



Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) Q1:2021

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#StatsSA





COVID-19 Impact 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)**. To facilitate CATI, the sample that was used for QLFS Q1:2020 was also used in all quarters of 2020 and Q1:2021.

Not all dwelling units on the sample had contact numbers resulting in data being collected from part of the sample where contact numbers were available for QLFS Q4:2020.

This introduced bias in the estimates. Details on how the **bias adjustment** was done is contained in the report.

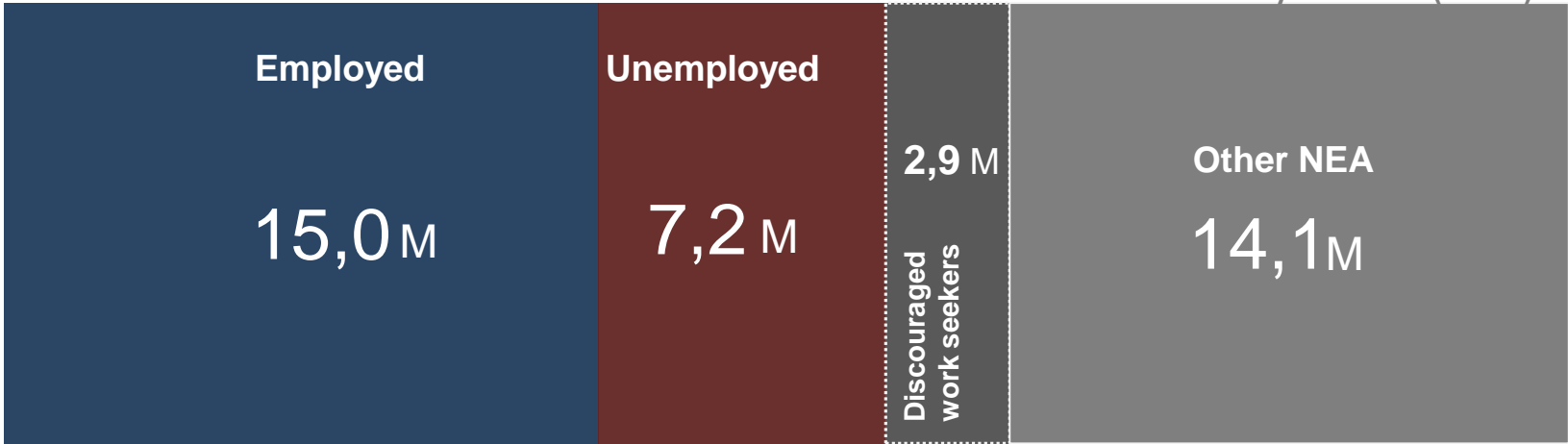


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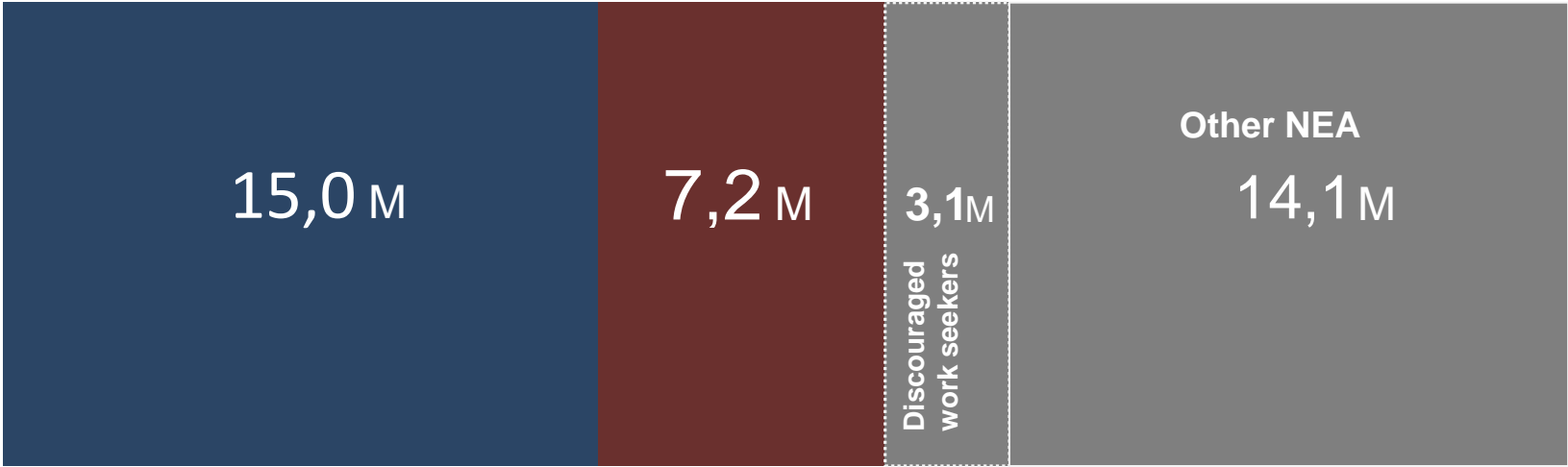


Not Economically Active (NEA)



