

Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) Q1:2024

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Statistician-General



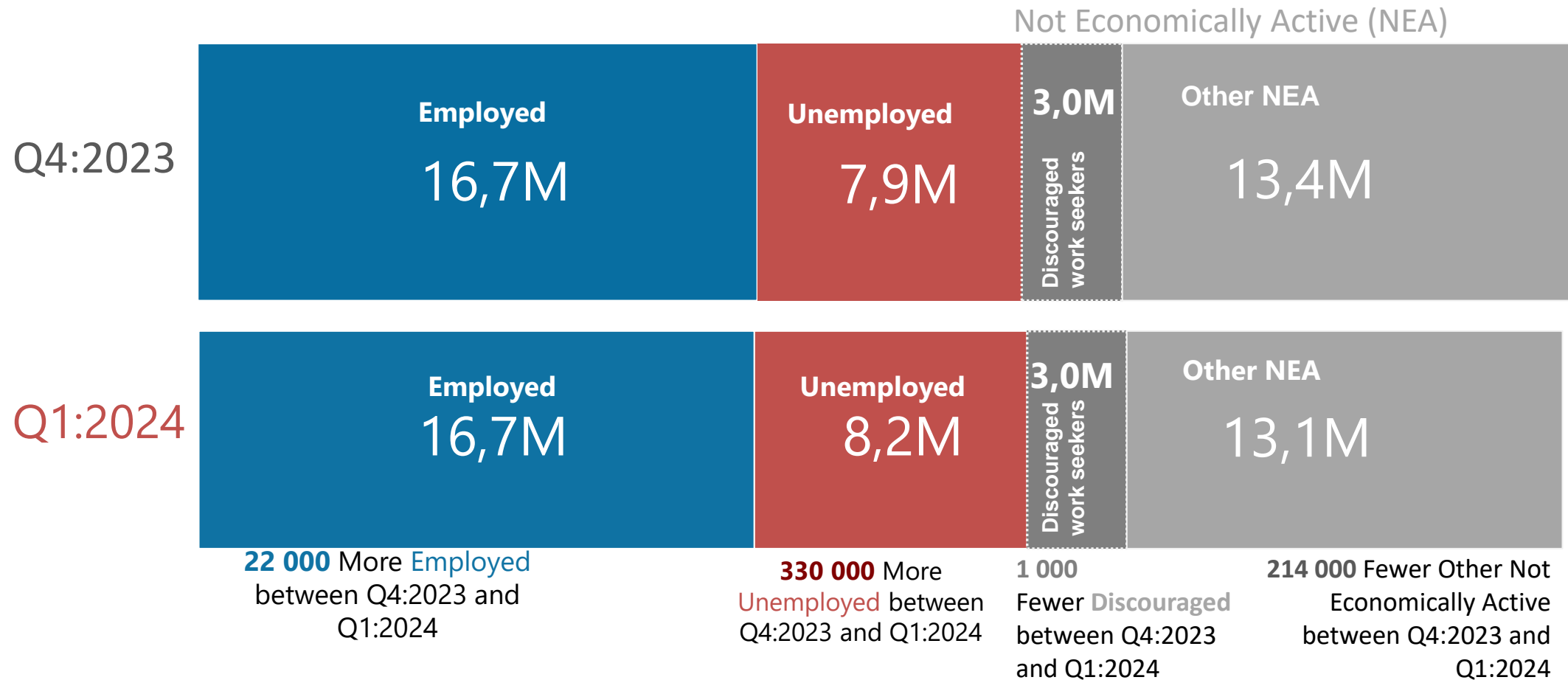
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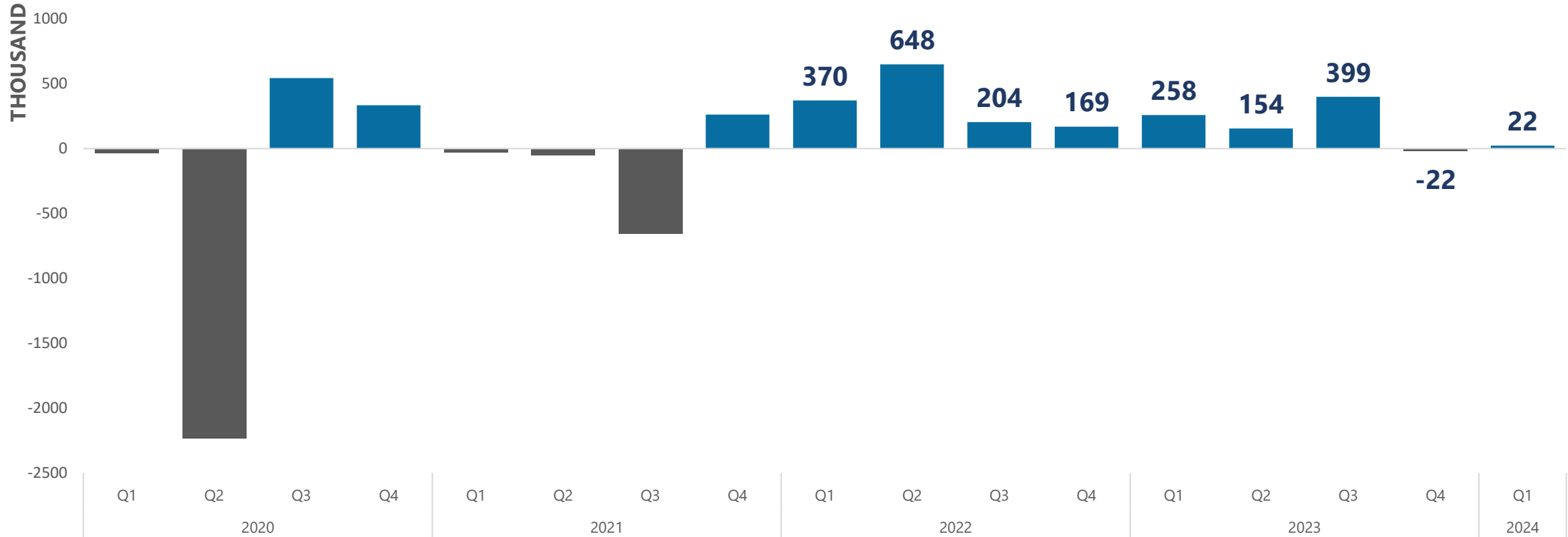


Total employment increased by **22 thousand** to **16,7 M** in Q1:2024



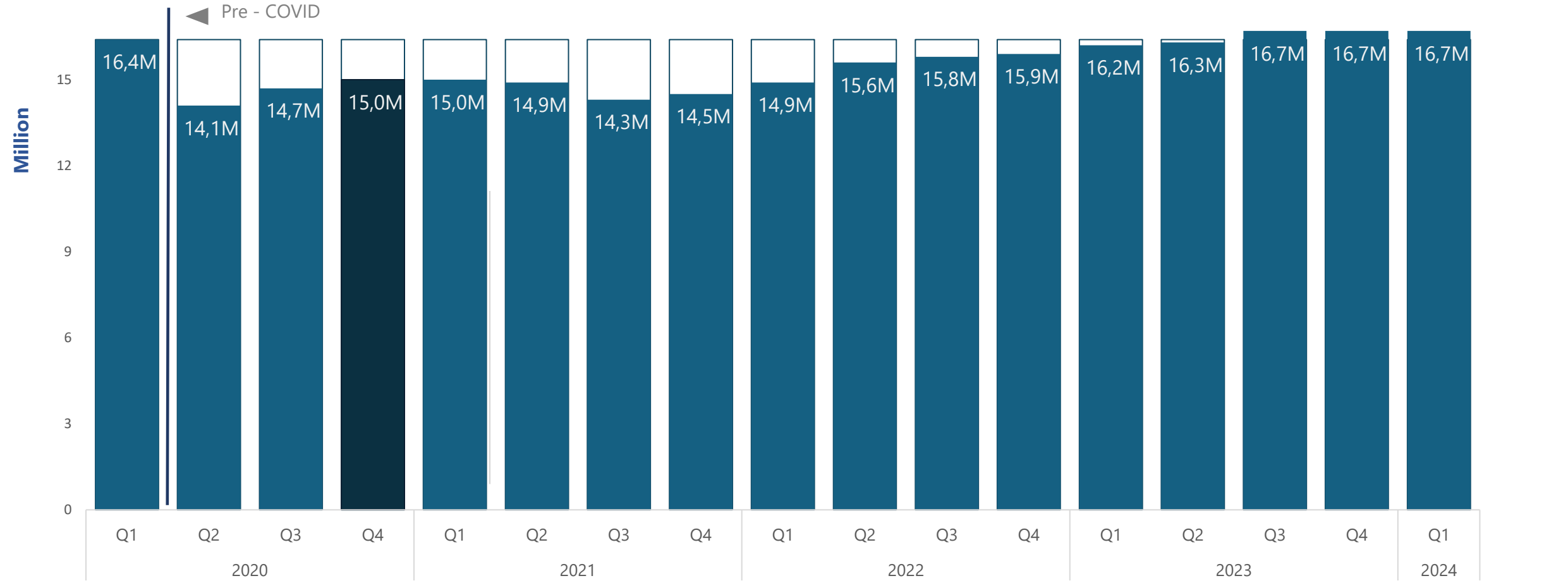
Employment increased by 22 000 in the first quarter of 2024, following a decrease of 22 000 in the last quarter of 2023.

