Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) Q1:2022

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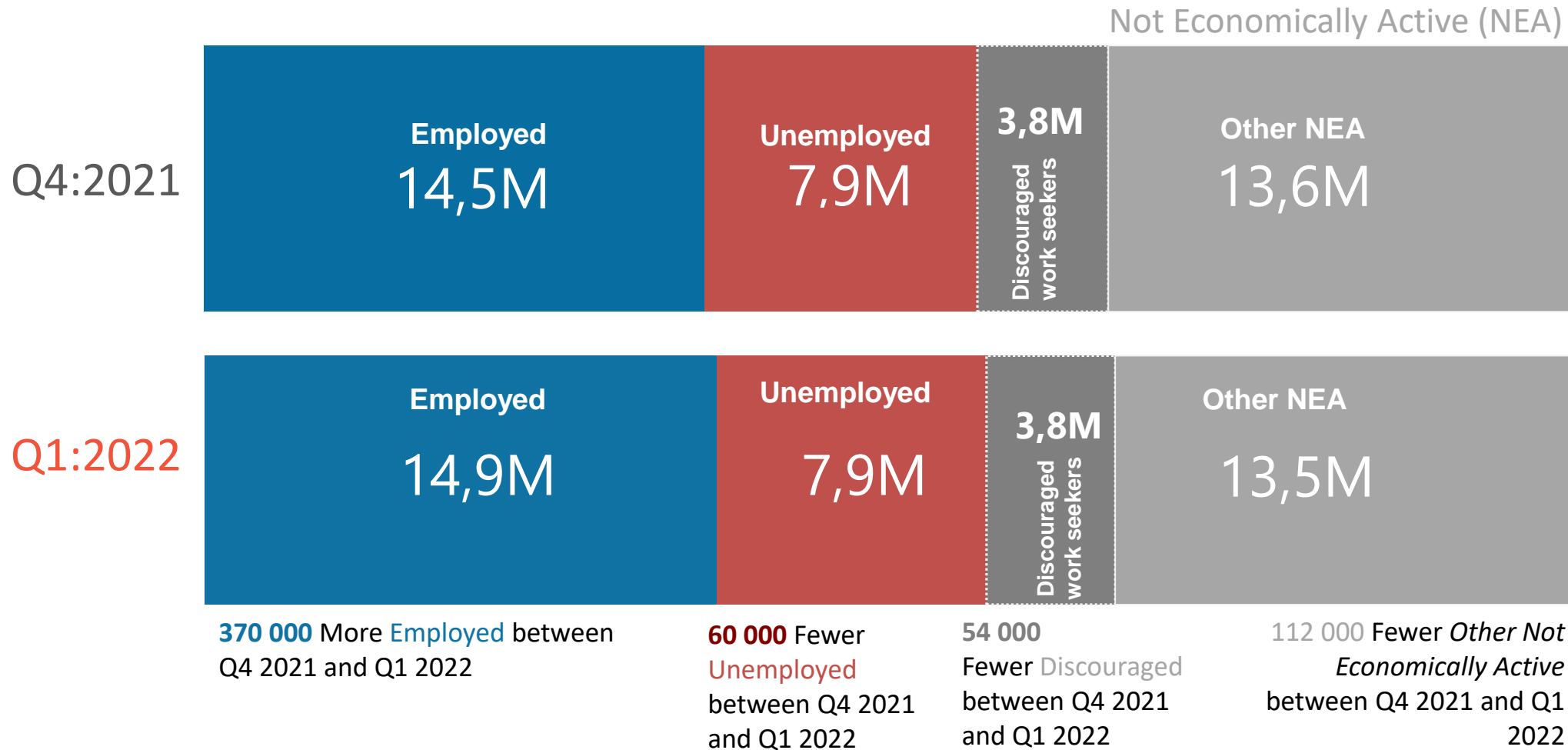
COVID–19 Impact and way forward on Data Collection

❖ **Restrictions** necessary to combat COVID-19 created an obstacle to normal data collection approaches and operations, exactly when there was a massive increase in the demand for information.

❖ Stats SA changed the mode of collection for QLFS data to Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) from Q2:2020 to Q4:2021. The mode of data collection using CATI saw the response rate of the survey decline over time to level of concern to the organization reaching 44,6% in the 4th quarter of 2021. With the easing of the lock- down levels restriction the organization took a decision to revert to face-to-face data collection using the Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) which was the mode used prior to the pandemic. It is anticipated that using face-to-face interviewing with CAPI will lead to an increase in response rate and the overall quality in the estimates of the QLFS.

❖ In that regard Q1:2022 was mainly collected using face-to face interviewing with CAPI.

Evaluation of reliability of estimates

❖ Stats SA is guided by **international best practices** in the production of its official statistics, including labour statistics.

❖ In order to provide the public with **quality statistics**, the QLFS data is subjected to quality checks. After thorough checks, and with an improved response rate a decision was taken to publish metro and non-metro estimates for the QLFS Q1:2022.

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Both unemployed and not economically active declined in **Q1:2022.**

Not Economically Active (NEA)

| Q4:2021 | Employed 14,5M | Unemployed 7,9M | 3,8M Discouraged work seekers | Other NEA 13,6M |

| Q1:2022 | Employed 14,9M | Unemployed 7,9M | 3,8M Discouraged work seekers | Other NEA 13,5M |

370 000 More Employed between Q4 2021 and Q1 2022

60 000 Fewer Unemployed between Q4 2021 and Q1 2022

54 000 Fewer Discouraged between Q4 2021 and Q1 2022

112 000 Fewer *Other Not Economically Active* between Q4 2021 and Q1 2022

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There were about **370 thousand** more people employed in Q1:2022 than in Q4:2021

40,0 million
People of working age in South Africa (15 – 64-year-old)

Labour force

Not Economically Active

22,8 million

17,3 million

Employed	Unemployed	Discouraged work seekers	Other NEA
14,9M	**7,9M**	**3,8M**	**13,5M**

SA's official unemployment rate stands at
34,5%

Decreased by 0,8 of a percentage point between Q4:2021 and Q1:2022

Due to rounding numbers may not add up
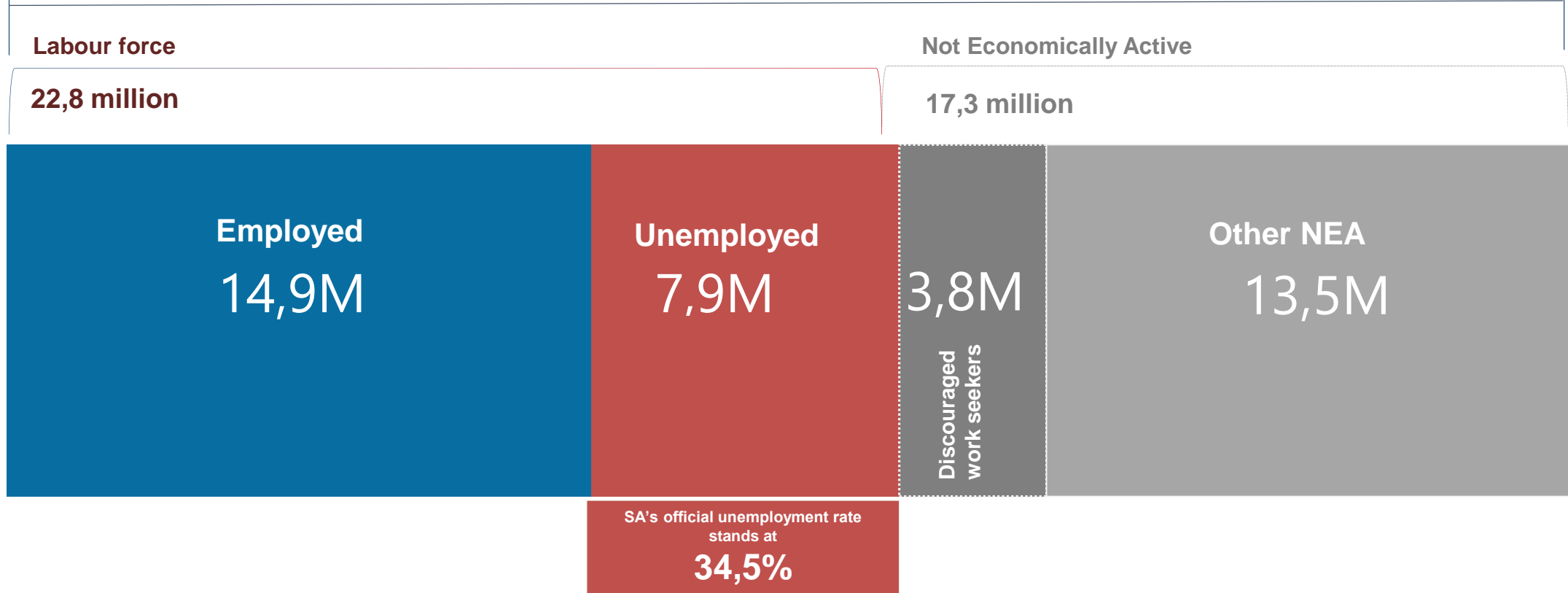
ILO hierarchy – Employed first then unemployed and the remainder is NEA (including discouraged job-seekers). 3 mutually exclusive groups. Cannot be in two groups at the same time.