Q4:2020

Increase of 200 thousand discouraged work seekers



Q1:2021

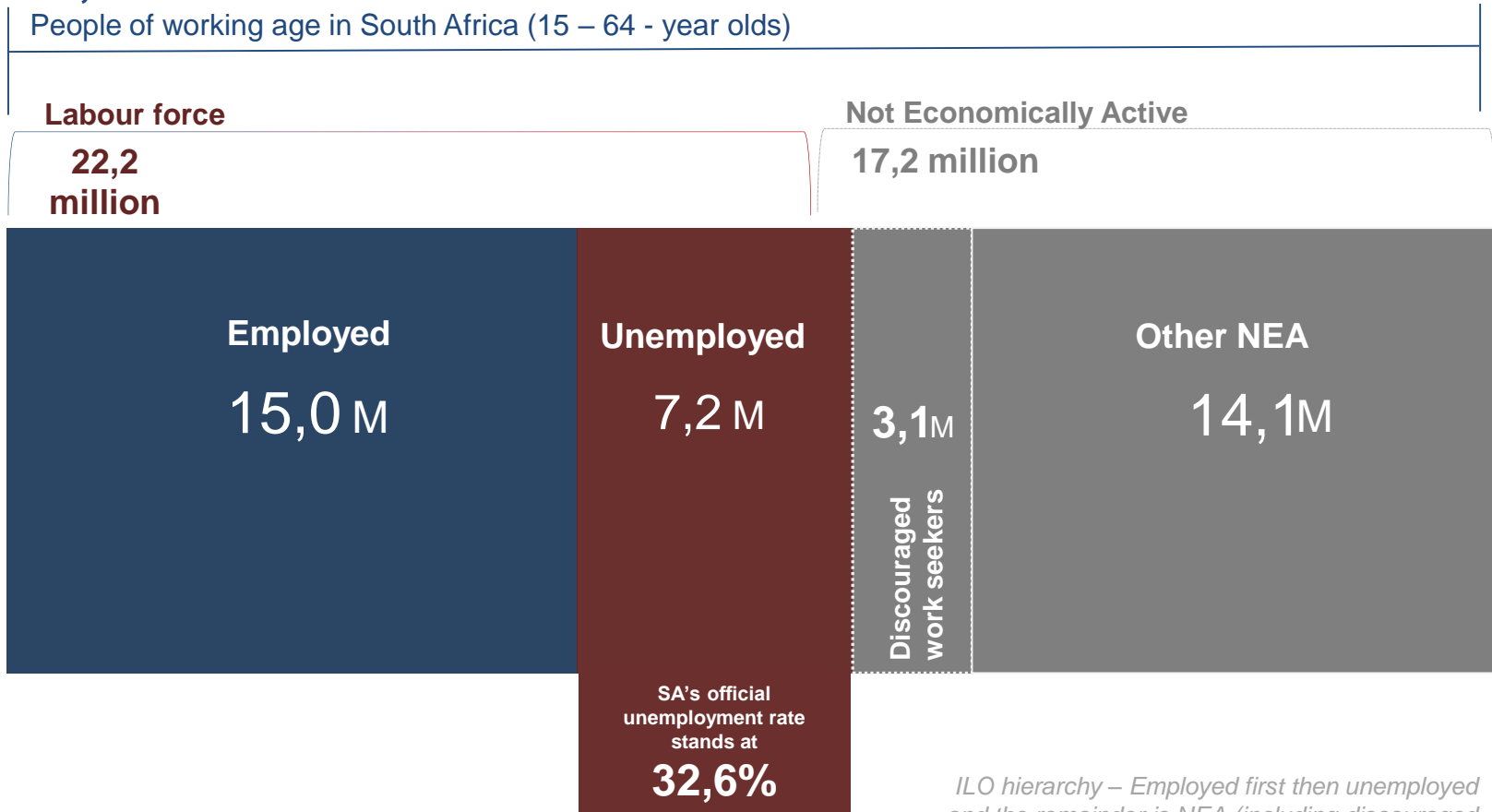


There were about 28 thousand less people employed in Q1:2021 than Q4:2020



39,5 million

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



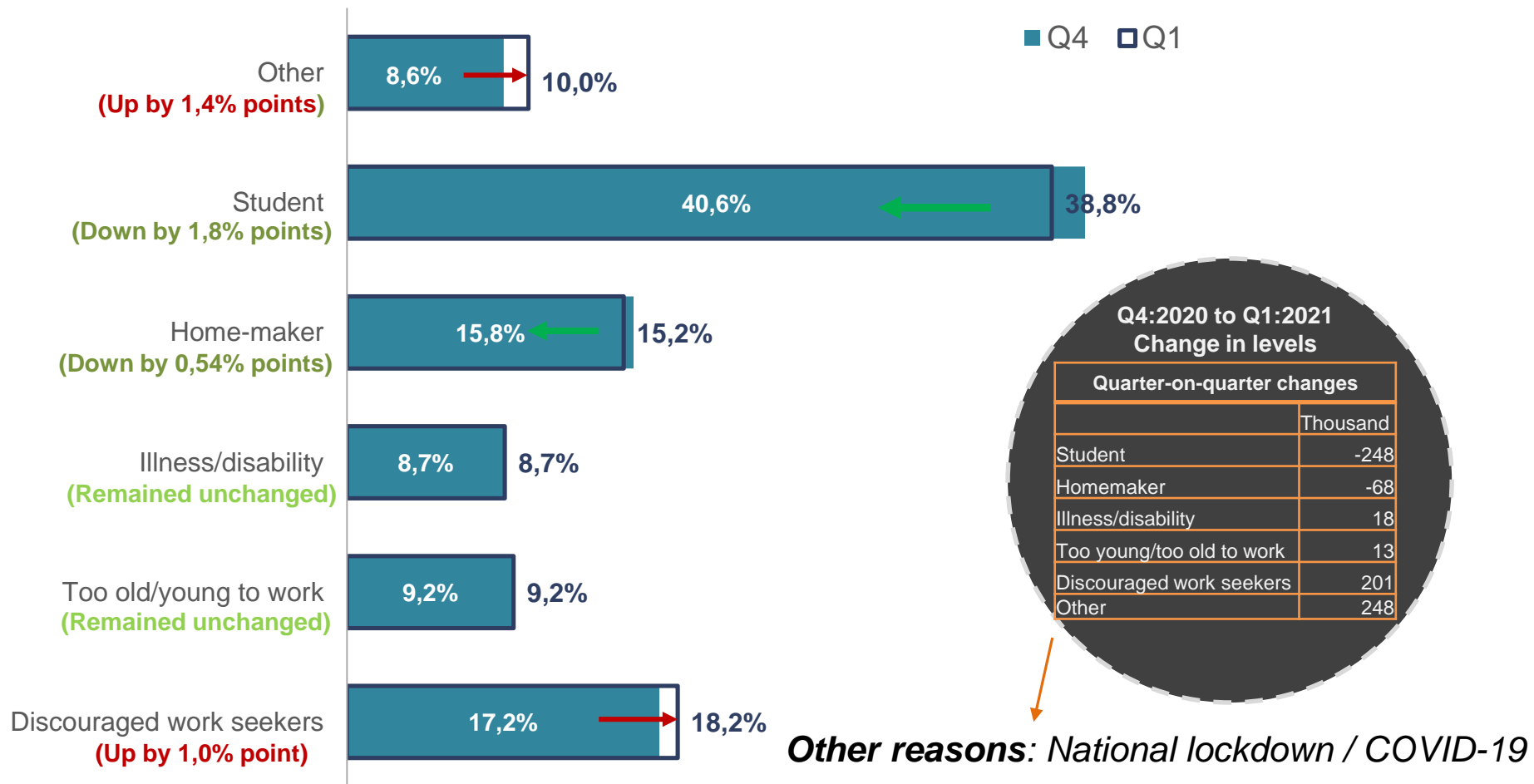