Employment changes Q1:2020-Q1:2024



The number of **employed** persons remains at 16,7M in Q1:2024 since surpassing the **pre-COVID** level of 16,4M in Q1:2020

Employment Q1: 2020 – Q1: 2024



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The official unemployment rate stands at **32,9 %**, an increase of 0,8 of a percentage point in Q1:2024 compared to Q4:2023.

41,2 million

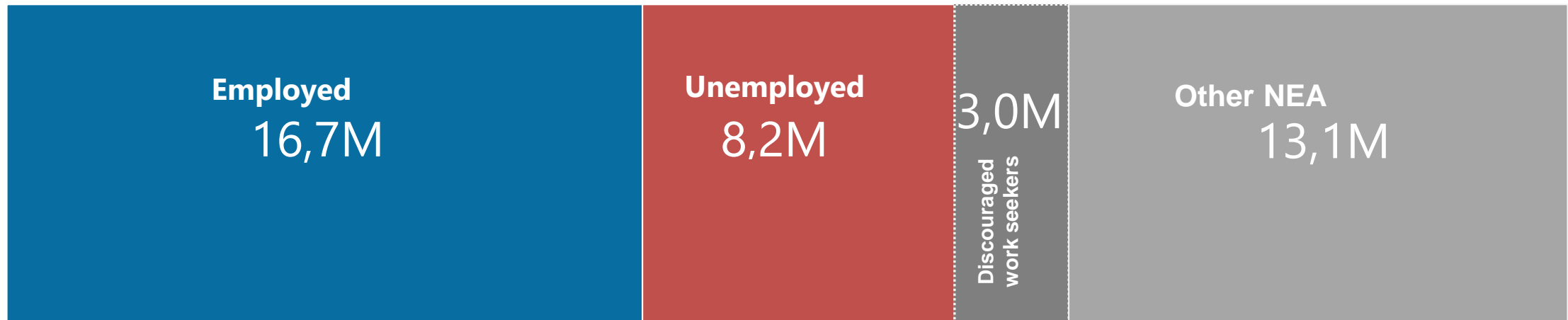
People of working age in South Africa (15 – 64-year-old)

Labour force

Not Economically Active

25,0 million

16,2 million

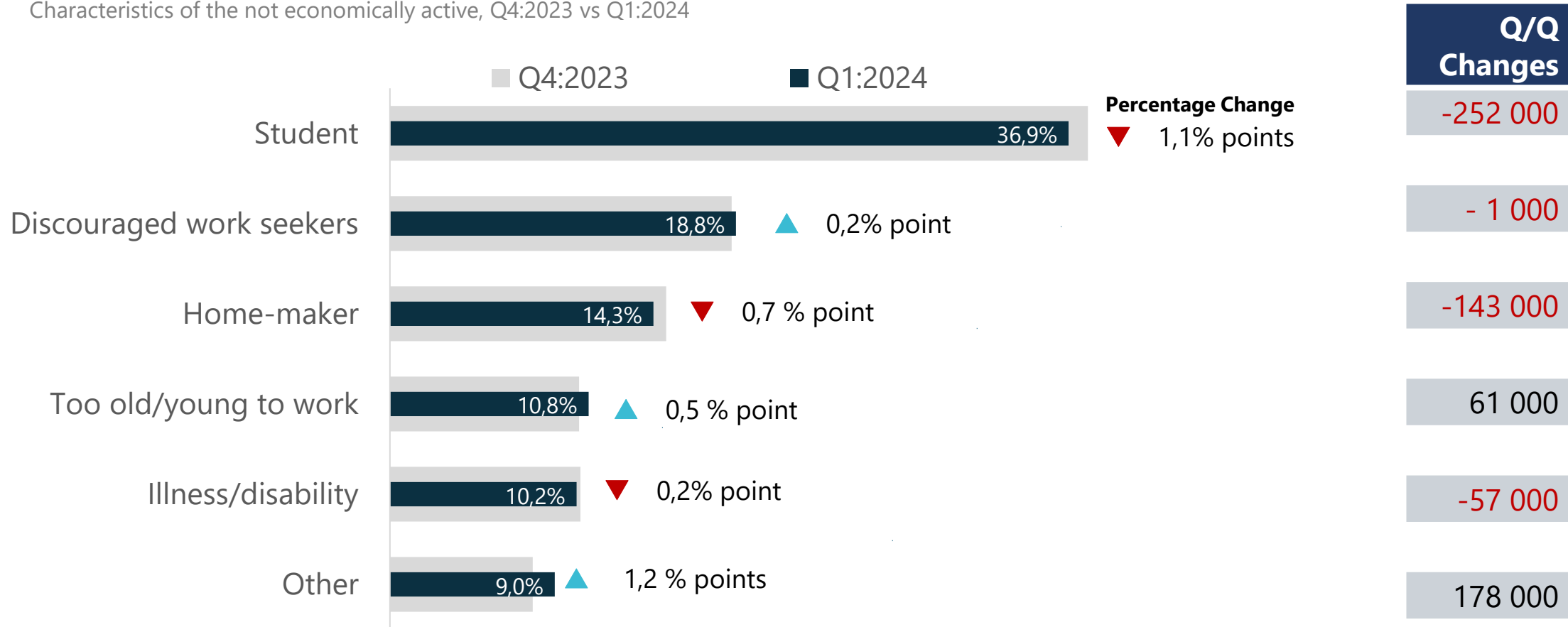


SA's official unemployment rate stands at **32,9%**
 Increased by 0,8 of a percentage point between Q4:2023 and Q1:2024

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.

The number of **Not Economically Active** persons **decreased by 215 000** in Q1:2024 compared to Q4:2023

Characteristics of the not economically active, Q4:2023 vs Q1:2024



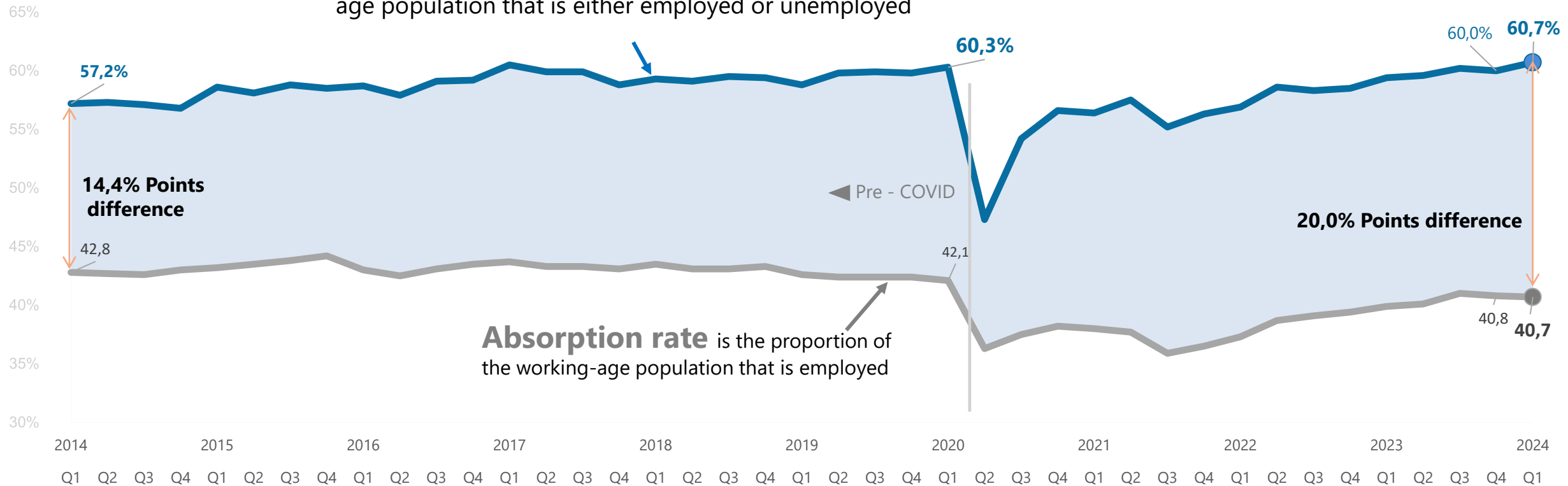
Due to rounding numbers may not add up

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In Q1 of 2024, the labour force participation rate increased by 0,7 of a percentage point to 60,7%, while the absorption rate decreased by 0,1 of a percentage point to 40,7%.