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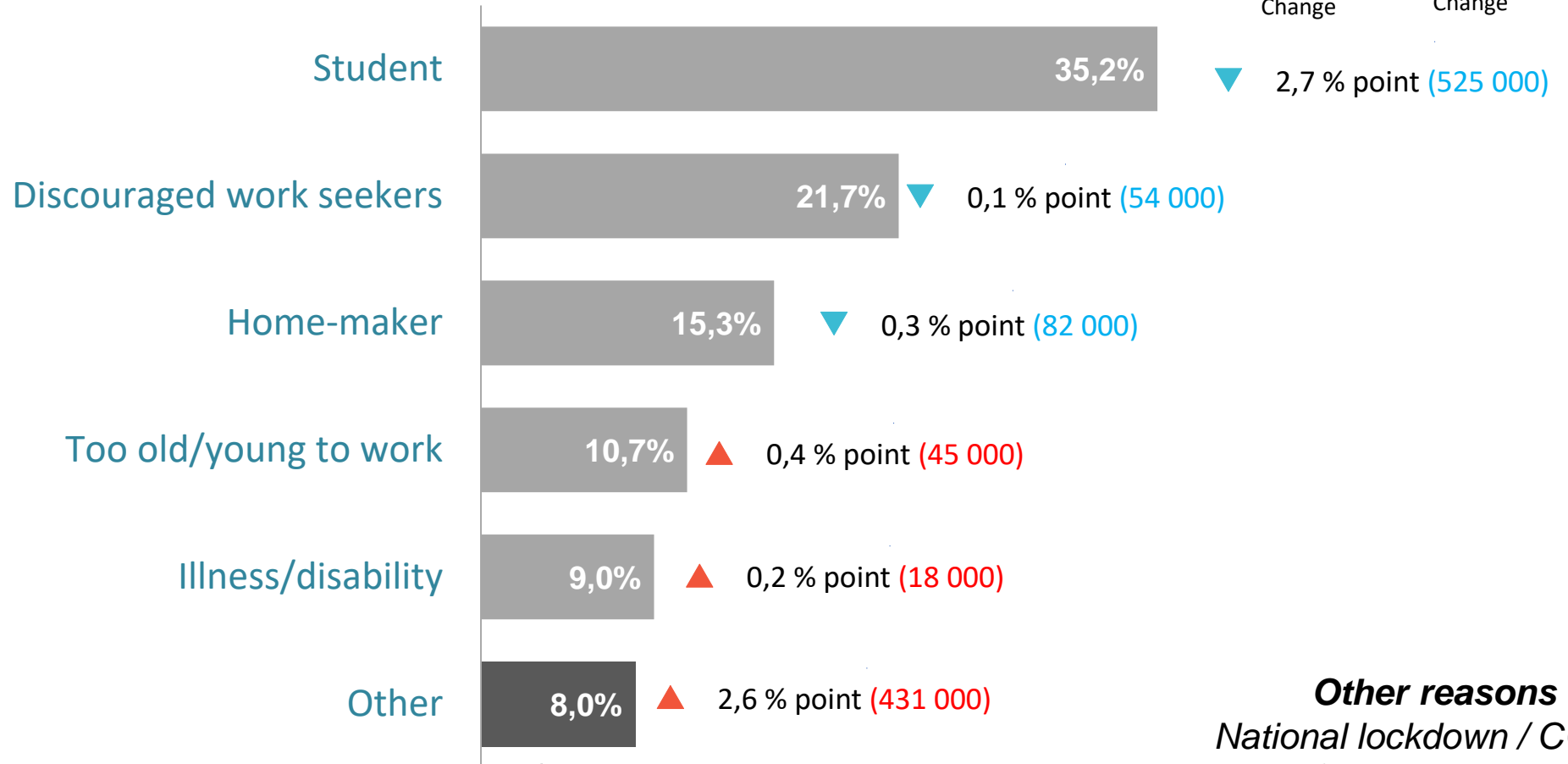**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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The number of **Not Economically Active** persons **decreased by 166 000** in Q1:2022 compared to Q4:2021

Characteristics of the not economically active, Q4:2021 vs Q1:2022

Q on Q Change

	Percentage Change	Absolute Change

Category	Value	Change
Student	35,2%	▼ 2,7 % point (525 000)
Discouraged work seekers	21,7%	▼ 0,1 % point (54 000)
Home-maker	15,3%	▼ 0,3 % point (82 000)
Too old/young to work	10,7%	▲ 0,4 % point (45 000)
Illness/disability	9,0%	▲ 0,2 % point (18 000)
Other	8,0%	▲ 2,6 % point (431 000)

Other reasons include: *National lockdown / COVID-19*

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The **Labour force participation rate** increased by 0,6 of a percentage point from 56,3% in Q4:2021 to 56,9% in Q1:2022

Labour force participation and absorption rates Q1:2012-Q1:2022

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

56,1%

14,0% Points difference

42,1%

19,6% Points difference

Absorption rate is the proportion of the working-age population that is employed

56,9%

37,3%

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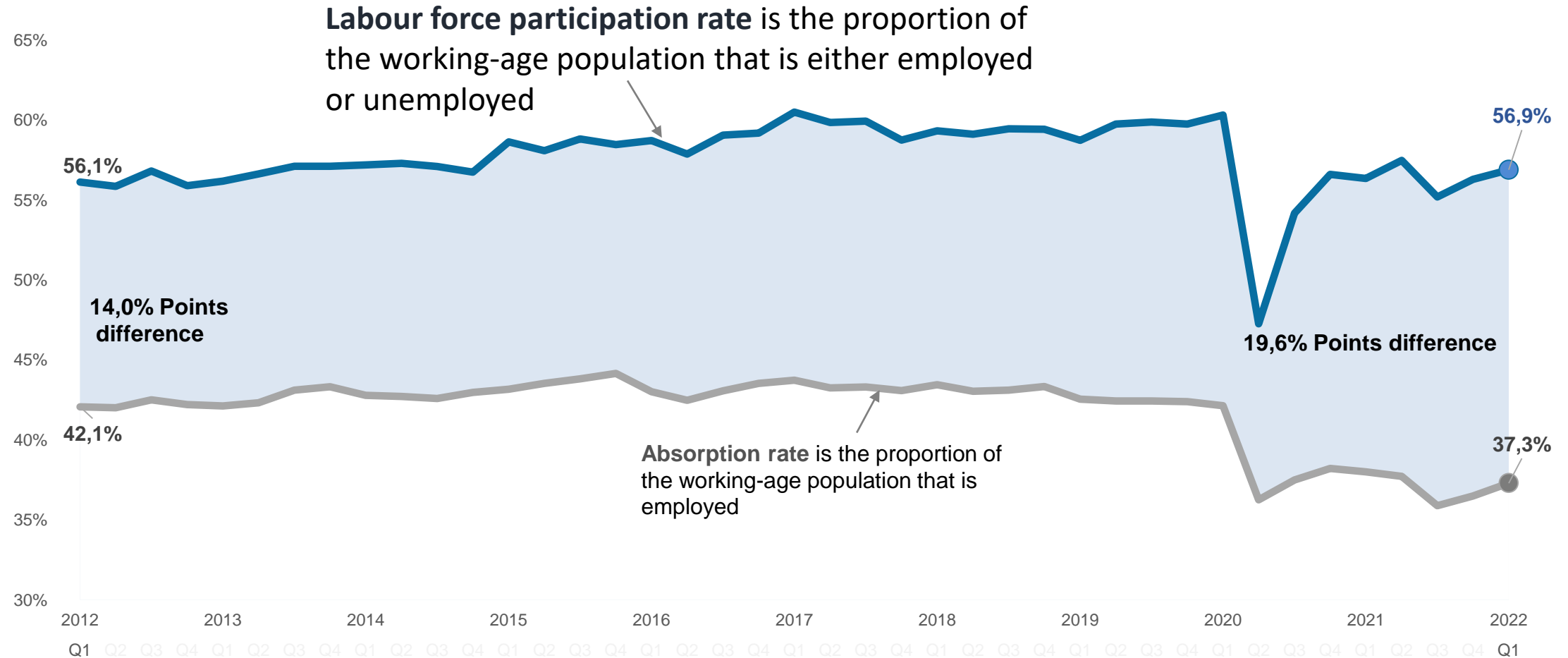
South Africa's **unemployment rate decreased** by 0,8 of a percentage point to **34,5%** in Q1:2022 compared to Q4:2021.