Increased by 0,1 of a percentage point between Q4:2020 and Q1:2021

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.

Due to rounding numbers may not add up

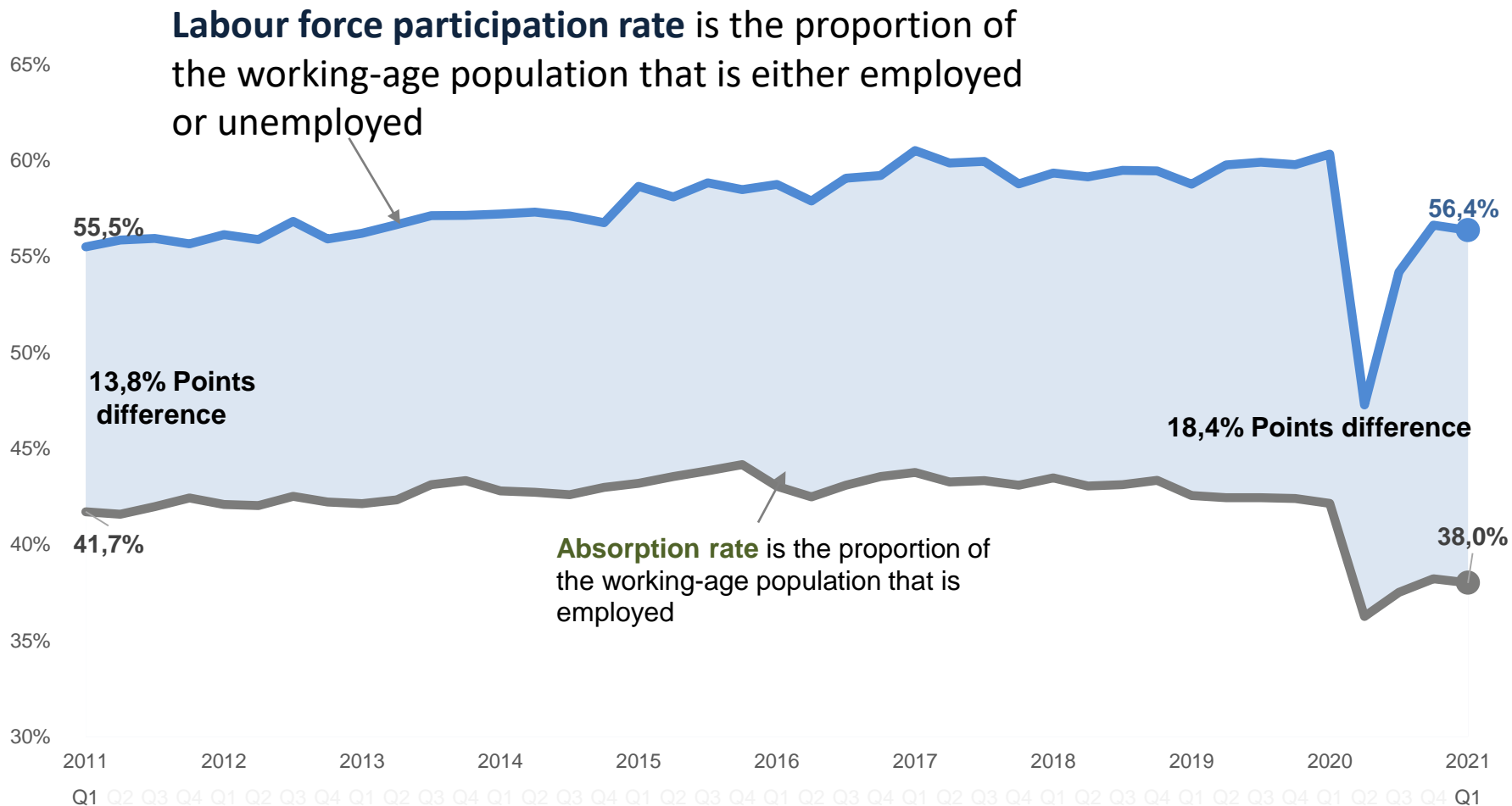
The number of Not Economically Active persons increased by 164 000 in Q1:2021 compared to Q4:2020