Labour force participation and absorption rates Q1:2014-Q1:2024

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

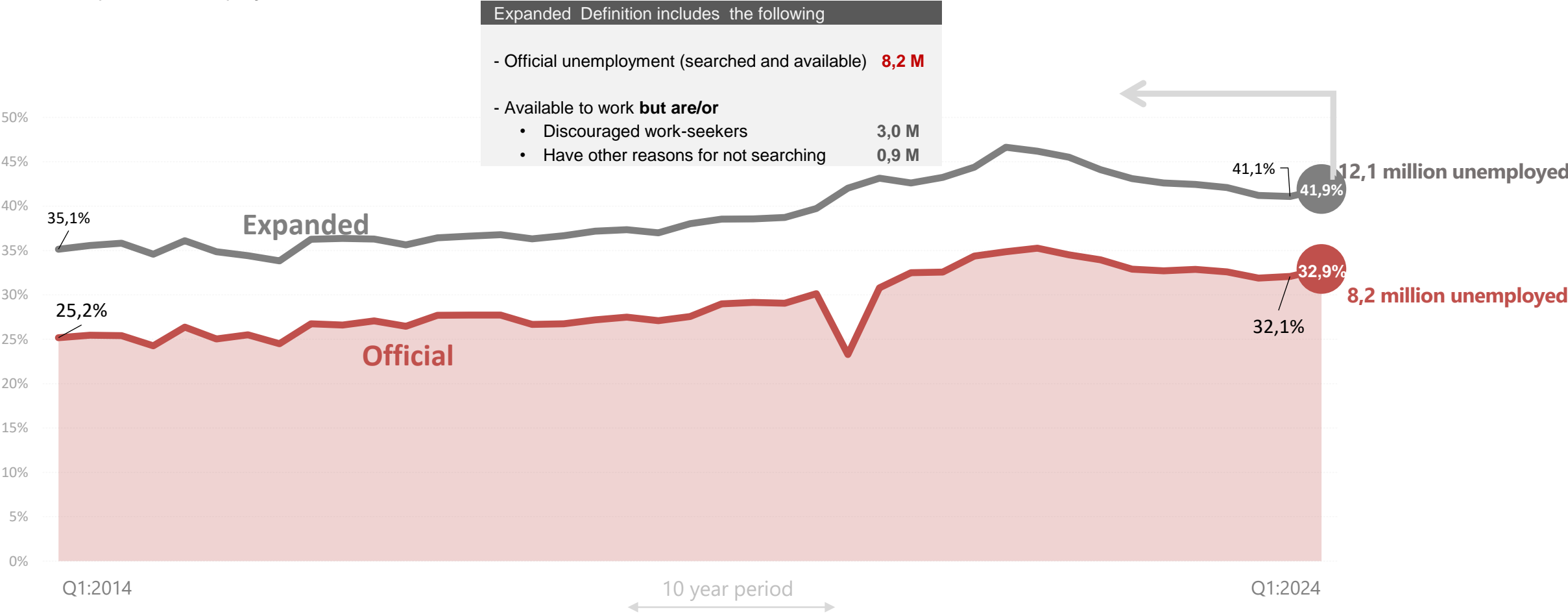


The expanded unemployment rate increased by 0,8 of a percentage point to 41,9% when comparing Q1:2024 and Q4:2023.

Official vs Expanded unemployment: Q1:2014-Q1:2024

Expanded Definition includes the following

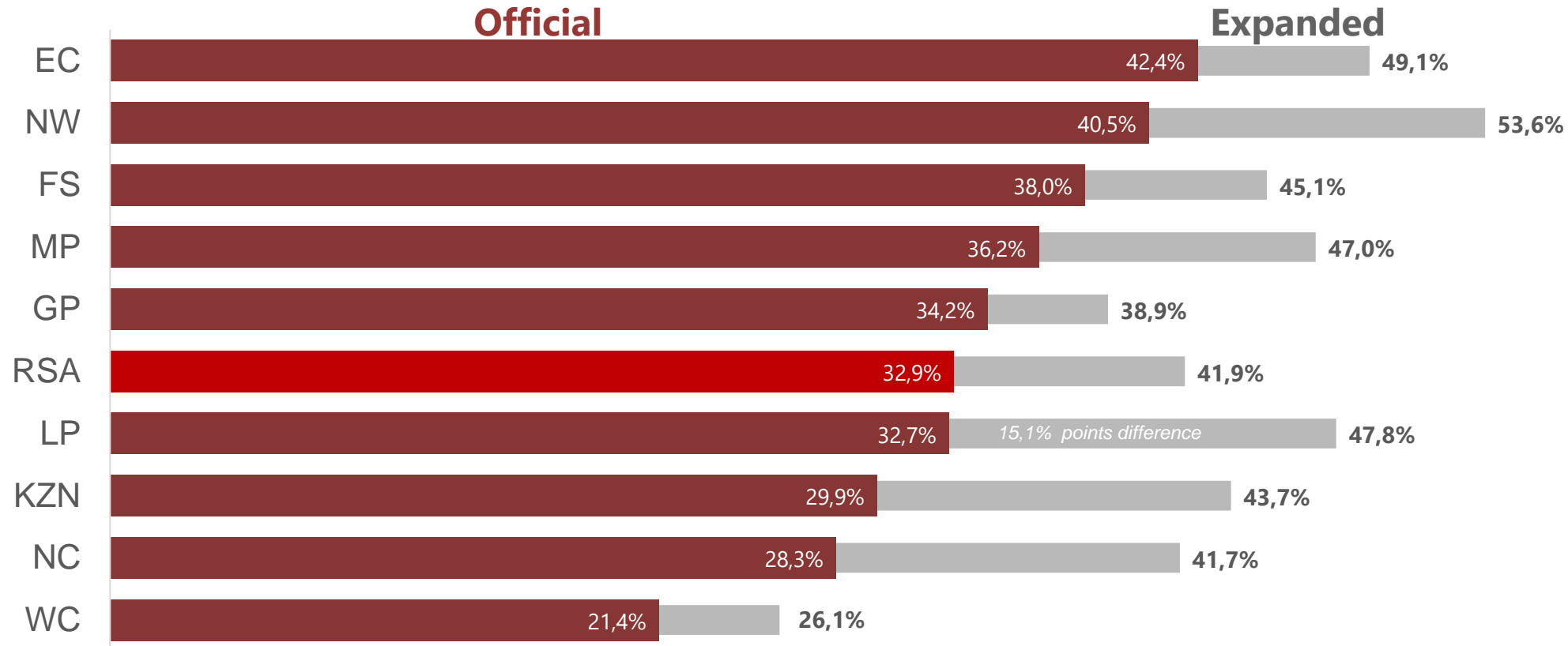
- Official unemployment (searched and available) **8,2 M**
- Available to work **but are/or**
 - Discouraged work-seekers **3,0 M**
 - Have other reasons for not searching **0,9 M**



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NW (53,6%) recorded the **highest expanded unemployment rate** in Q1:2024, followed by EC (49,1%). Limpopo recorded the highest difference between **expanded** and **official** unemployment rates of **15,1** percentage points.

Provincial unemployment rate: **Official** vs Expanded Q1:2024

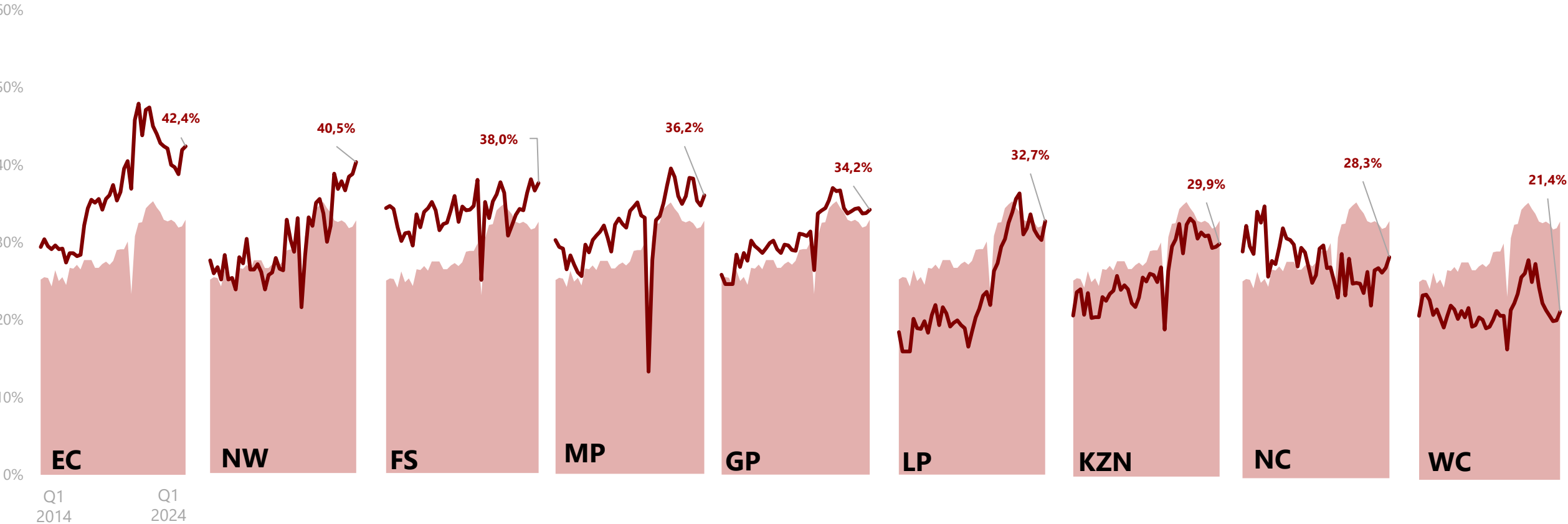


While the unemployment rates in **WC and KZN** have consistently been below the official unemployment rate in SA for the past ten years, the unemployment rate in **EC** has continuously exceeded it.