Unemployment rate: Q1:2011 to Q1:2022
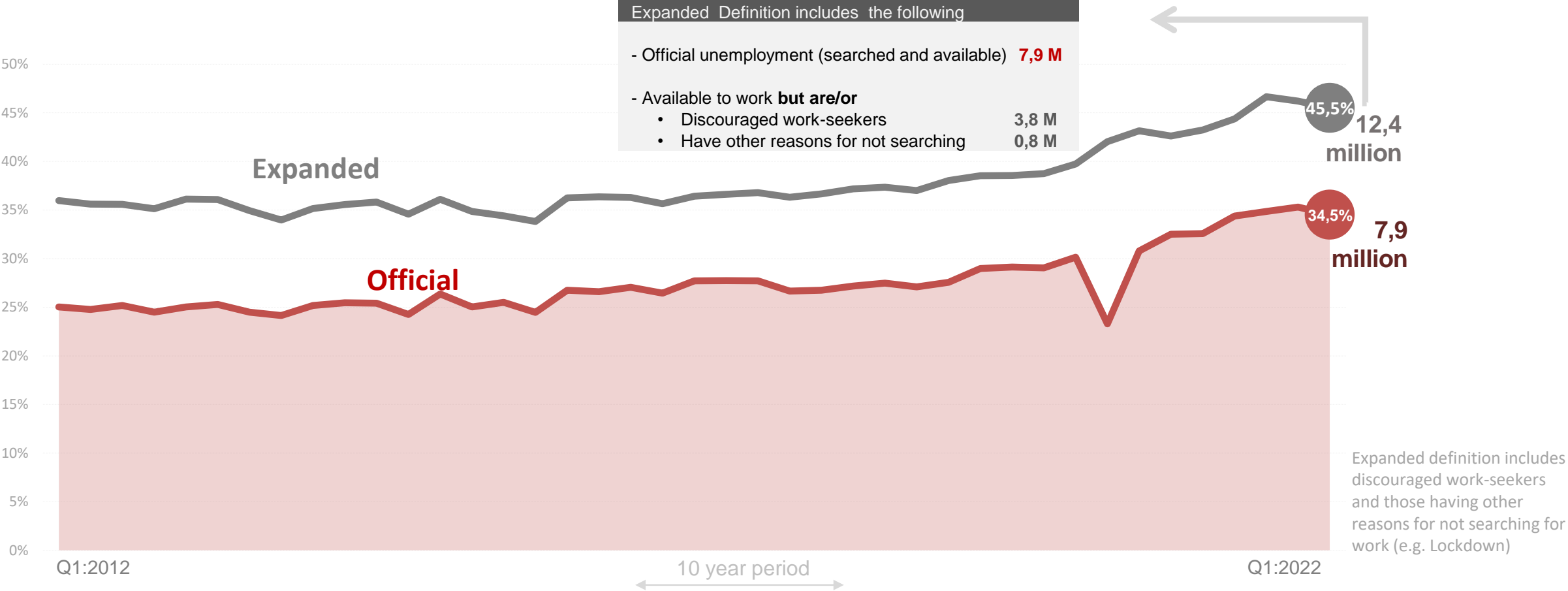

35,3%

34,5%

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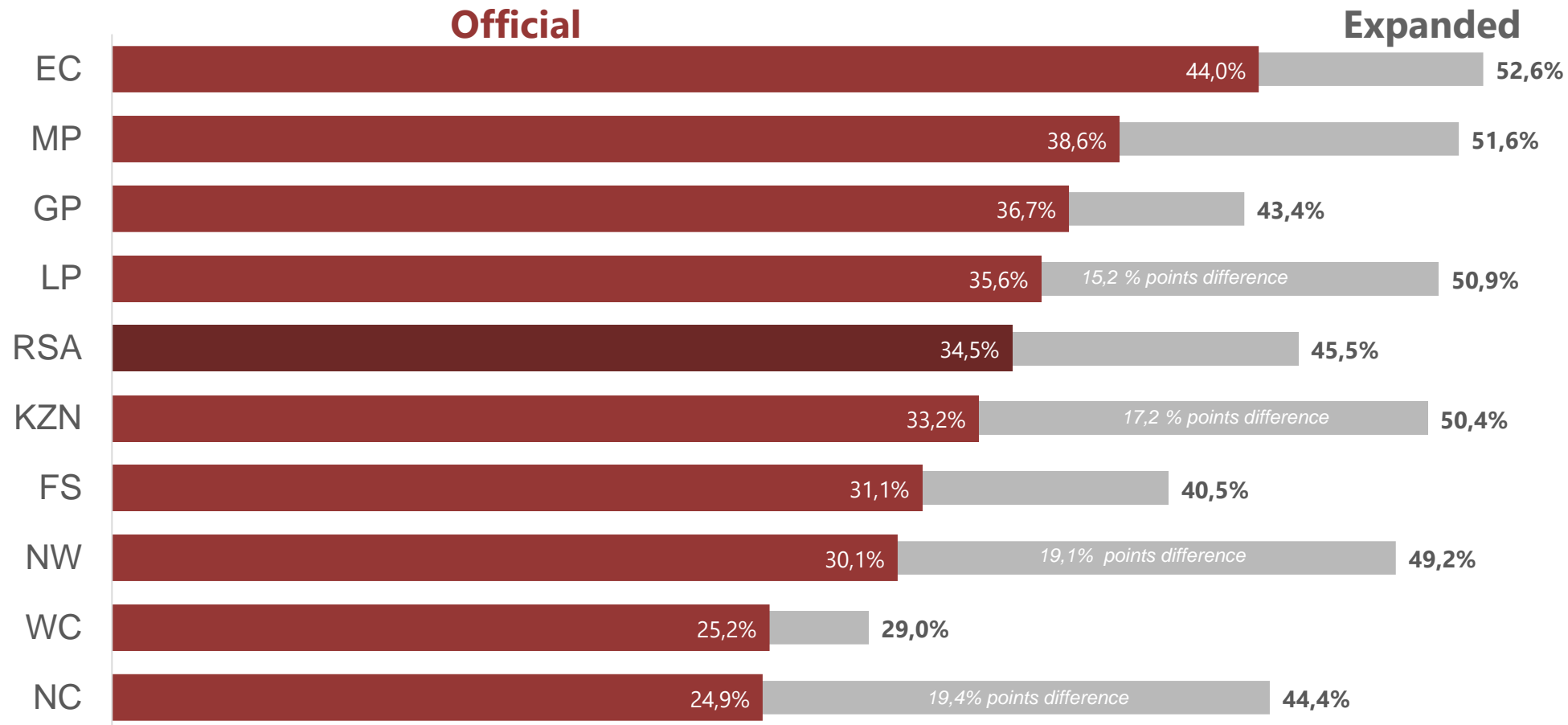**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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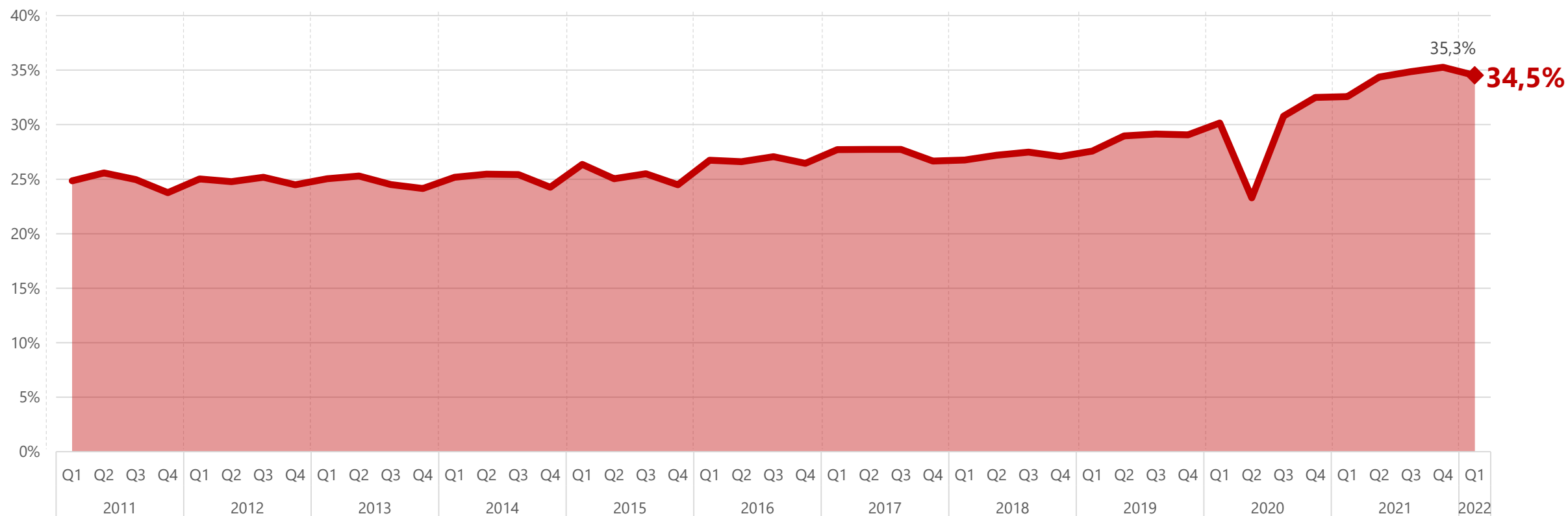
Expanded unemployment rate **decreased by 0,7** of a percentage point to 45,5% in Q1:2022 compared to Q4:2021.

Official vs Expanded unemployment: Q1:2012-Q1:2022

Expanded Definition includes the following

- Official unemployment (searched and available)   **7,9 M**

- Available to work **but are/or**
  - Discouraged work-seekers   **3,8 M**
  - Have other reasons for not searching   **0,8 M**

Expanded

Official

45,5%

12,4 million

34,5%

7,9 million

Expanded definition includes discouraged work-seekers and those having other reasons for not searching for work (e.g. Lockdown)
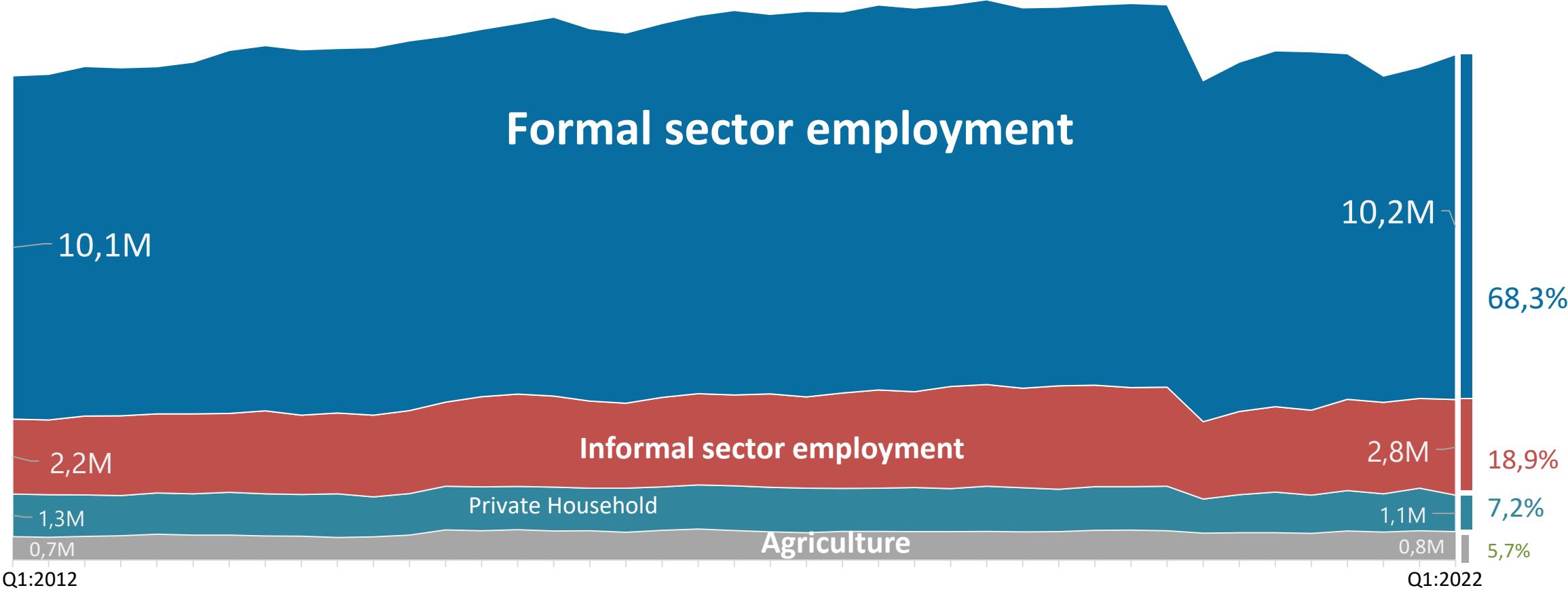
Q1:2012

10 year period

Q1:2022

EC, MP, LP and KZN recorded expanded unemployment rates above 50,0% in Q1:2022. *NC, NW, KZN and LP recorded more than 15 percentage points difference between expanded and official unemployment rates.*

Provincial unemployment rate: Official vs Expanded Q1:2022

Official   **Expanded**

Province	Official	Expanded	Difference note
EC	44,0%	52,6%	
MP	38,6%	51,6%	
GP	36,7%	43,4%	
LP	35,6%	50,9%	15,2 % points difference
RSA	34,5%	45,5%	
KZN	33,2%	50,4%	17,2 % points difference
FS	31,1%	40,5%	
NW	30,1%	49,2%	19,1% points difference
WC	25,2%	29,0%	
NC	24,9%	44,4%	19,4% points difference

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS   Quarterly Labour Force Survey Q1:2022

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The **formal sector** in South Africa accounts for **68,3%** of total employment.