Characteristics of the not economically active, Q4:2020 vs Q1:2021



The Labour force participation rate **decreased by 0,2 of a percentage point** from 56,6% in Q4:2020 to 56,4% in Q1:2021

Labour force participation and absorption rates Q1:2011-Q1:2021



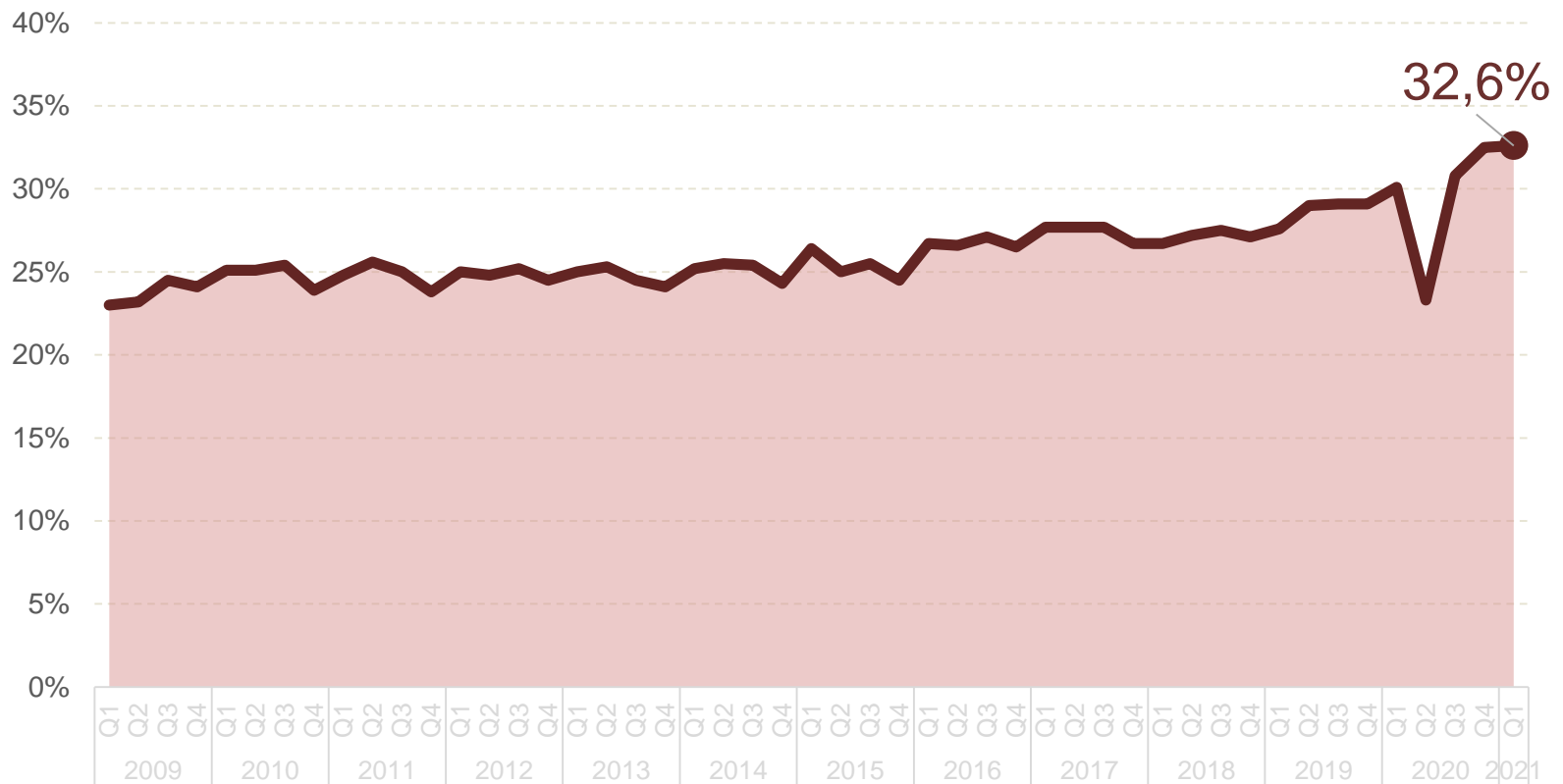
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South Africa's unemployment rate **increased by 0,1** of a percentage point to **32,6%** in Q1:2021 compared to Q4:2020.