Official Unemployment rates by province, Q1:2014-Q1:2024

SA Unemployment Rate

Provincial Unemployment Rate

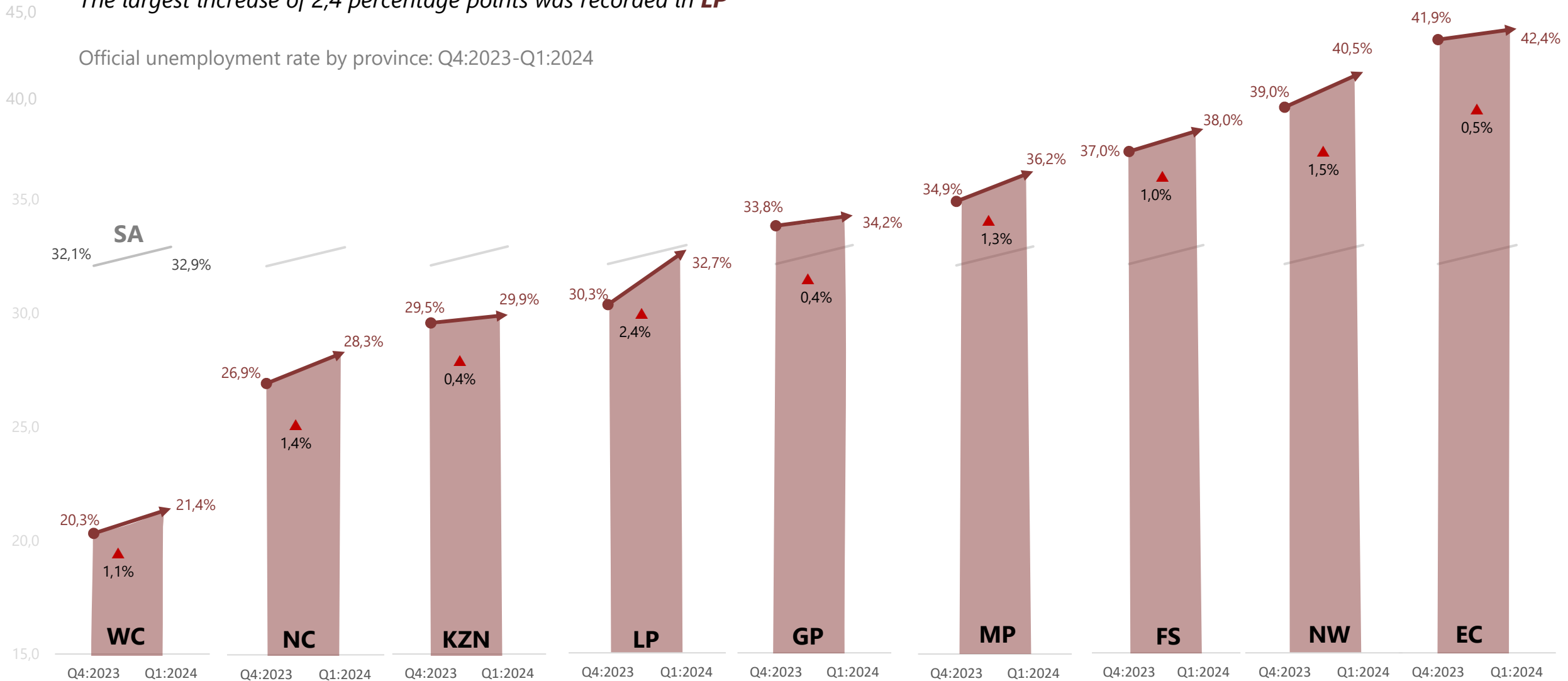


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The **unemployment rate** increased in all provinces between Q4:2023 and Q1:2024.

The largest increase of 2,4 percentage points was recorded in **LP**

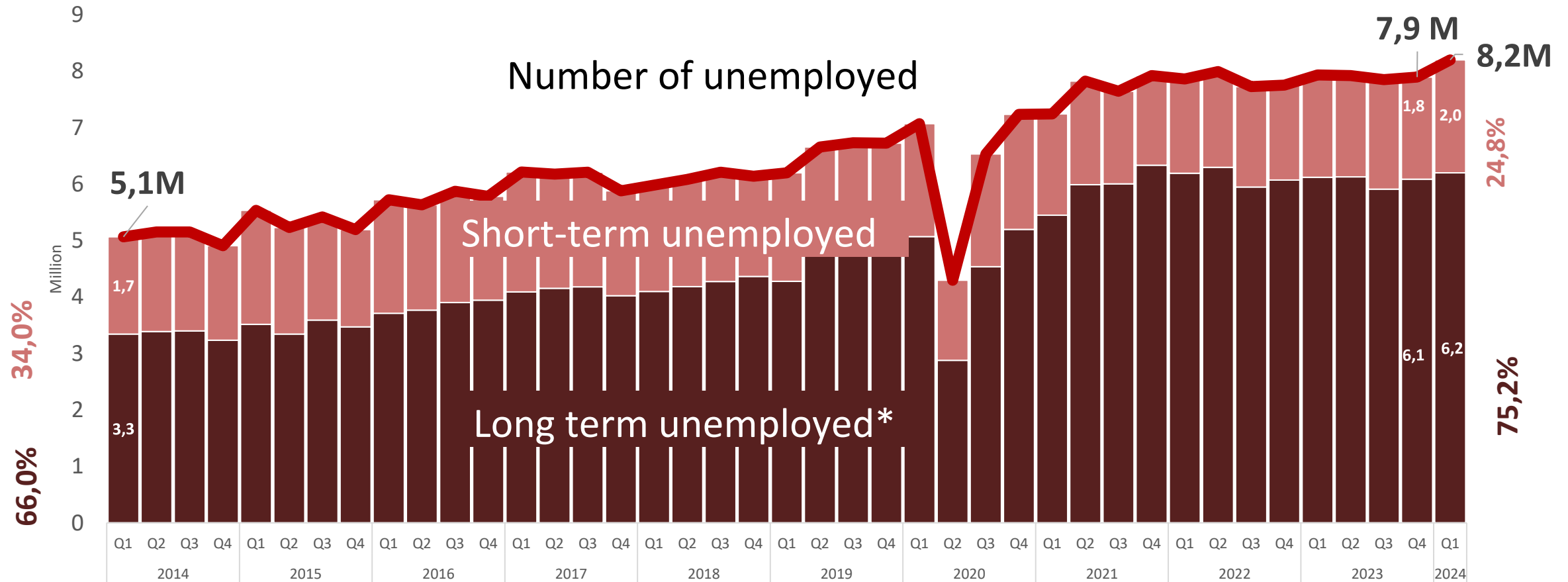
Official unemployment rate by province: Q4:2023-Q1:2024