Employment share by sector, Q1:2012 to Q1:2022

Formal sector employment

10,1M

10,2M

68,3%

Informal sector employment

2,2M

2,8M

18,9%

Private Household

1,3M

1,1M

7,2%

Agriculture

0,7M

0,8M

5,7%

Q1:2012

Q1:2022

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Formal sector employment increased by 408 thousand jobs between Q4:2021 and Q1:2022
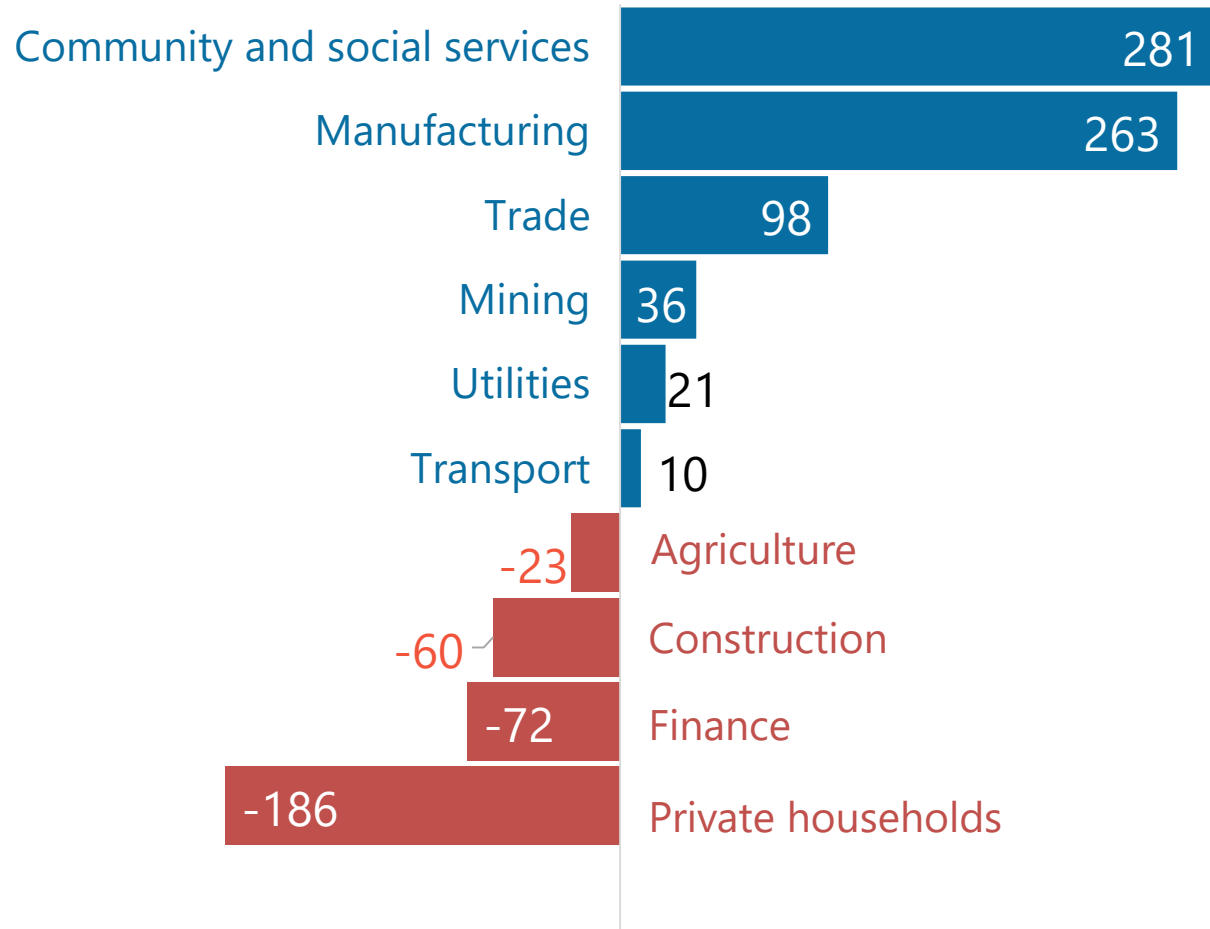
Employment changes by sector, (Quarter-on-quarter)
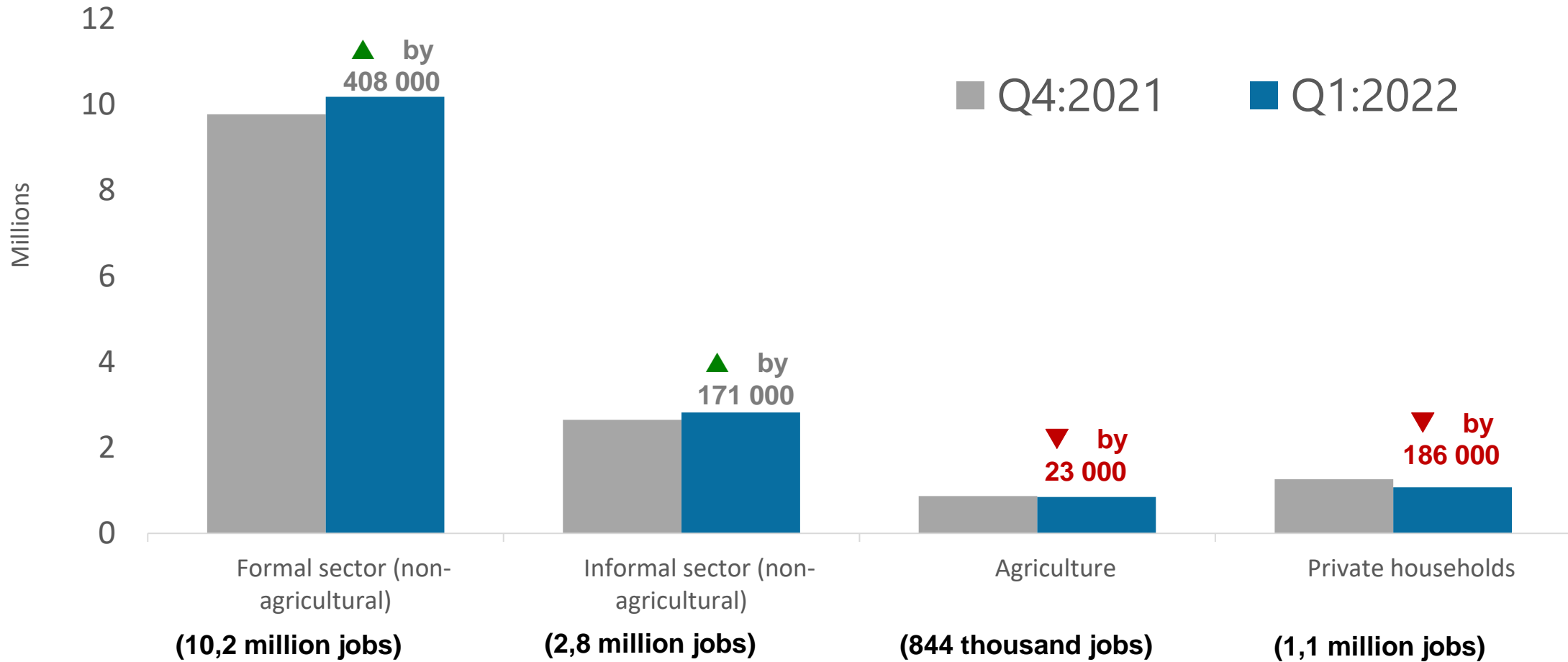
Employment **increased by 370 000** in Q1:2022 compared to Q4:2021.

