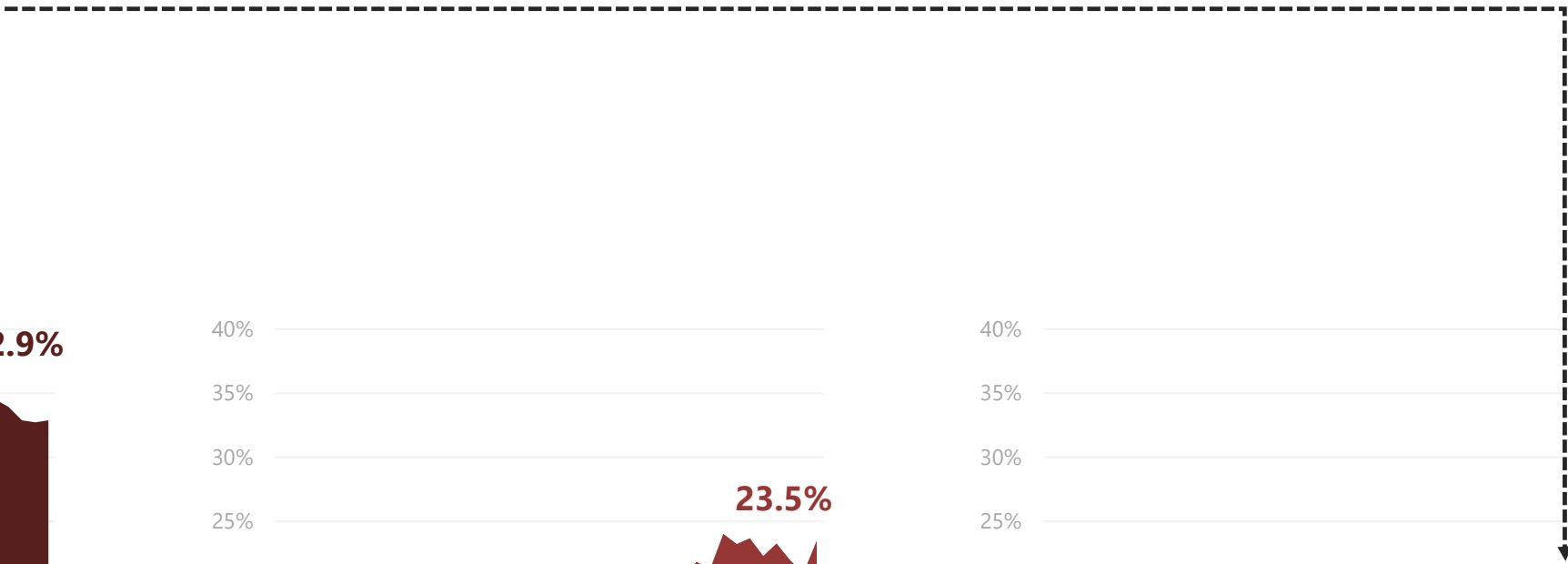
Graduate unemployment rate (10,6%) is 22,3 percentage points lower than the national official unemployment rate.

Official Unemployment rate Q1:2023



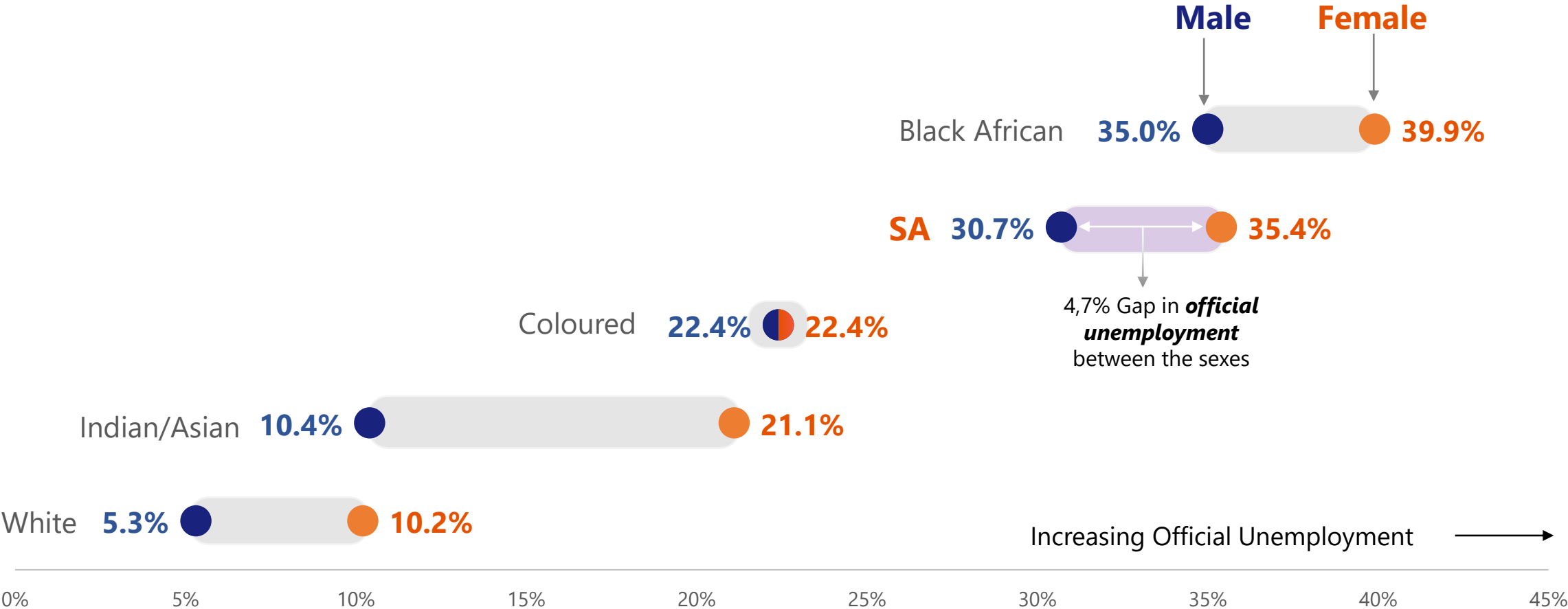
In the past 10 years graduate unemployment increased from 5,5% in Q1:2013 to 10,6% in Q1:2023