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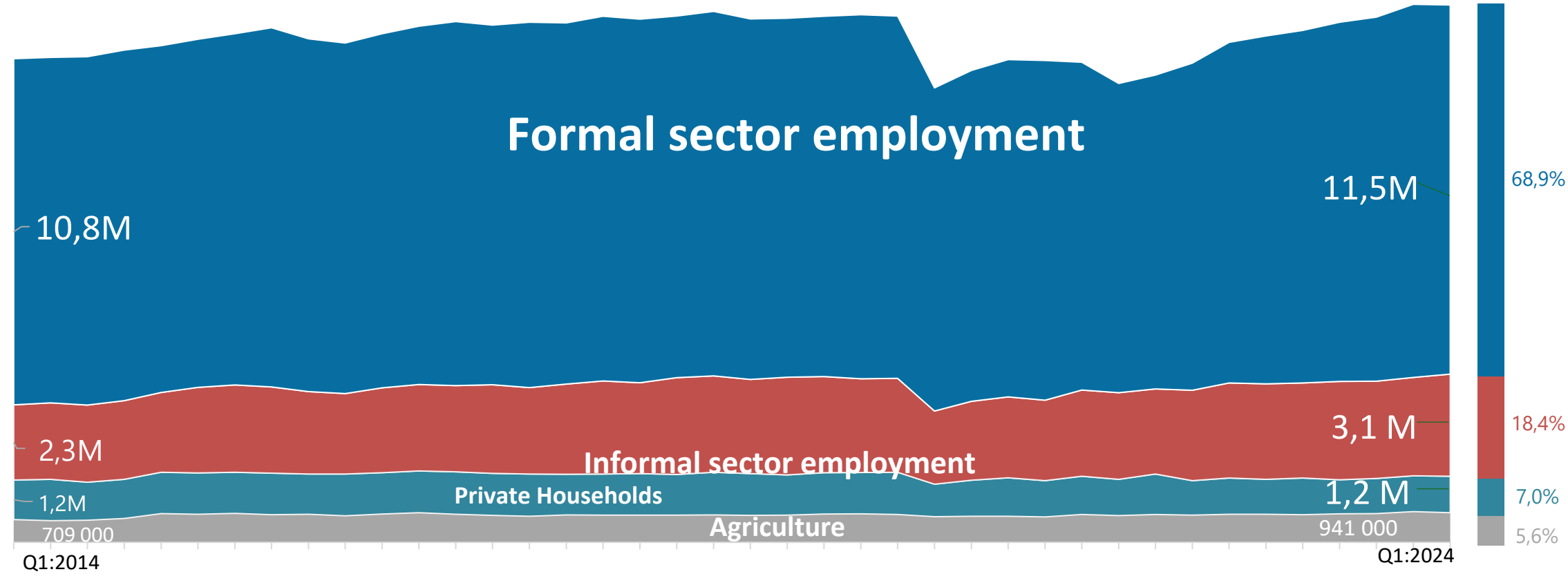
The number of unemployed people in South Africa increased from 5,1 million in Q1:2014 to 8,2 million in Q1:2024. The proportion of those in long-term unemployment increased from 66,0% in Q1:2014 to 75,2% in Q1:2024

*Long term unemployment –unemployed for a year or longer



The **formal sector** in South Africa accounts for **68,9%** of total employment.

Employment share by sector, Q1:2014 to Q1:2024

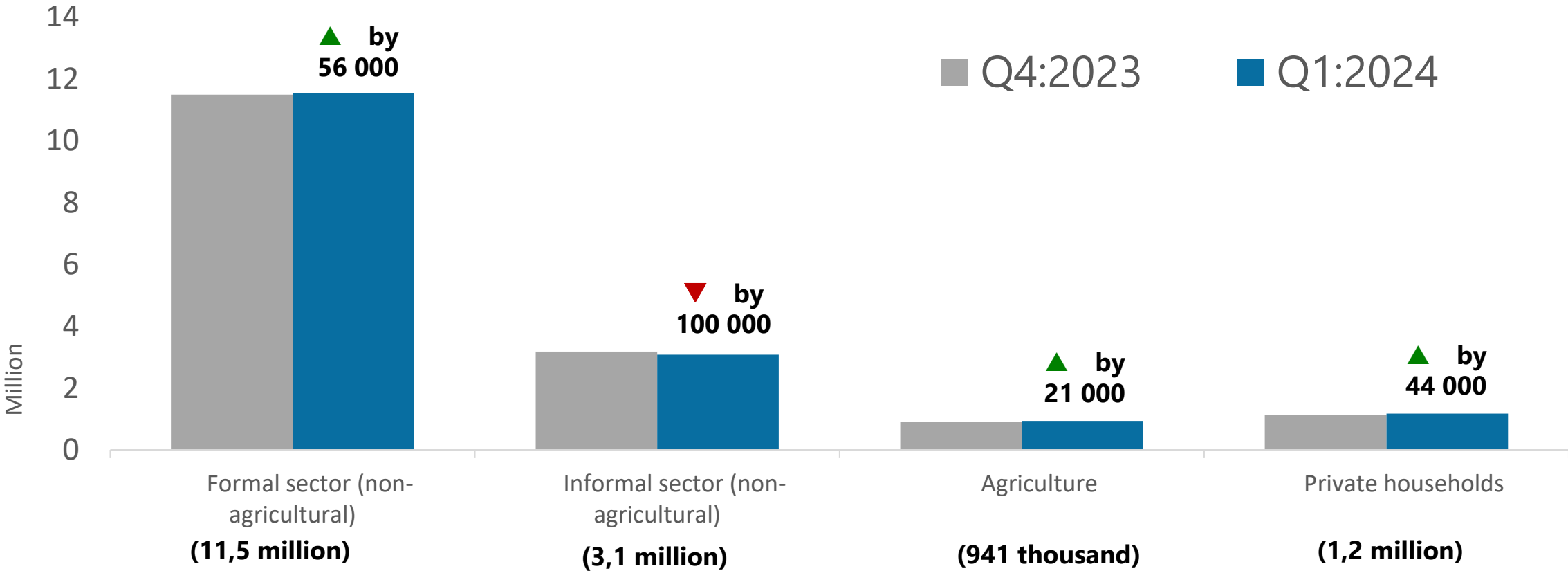


Due to rounding numbers may not add up

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All employment sectors increased between Q4:2023 and Q1:2024, except for the informal sector which decreased by **100 000 jobs**.

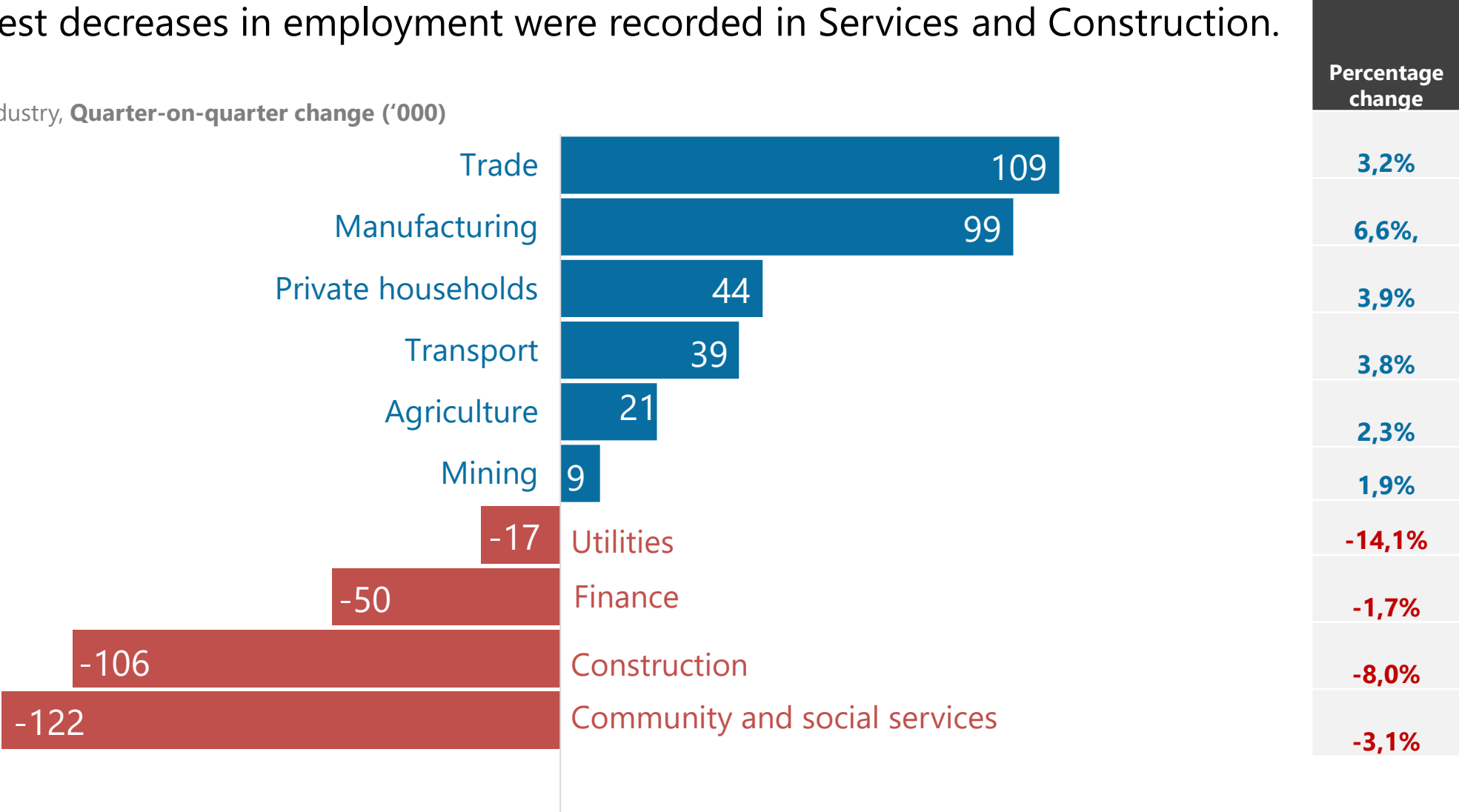
Employment changes by sector, (Quarter-on-quarter)