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

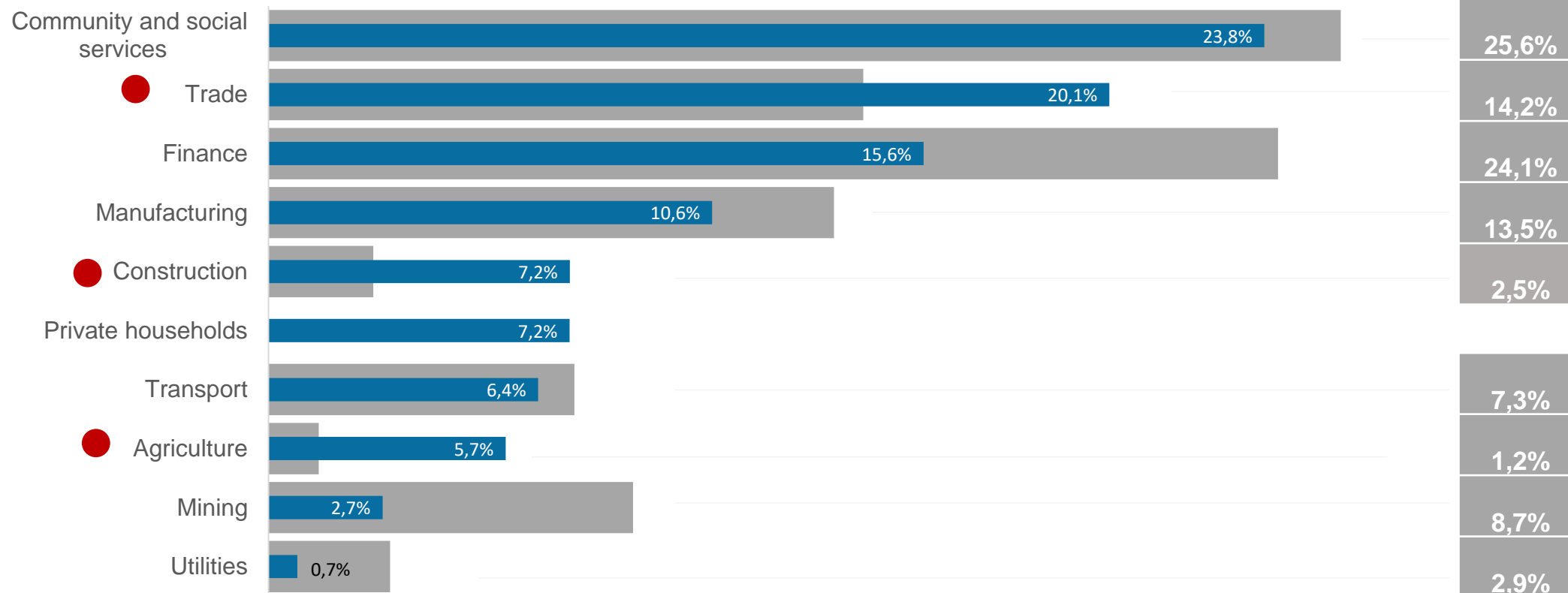Increases in employment were mainly in **Community and social services, Manufacturing** and **Trade**

Industry	Change ('000)	Percentage change
Community and social services	281	8,6%
Manufacturing	263	20,0%
Trade	98	3,4%
Mining	36	9,7%
Utilities	21	26,3%
Transport	10	1,0%
Agriculture	-23	-2,7%
Construction	-60	-5,3%
Finance	-72	-3,0%
Private households	-186	-14,8%

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Trade, construction and agriculture have higher employment shares relative to their GDP contribution.

Employment and GDP share per industry

Employment shares, Q1:2022

Industry	Employment share	Share of Nominal GDP (Q4:2021)
Community and social services	23,8%	25,6%
● Trade	20,1%	14,2%
Finance	15,6%	24,1%
Manufacturing	10,6%	13,5%
● Construction	7,2%	2,5%
Private households	7,2%	
Transport	6,4%	7,3%
● Agriculture	5,7%	1,2%
Mining	2,7%	8,7%
Utilities	0,7%	2,9%

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Graduate unemployment rate (12.6%) is 21,9% points lower than the national official unemployment rate
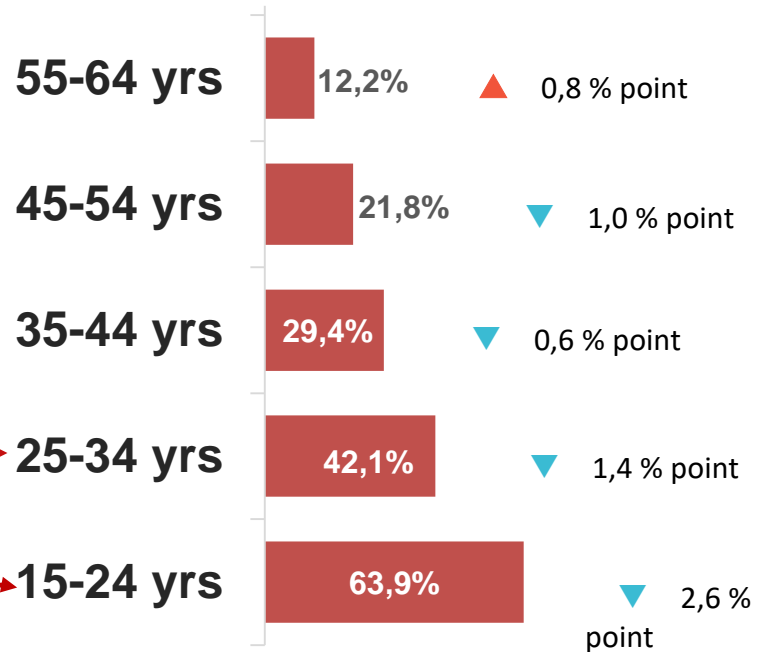
Official Unemployment rate Q1:2022
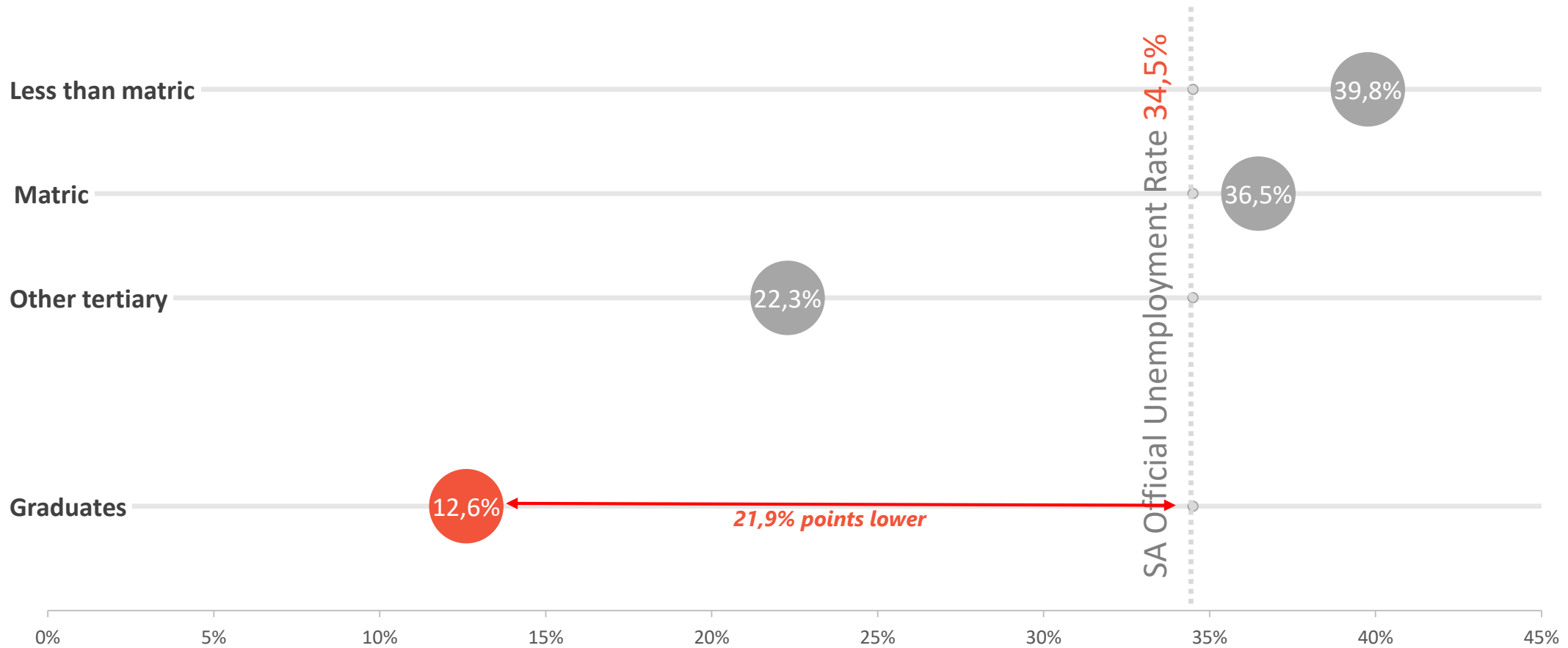
Youth aged 15-24 years and 25-34 years recorded the highest unemployment rates of 63,9% and 42,1% respectively
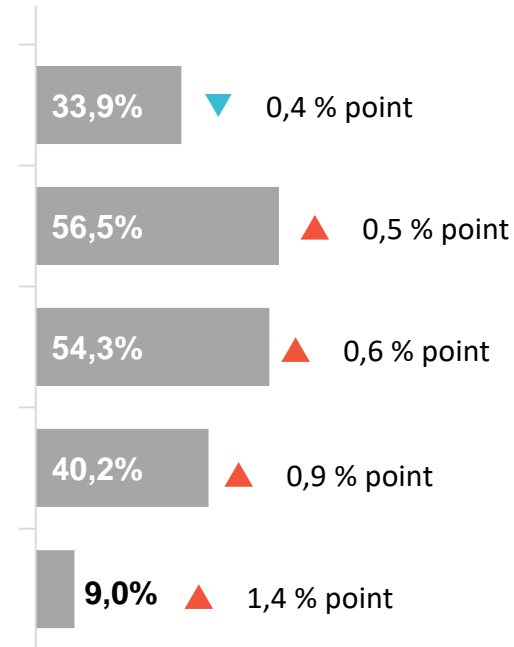
Labour market rates by age group, Q1:2022
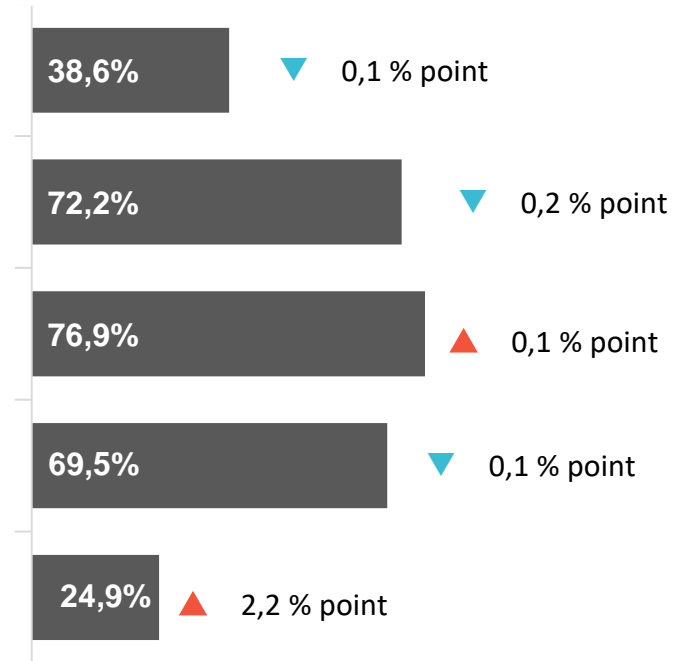
▲▼ Change: Percentage points
Q4:2021 to Q1:2022