Graduate unemployment 2013-2023



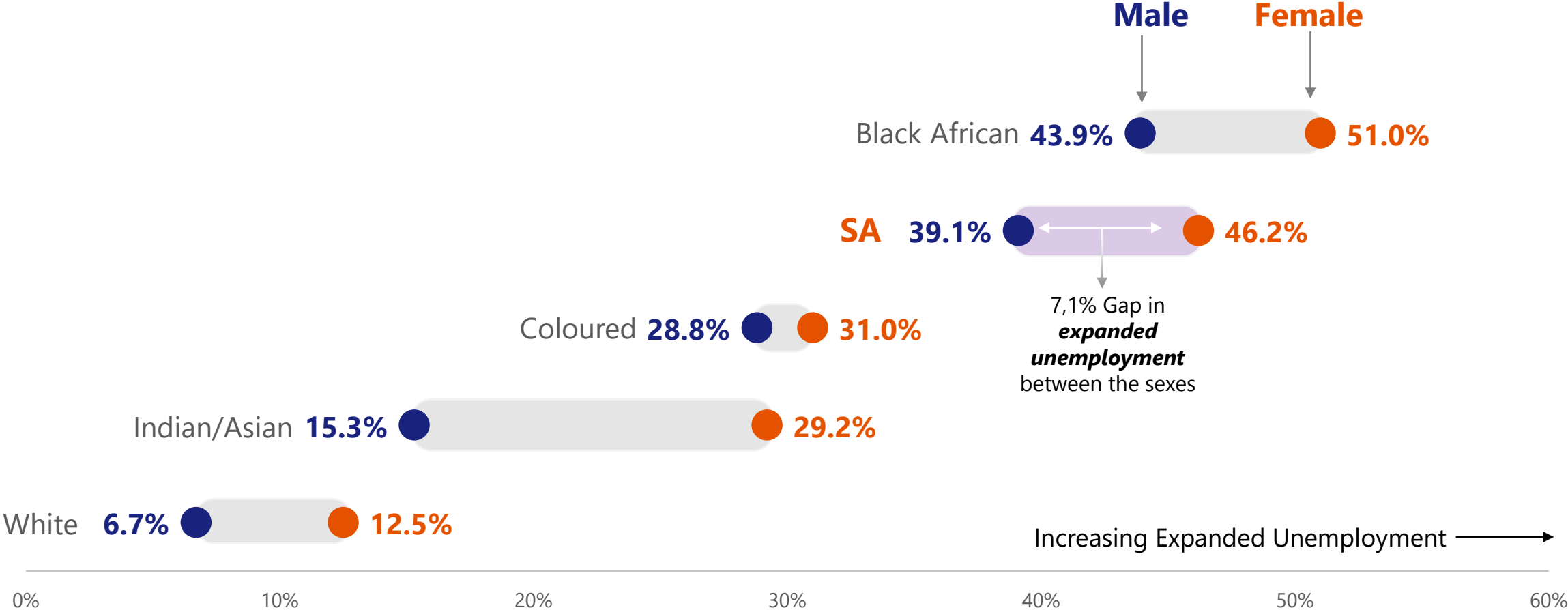
Black African women continue to be the most vulnerable with an unemployment rate of 39,9% in Q1:2023. This is 4,5 percentage points higher than the national average for women at 35,4%.

Official unemployment rate by population group and sex, Q1:2023



Using the expanded unemployment definition, **Gender disparity** persist throughout all population groups.

EXPANDED unemployment rate by population group and sex, Q1:2023



QLFS

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