Unemployment rate from Q1:2009 to Q1:2021

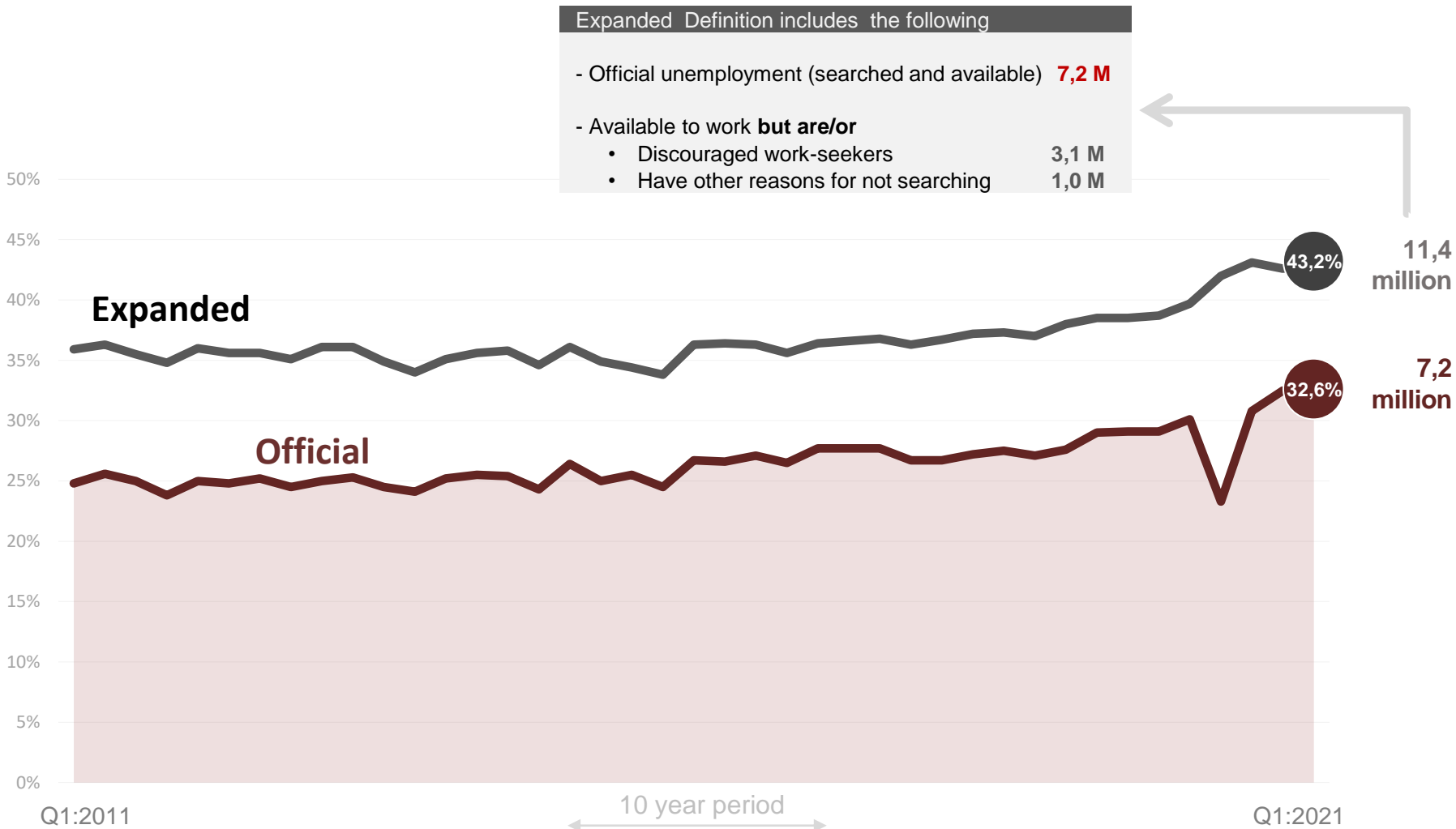


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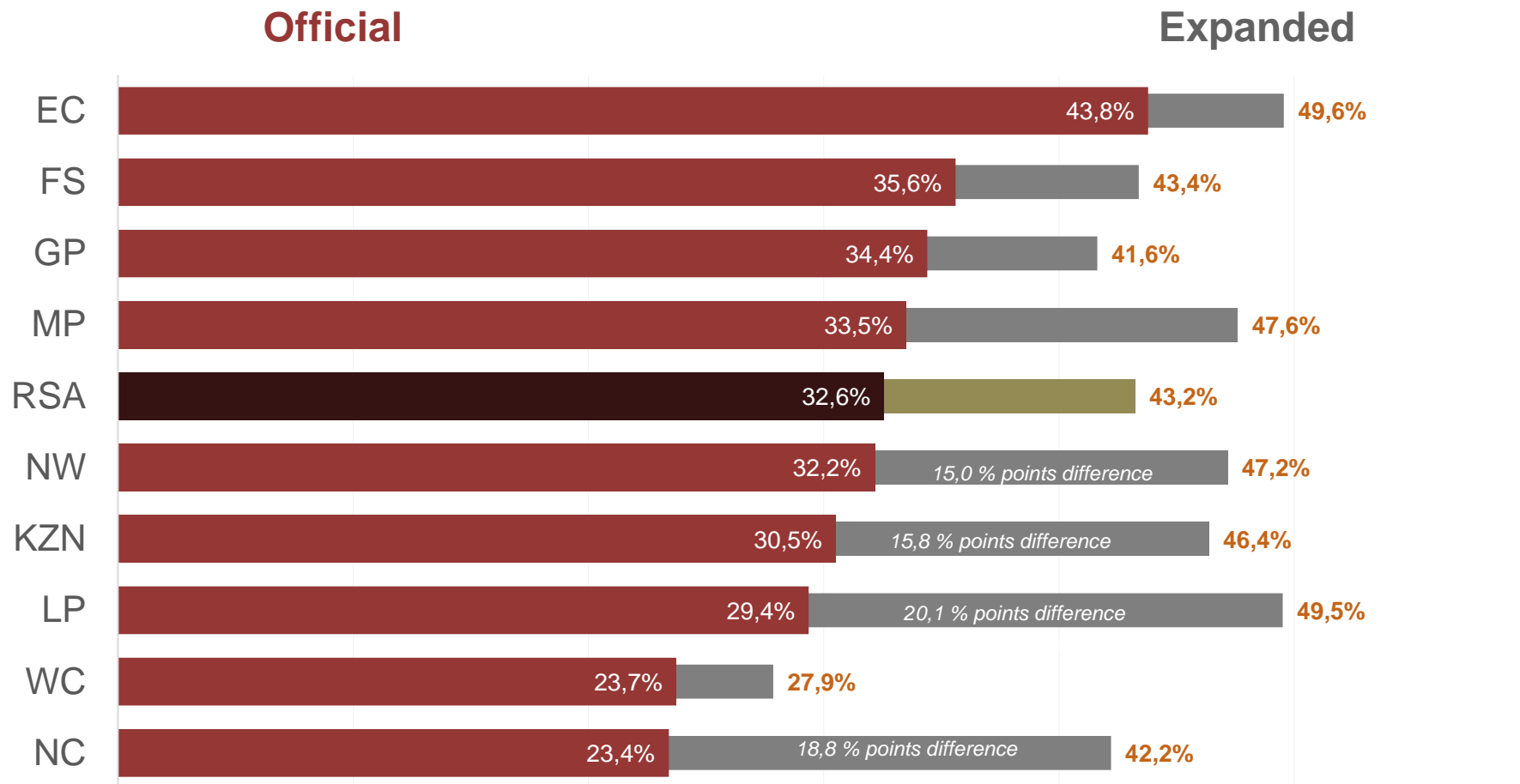


The Expanded definition which includes **discouraged work-seekers** and those having other reasons for not searching (e.g. Lockdown) showed **0,6 of a percentage point increase to 43,2% in Q1:2021** compared to Q4:2020.