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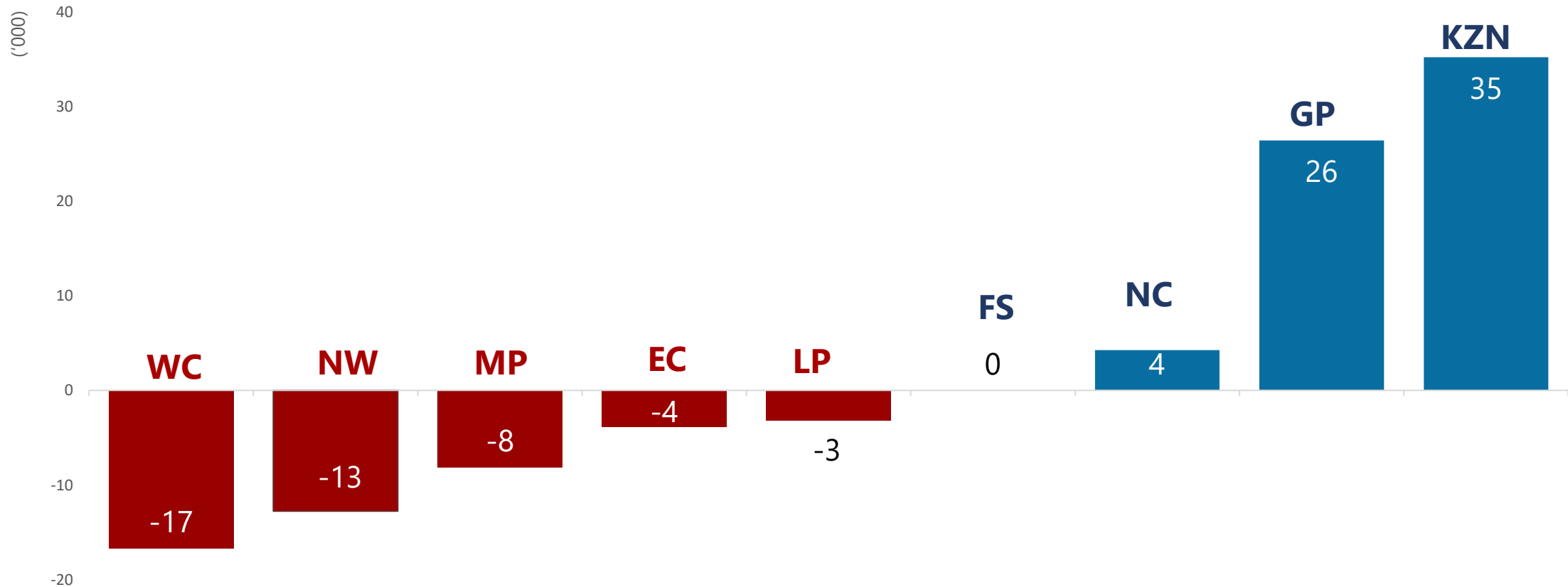
Employment increases were mainly in the Trade, Manufacturing, and Private households industries. However, the largest decreases in employment were recorded in Services and Construction.

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



KZN and GP recorded the largest increases in employment in Q1:2024, while **WC and NW** recorded the largest decreases.

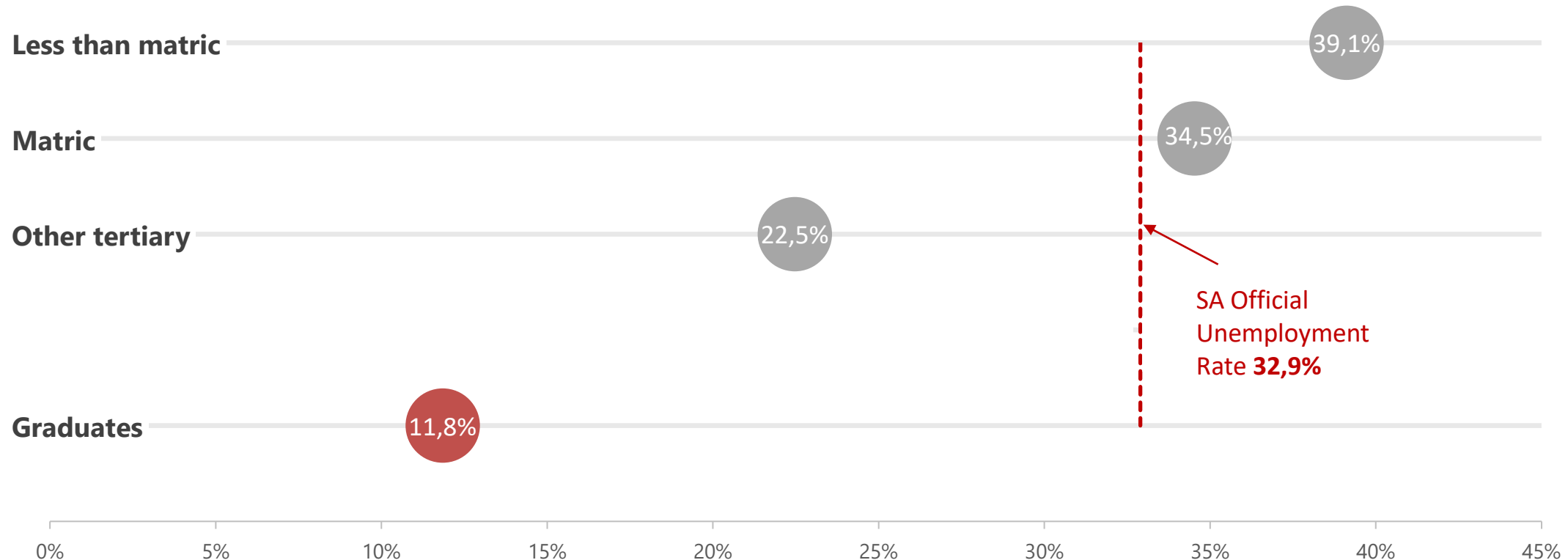
Quarter-on-quarter change in employment by province ('000) (Q4:2023 and Q1:2024)



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Graduate unemployment rate increased by 2,3 percentage points to **11,8%** in Q1:2024 compared to 9,6% in Q4:2023. Those with **matric** and **less than matric** remain vulnerable with an unemployment rate of 34,5% and 39,1% respectively which are higher than SA official unemployment rate.

Official Unemployment rate by level of education, Q1:2024

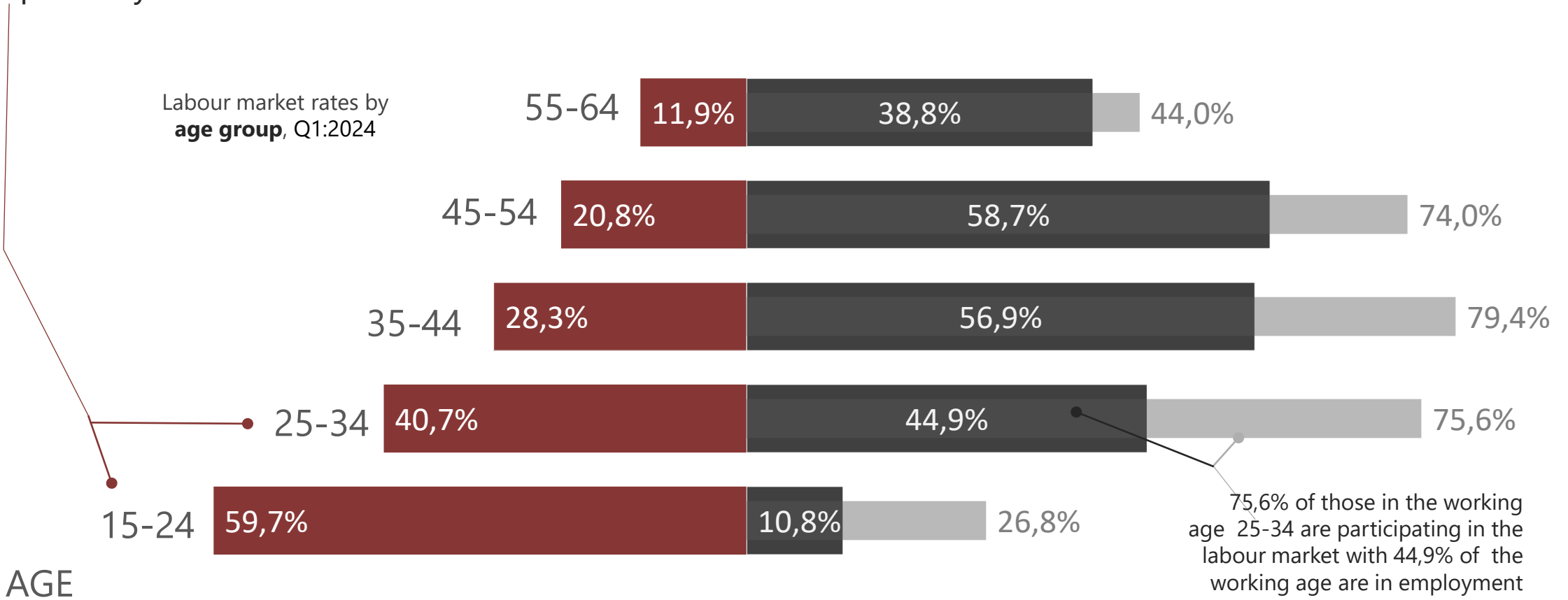


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Youth aged 15-24 years and 25-34 years continue to have the highest unemployment rates at **59,7%** and **40,7%** respectively.