Unemployment rate

Age group	Rate	Change
55-64 yrs	12,2%	▲ 0,8 % point
45-54 yrs	21,8%	▼ 1,0 % point
35-44 yrs	29,4%	▼ 0,6 % point
25-34 yrs	42,1%	▼ 1,4 % point
15-24 yrs	63,9%	▼ 2,6 % point

Absorption rate

Age group	Rate	Change
55-64 yrs	33,9%	▼ 0,4 % point
45-54 yrs	56,5%	▲ 0,5 % point
35-44 yrs	54,3%	▲ 0,6 % point
25-34 yrs	40,2%	▲ 0,9 % point
15-24 yrs	9,0%	▲ 1,4 % point

Participation rate

Age group	Rate	Change
55-64 yrs	38,6%	▼ 0,1 % point
45-54 yrs	72,2%	▼ 0,2 % point
35-44 yrs	76,9%	▲ 0,1 % point
25-34 yrs	69,5%	▼ 0,1 % point
15-24 yrs	24,9%	▲ 2,2 % point

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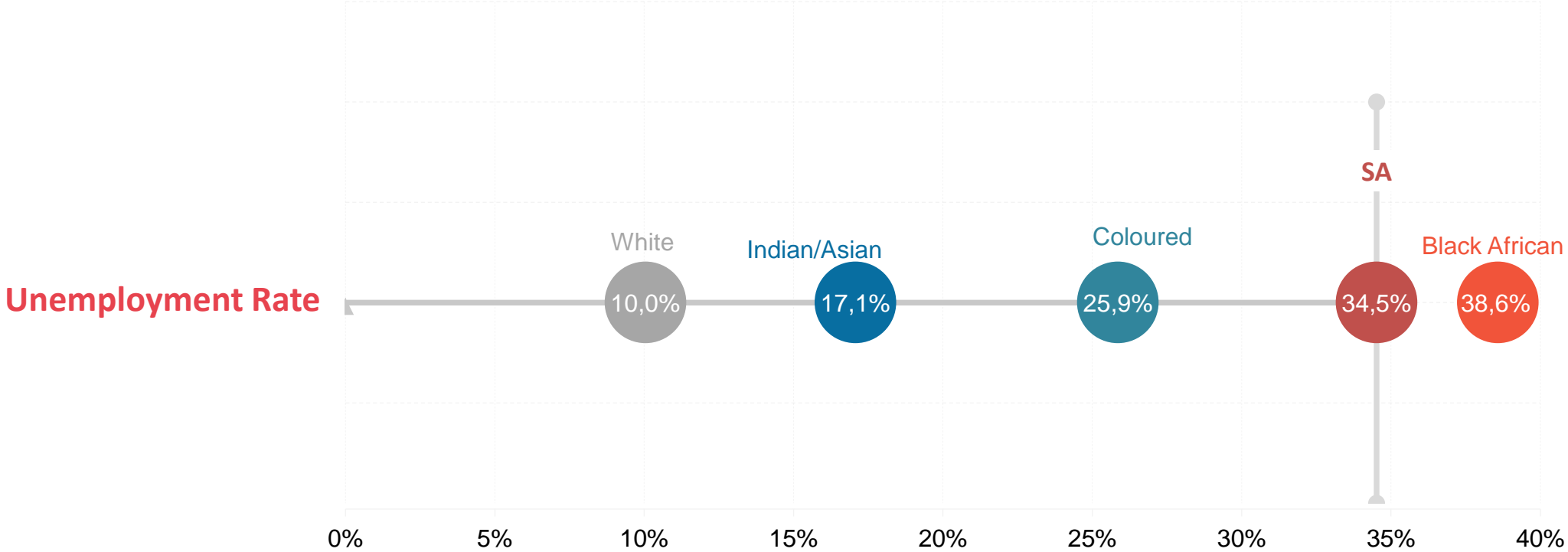REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Approximately **3,8 million** (37,0%) out of 10,2 million young people **aged 15-24** years were not in employment, education or training (NEET). *The overall NEET rate increased by 4,6 percentage points in Q1:2022 compared to Q1:2021.*

2013-2022 NEET rate for ages 15-24 & 15-34,

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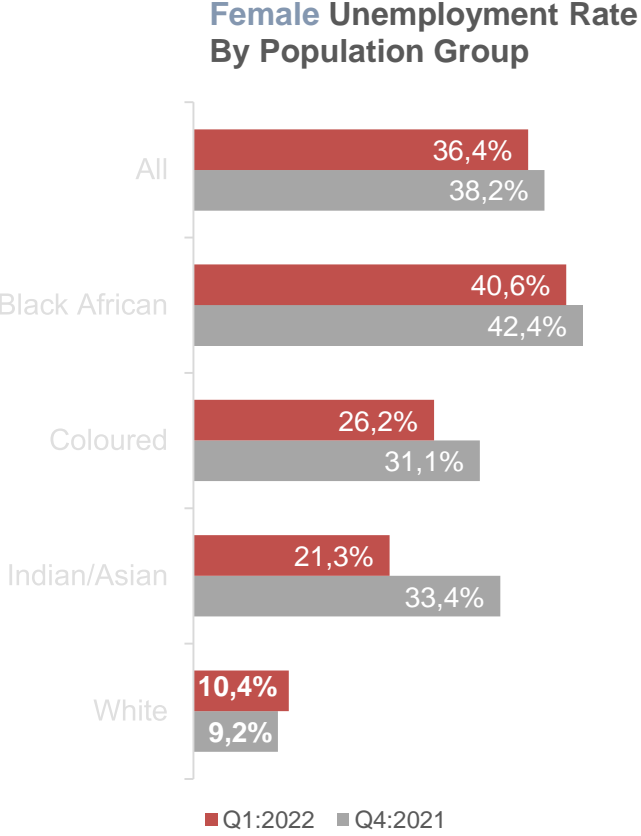Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
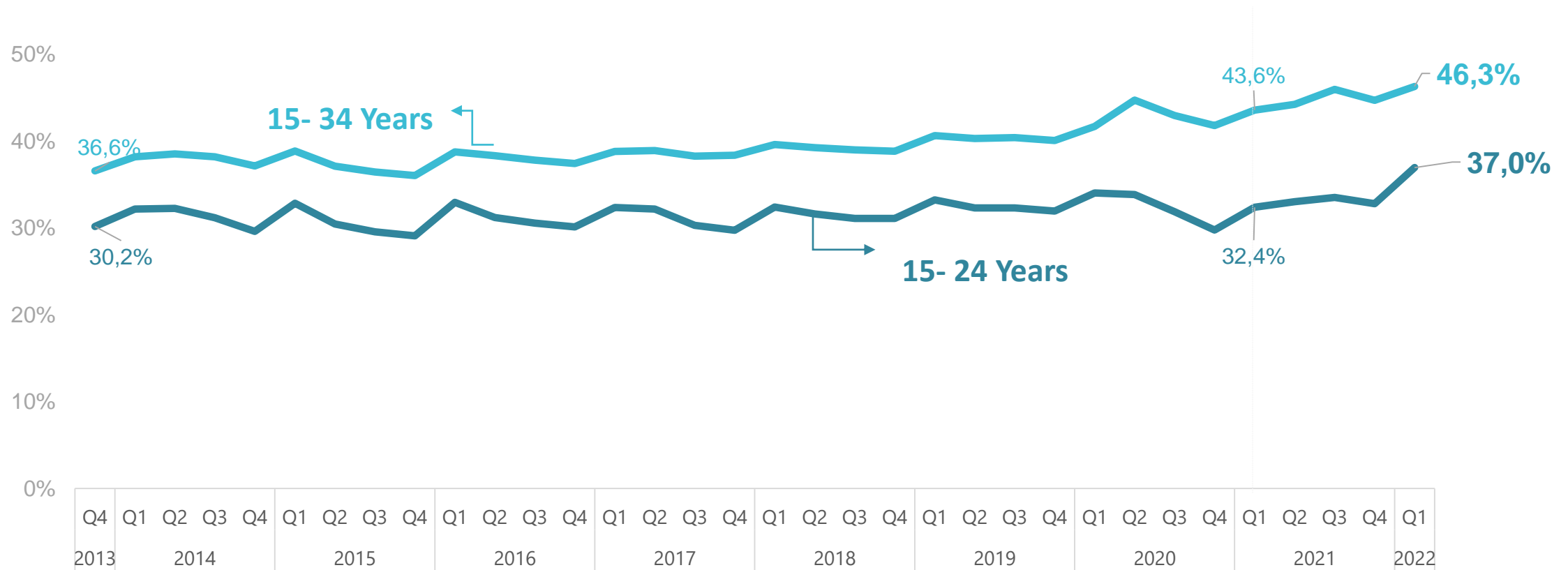
The unemployment rate among the **Black African (38,6%)** population group remains higher than the national average and other population groups.