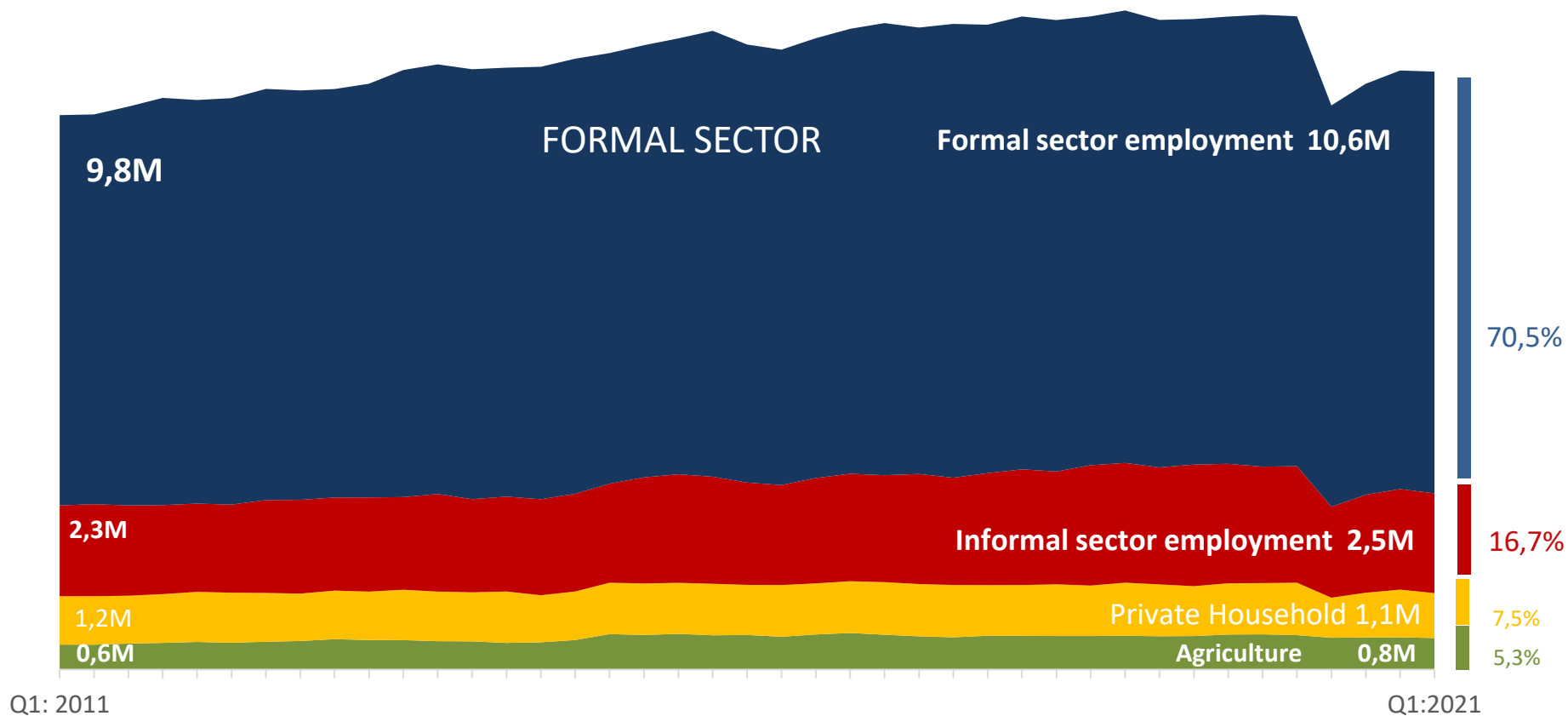
EC recorded the highest official and expanded unemployment rates. LP, NC and KZN provinces have more than 15,0 percentage points difference between their expanded and official unemployment rates.

Provincial unemployment rate: Official vs Expanded Q1:2021



The **formal sector** in South Africa accounts for **70,5%** of total employment.

Employment share by sector, Q1:2011 to Q1:2021



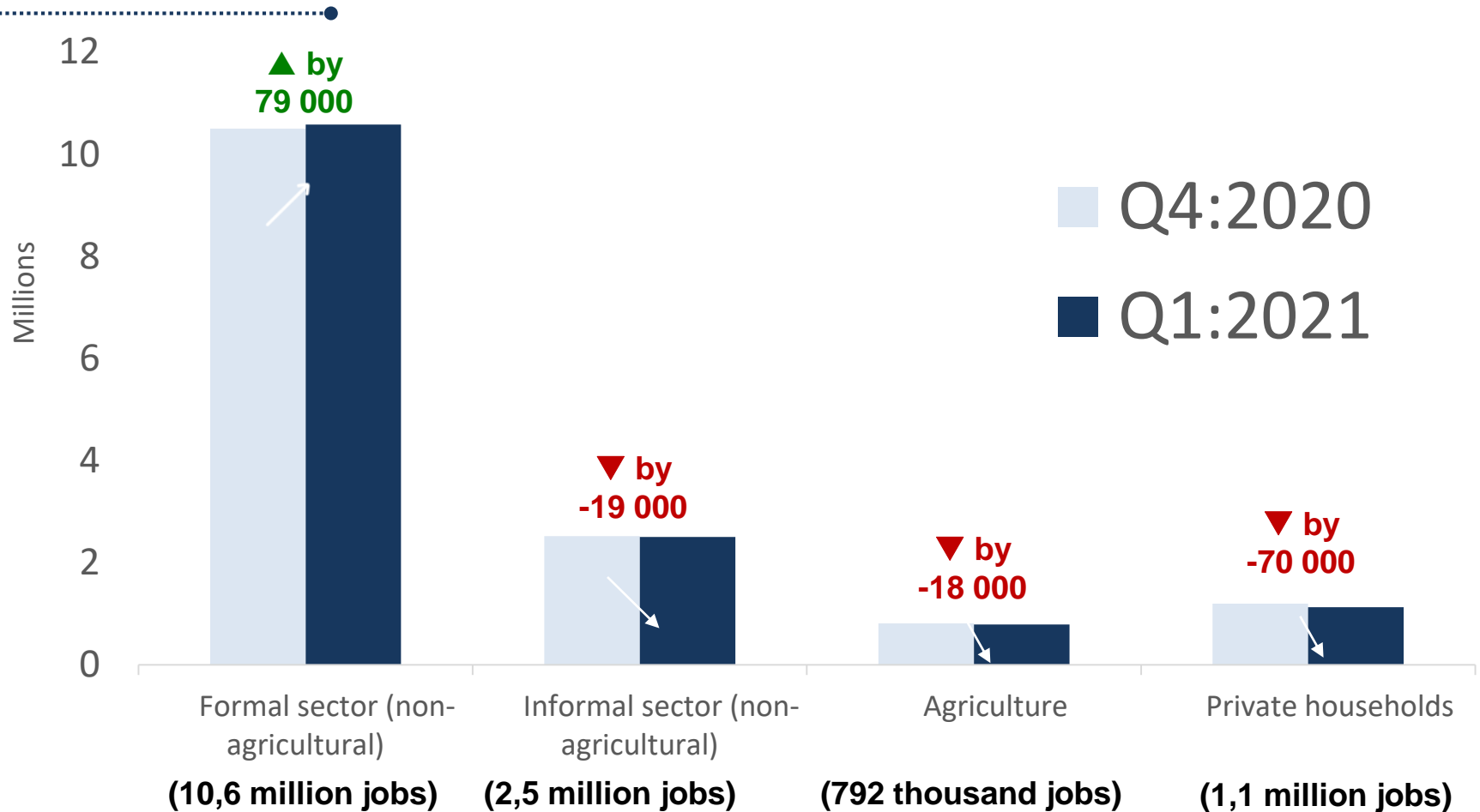
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Formal sector employment increased by 79 thousand jobs between Q4:2020 and Q1:2021