Unemployment rate **Absorption rate** **Participation rate**

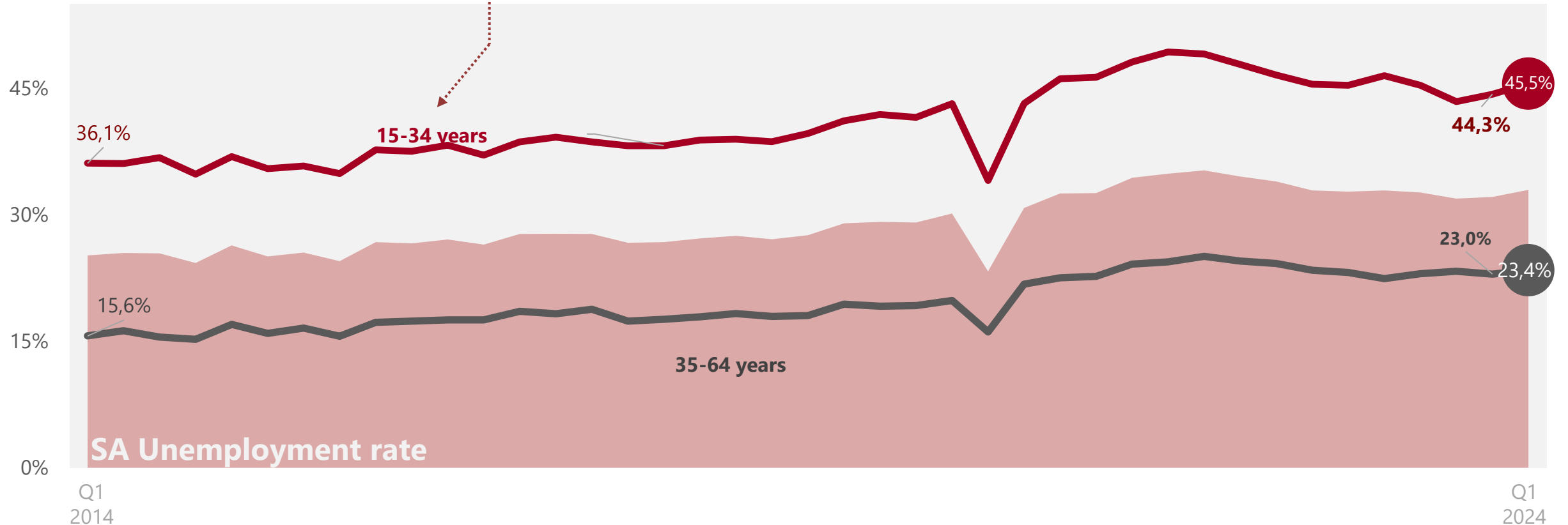
Labour market rates by age group, Q1:2024



AGE

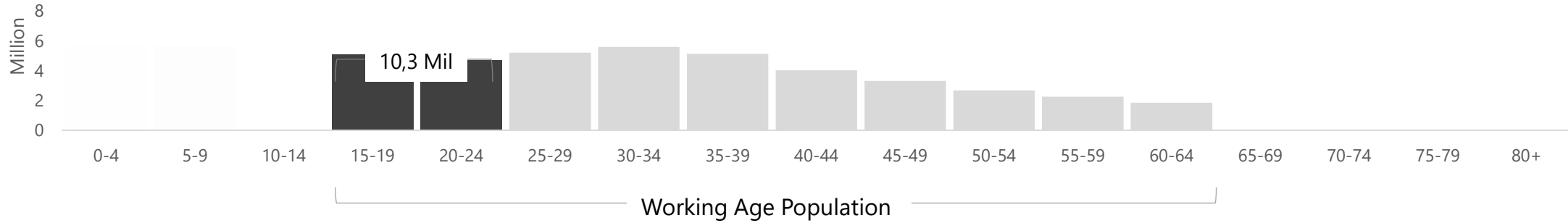
Youth aged **15-34 years** are more vulnerable to unemployment when compared to older age groups

Official Unemployment rates by age group,
Q1:2014-Q1:2024



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Approximately **3,6 million (35,5%)** out of **10,3 million** young people aged 15-24 years were not in employment, education or training (NEET).