OFFICIAL unemployment rate by population group, Q1:2022

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Unemployment Rate

| White | Indian/Asian | Coloured | | Black African |
| 10,0% | 17,1% | 25,9% | 34,5% | 38,6% |

0%   5%   10%   15%   20%   25%   30%   35%   40%

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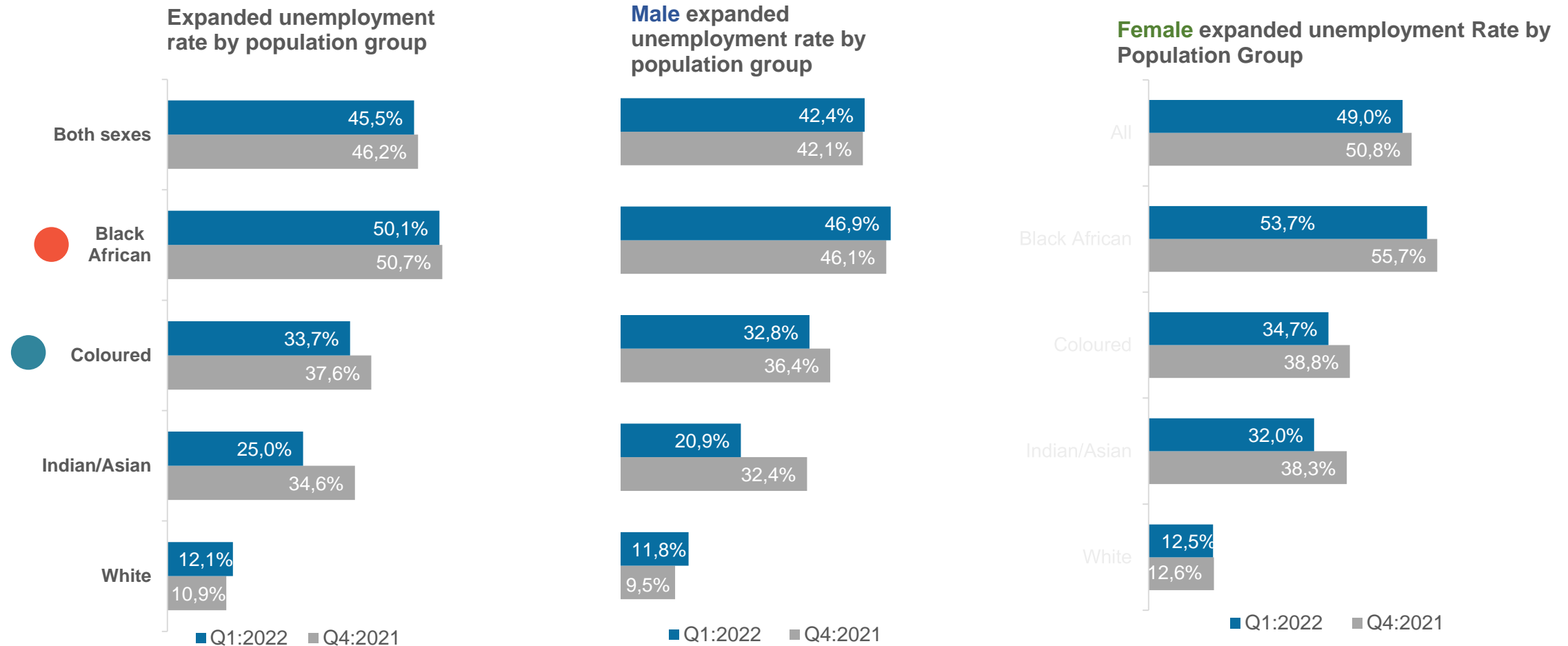REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Black African women are the most vulnerable with an **unemployment rate** of **40,6%** in Q1:2022. *This is 4,1 percentage points higher than the national average for women at 36,4%.*

OFFICIAL *unemployment rate by population group and sex*

Unemployment Rate by Population Group

	Q1:2022	Q4:2021
Both sexes	34,5%	35,3%
Black African	38,6%	39,1%
Coloured	25,9%	29,8%
Indian/Asian	17,1%	27,5%
White	10,0%	8,8%

Male Unemployment Rate By Population Group

	Q1:2022	Q4:2021
All	33,0%	32,8%
Black African	36,9%	36,4%
Coloured	25,6%	28,6%
Indian/Asian	14,7%	23,9%
White	9,8%	**8,4%**

Female Unemployment Rate By Population Group

	Q1:2022	Q4:2021
All	36,4%	38,2%
Black African	40,6%	42,4%
Coloured	26,2%	31,1%
Indian/Asian	21,3%	33,4%
White	**10,4%**	9,2%

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Irrespective of gender, the **Black African** and **Coloured** population groups remain vulnerable in the labour market.

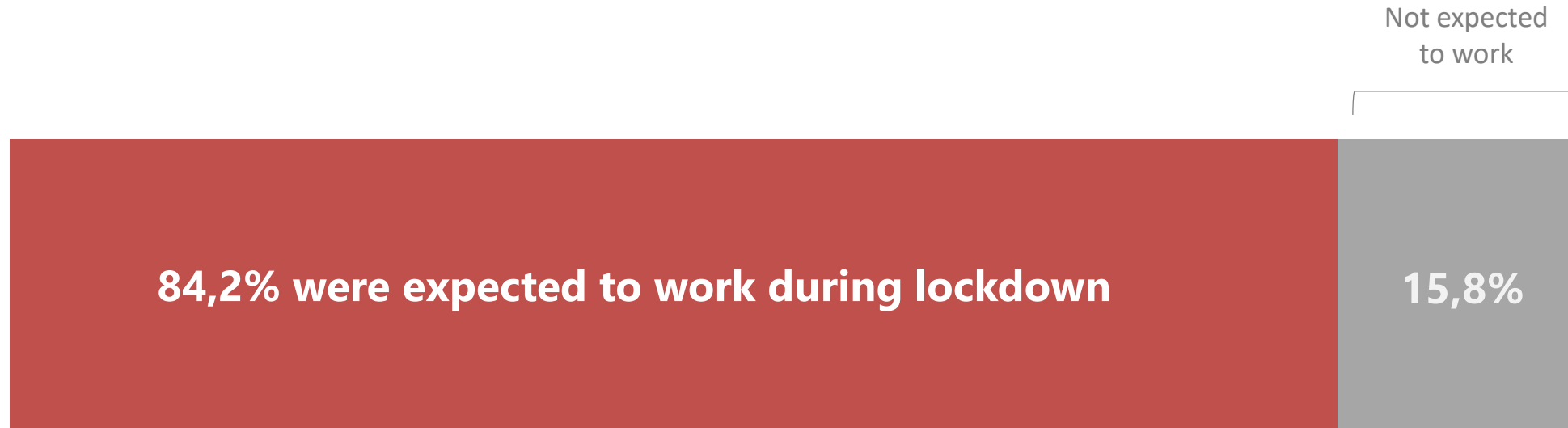**EXPANDED** unemployment rate by population group and sex

Expanded unemployment rate by population group

Population group	Q1:2022	Q4:2021
Both sexes	45,5%	46,2%
Black African	50,1%	50,7%
Coloured	33,7%	37,6%
Indian/Asian	25,0%	34,6%
White	12,1%	10,9%

Male expanded unemployment rate by population group

Population group	Q1:2022	Q4:2021
Both sexes	42,4%	42,1%
Black African	46,9%	46,1%
Coloured	32,8%	36,4%
Indian/Asian	20,9%	32,4%
White	11,8%	9,5%

Female expanded unemployment Rate by Population Group

Population group	Q1:2022	Q4:2021
All	49,0%	50,8%
Black African	53,7%	55,7%
Coloured	34,7%	38,8%
Indian/Asian	32,0%	38,3%
White	12,5%	12,6%

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Additional analysis on employment in relation to COVID-19

This section of the presentation focuses on indicators derived from the additional questions that were only asked of those who were employed.
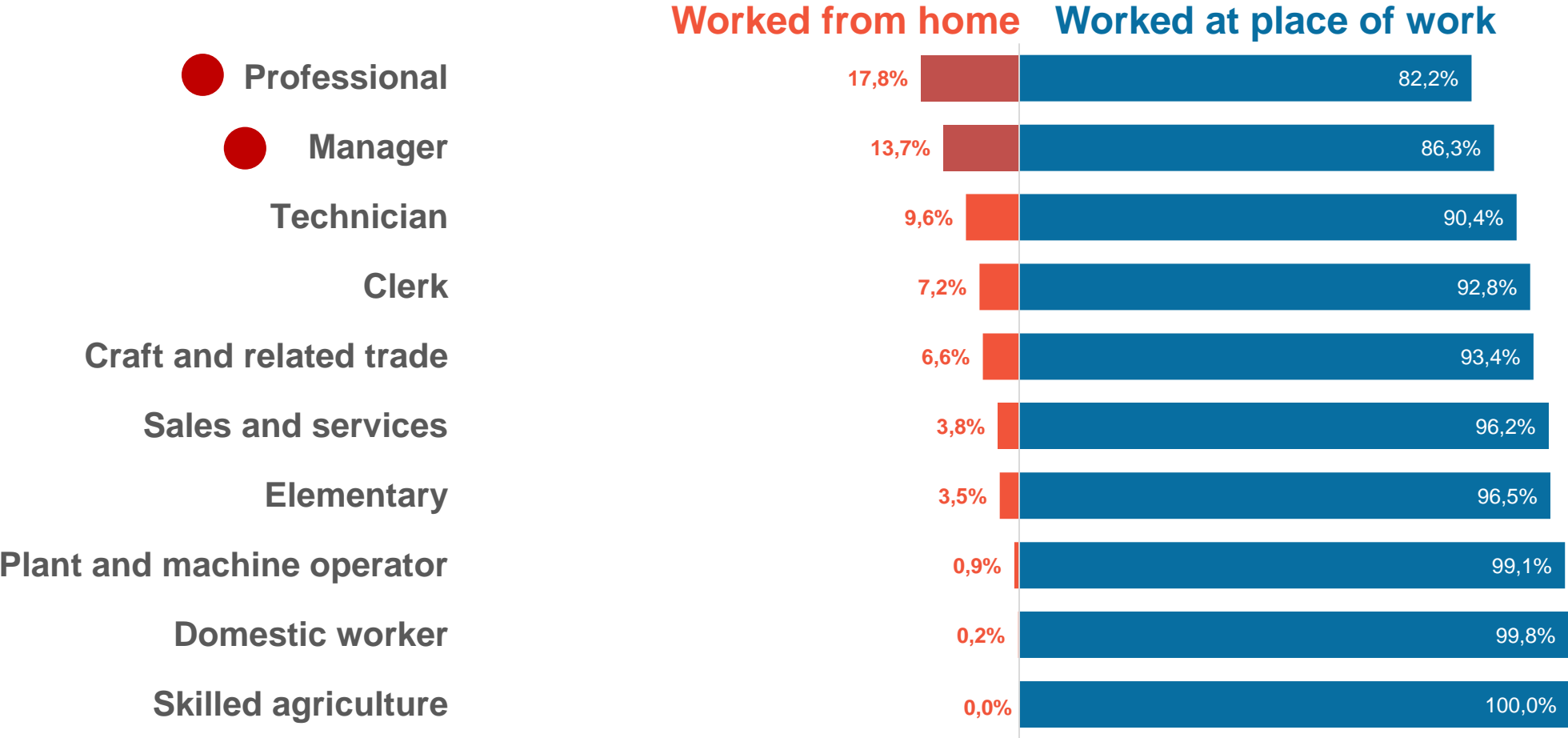
Of the 14,9 million persons who were employed in Q1:2022, at least **8 in every ten** (84,2%) were expected to **work during the national lockdown** by the companies/organisations they work for.