Number of NEET for ages 15-24
Q1:2024

3,6 Million
NEET

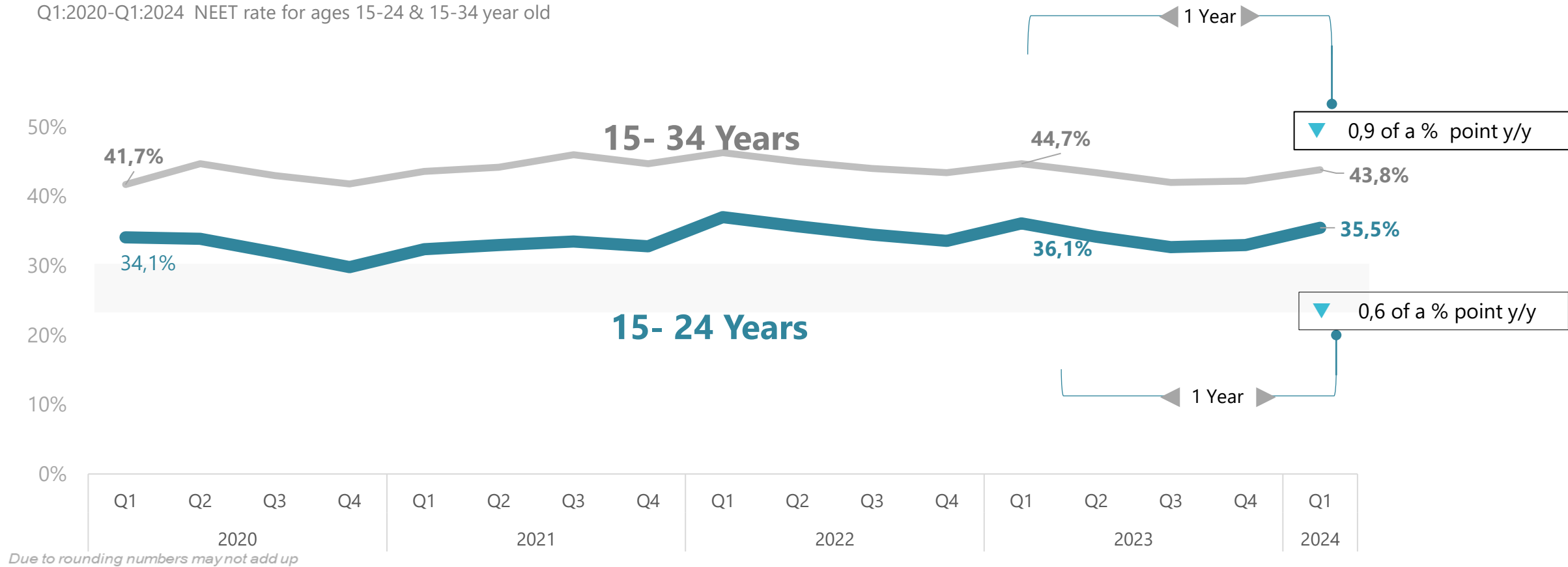
6,6 Million

**Employed or in
Education or Training**

Due to rounding numbers may not add up

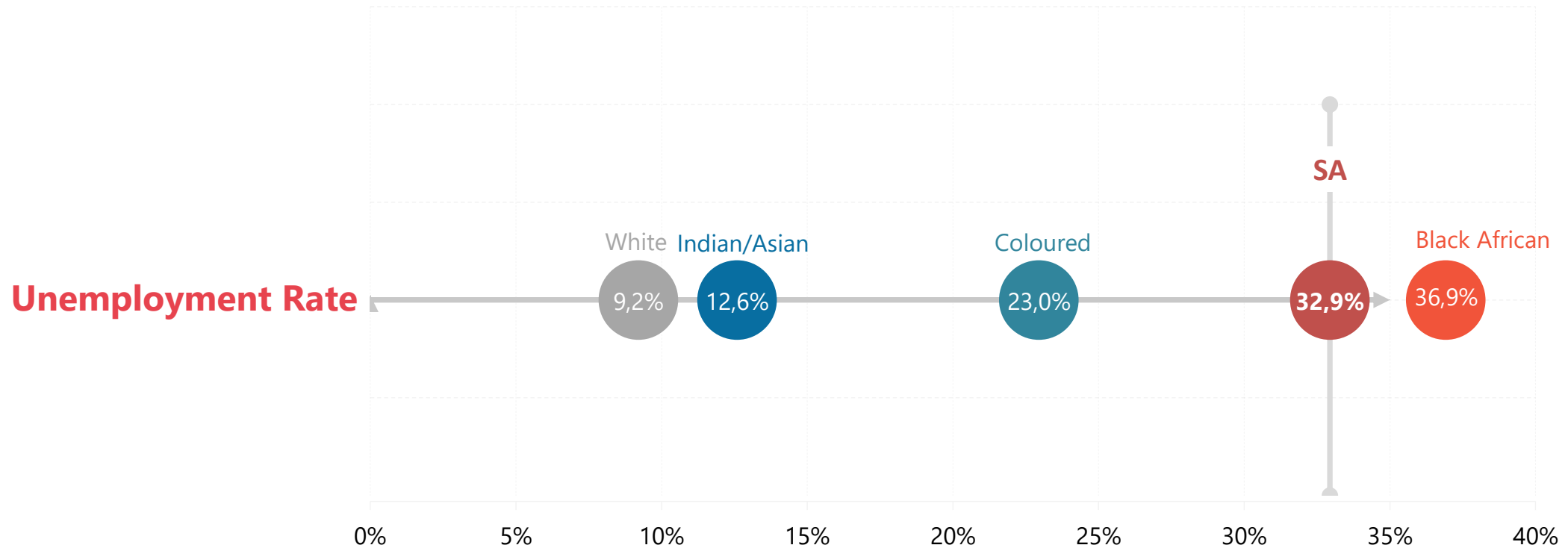
The overall NEET rate (15 – 24yrs) decreased by 0,6 of a percentage point in Q1:2024 compared to Q1:2023.

Q1:2020-Q1:2024 NEET rate for ages 15-24 & 15-34 year old



The unemployment rate among the **Black African (36,9%)** population group remains higher than the national average and other population groups.

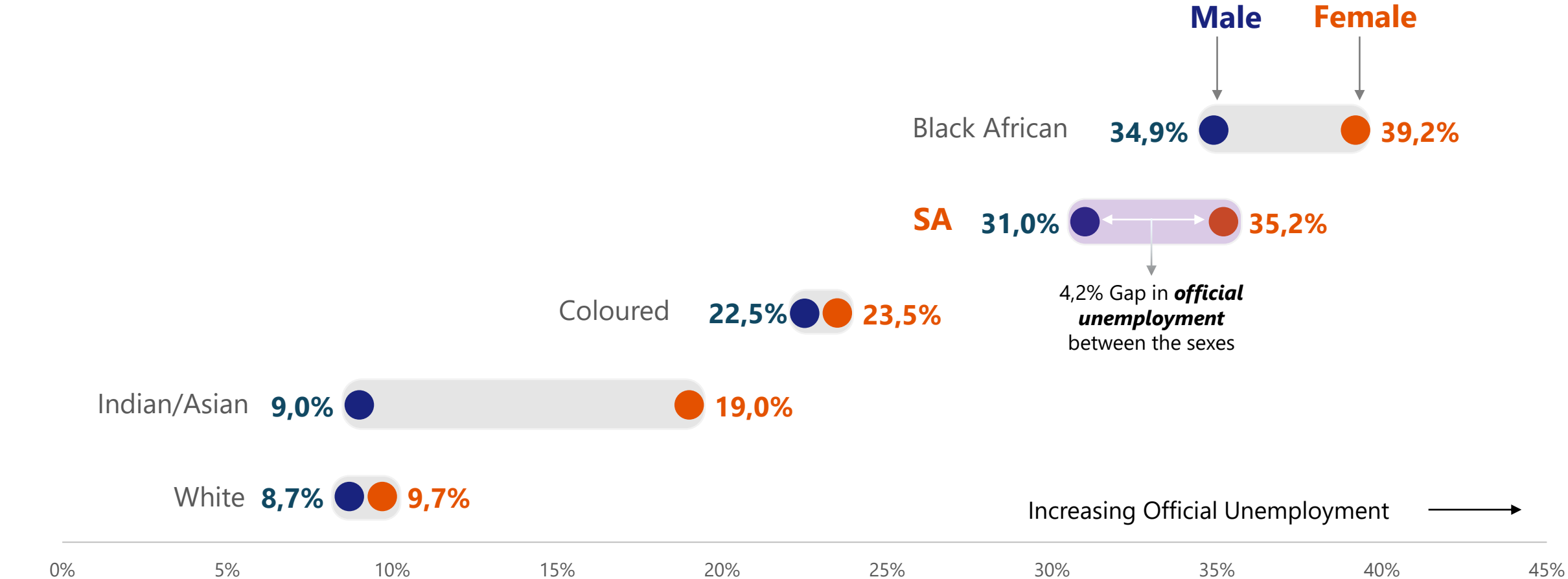
OFFICIAL unemployment rate by population group, Q1:2024



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Black African women continue to be the most vulnerable with an unemployment rate of 39,2% in Q1:2024.

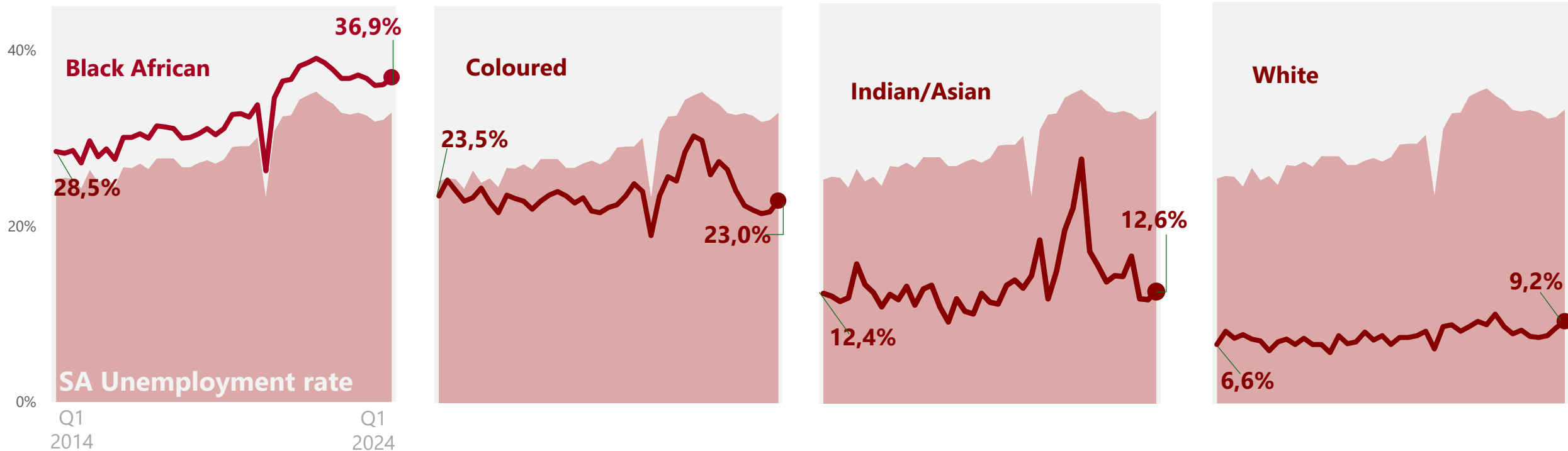
Official unemployment rate by population group and sex, Q1:2024



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Black African unemployment rates have been consistently higher than other population groups over the past 10-year period.

Official Unemployment rates by population group,
Q1:2014-Q1:2024



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RECAP (QLFS, Q1:2024)

- ❖ Unemployment rate **increased** by 0,8 of a percentage point to 32,9% in Q1:2024. The absorption rate **decreased** by 0,1 of a percentage point to 40,7% and the labour force participation rate increased by 0,7 of a percentage to 60,7%.
- ❖ The number of employed persons **increased** by 22 000 in Q1:2024 compared to Q4:2023. The number of those who were unemployed **increased** by 330 000 in the same quarter.
- ❖ The largest industry employment gains were recorded in Trade(109 000), Manufacturing (99 000), and Private households (44 000), while the largest **industry employment losses** were recorded in Community and social services (122 000) and Construction (106 000).



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
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NOW IN THE FIELD

Geospatial Information Frame

Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (April 2024-March 2025)

Quarterly Labour Force Survey (Collected quarterly)

General Household Survey (January-December)

Domestic Tourism Survey (January-December)

Consumer Price Index (Collected monthly)



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QLFS

Q1:2024

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