Percentage distribution of those who worked during lockdown

Not expected
to work

84,2% were expected to work during lockdown **15,8%**

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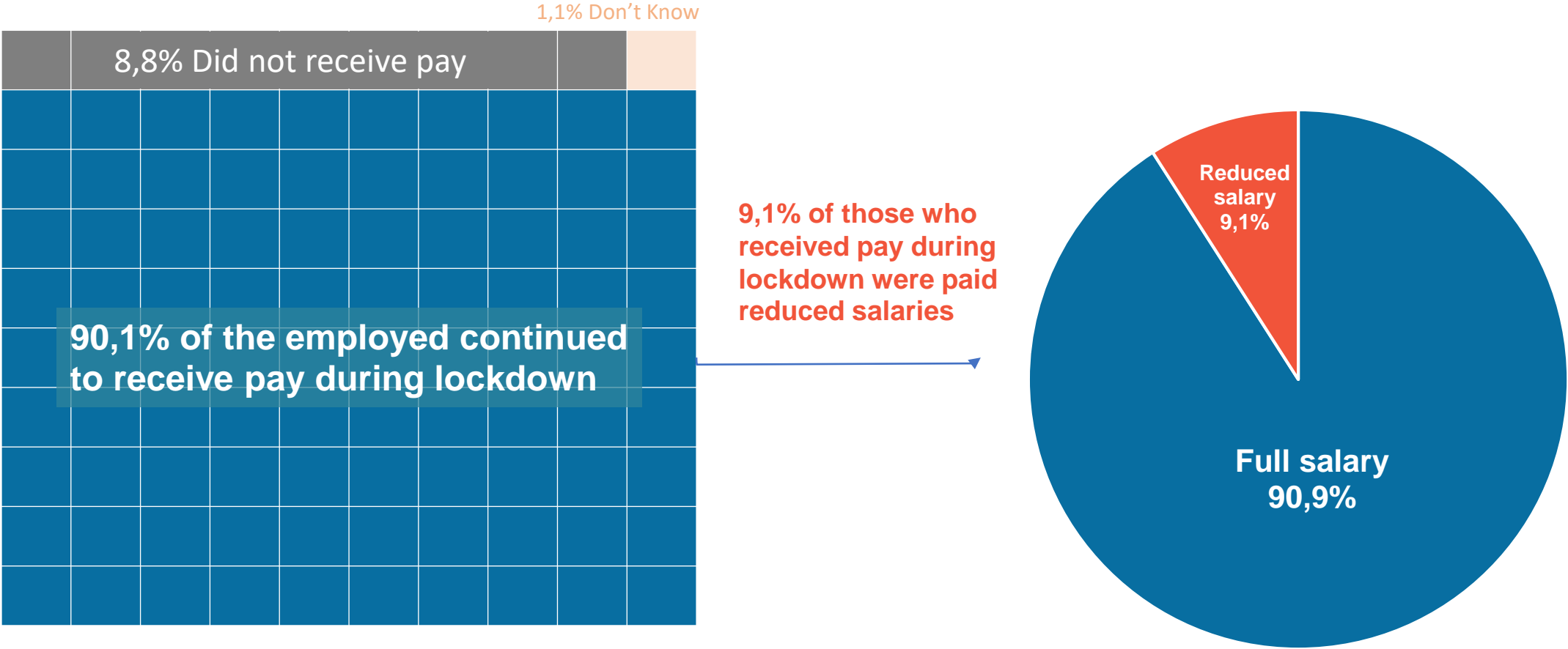**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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Professionals and Managers were more likely to work from home than all other occupations.

Place of work for persons who did any work by occupation, Q1: 2022

Worked from home   **Worked at place of work**

Occupation	Worked from home	Worked at place of work
● Professional	17,8%	82,2%
● Manager	13,7%	86,3%
Technician	9,6%	90,4%
Clerk	7,2%	92,8%
Craft and related trade	6,6%	93,4%
Sales and services	3,8%	96,2%
Elementary	3,5%	96,5%
Plant and machine operator	0,9%	99,1%
Domestic worker	0,2%	99,8%
Skilled agriculture	0,0%	100,0%

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90,1% of the employed continued to receive pay during lockdown in Q1:2022 compared to 92,1% in Q4:2021 .

1,1% Don't Know

8,8% Did not receive pay

90,1% of the employed continued to receive pay during lockdown

9,1% of those who received pay during lockdown were paid reduced salaries

Reduced salary 9,1%

Full salary 90,9%

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Over 93% of graduates and those with other tertiary education received full salaries in Q1:2022. The share of graduates receiving full salary **increased** by 0,6 of a percentage point between Q4:2021 (94,5%) and Q1:2022 (95,1%).

Full salary by level of education, Q4: 2021 and Q1: 2022
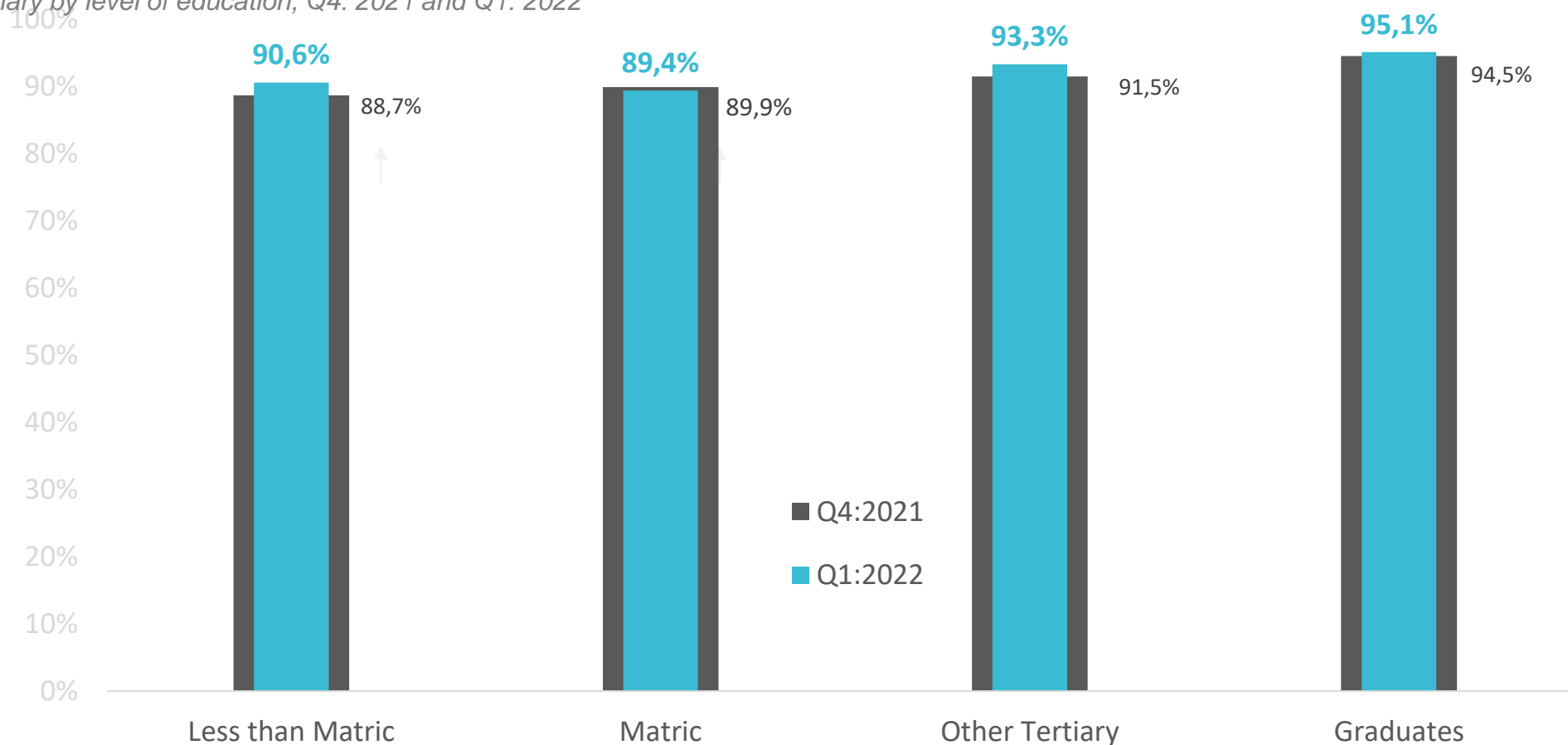
RECAP
(QLFS, Q1:2022)

❖ Unemployment rate **decreased** by 0,8 of a percentage point to 34,5%. The Absorption rate (37,3%) and labour force participation rate (56,9%) increased by 0,8 and 0,6 of a percentage point respectively.

❖ The number of those **employed** increased by 370 000 and **the number of those unemployed decreased** by 60 000 in Q1:2022 compared to Q4:2021.

❖ The largest **employment gains** were recorded in Community and social services (281 000), Manufacturing (263 000) and Trade (98 000).

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QLFS
Q1:2022

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