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



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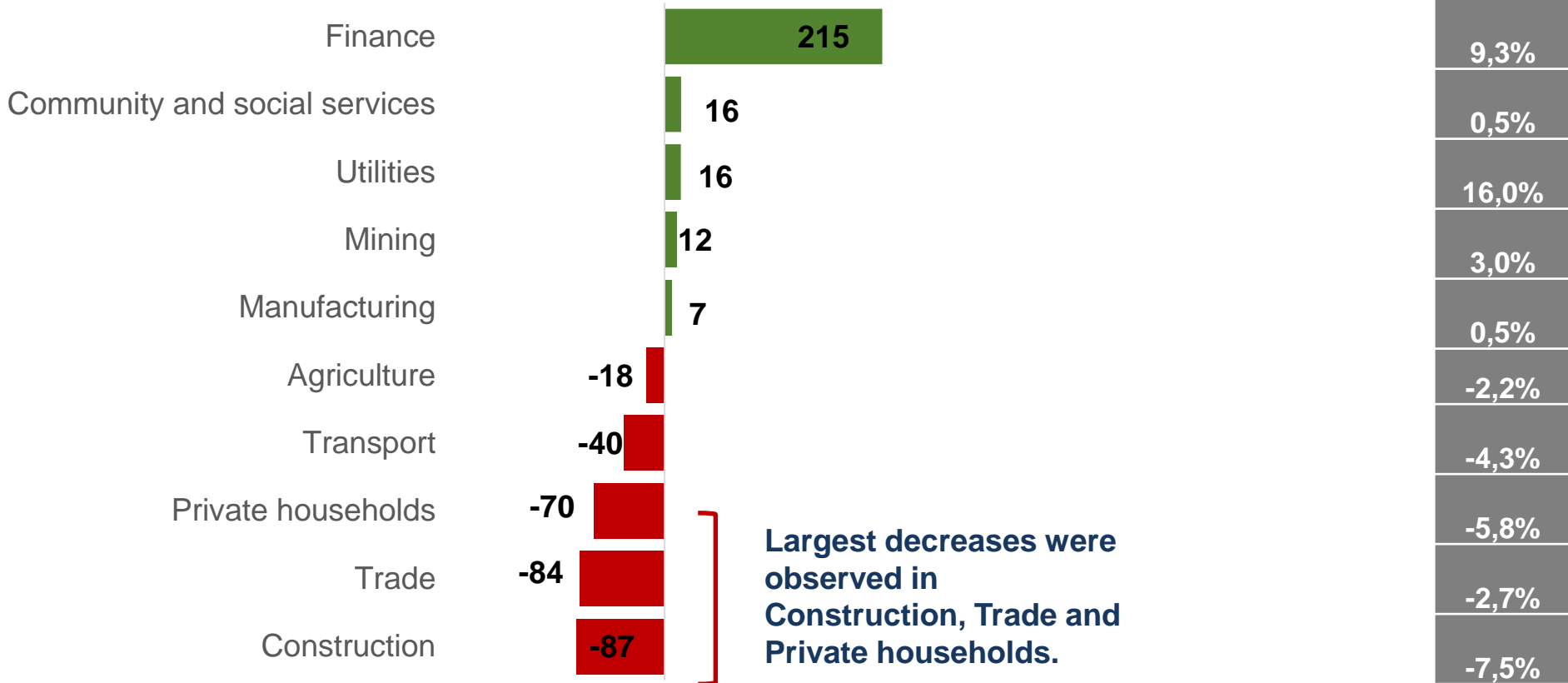


Employment declined by 28 000 in Q1:2021 compared to Q4:2020.

Employment changes by industry

Quarter-on-quarter change ('000)

Percentage change



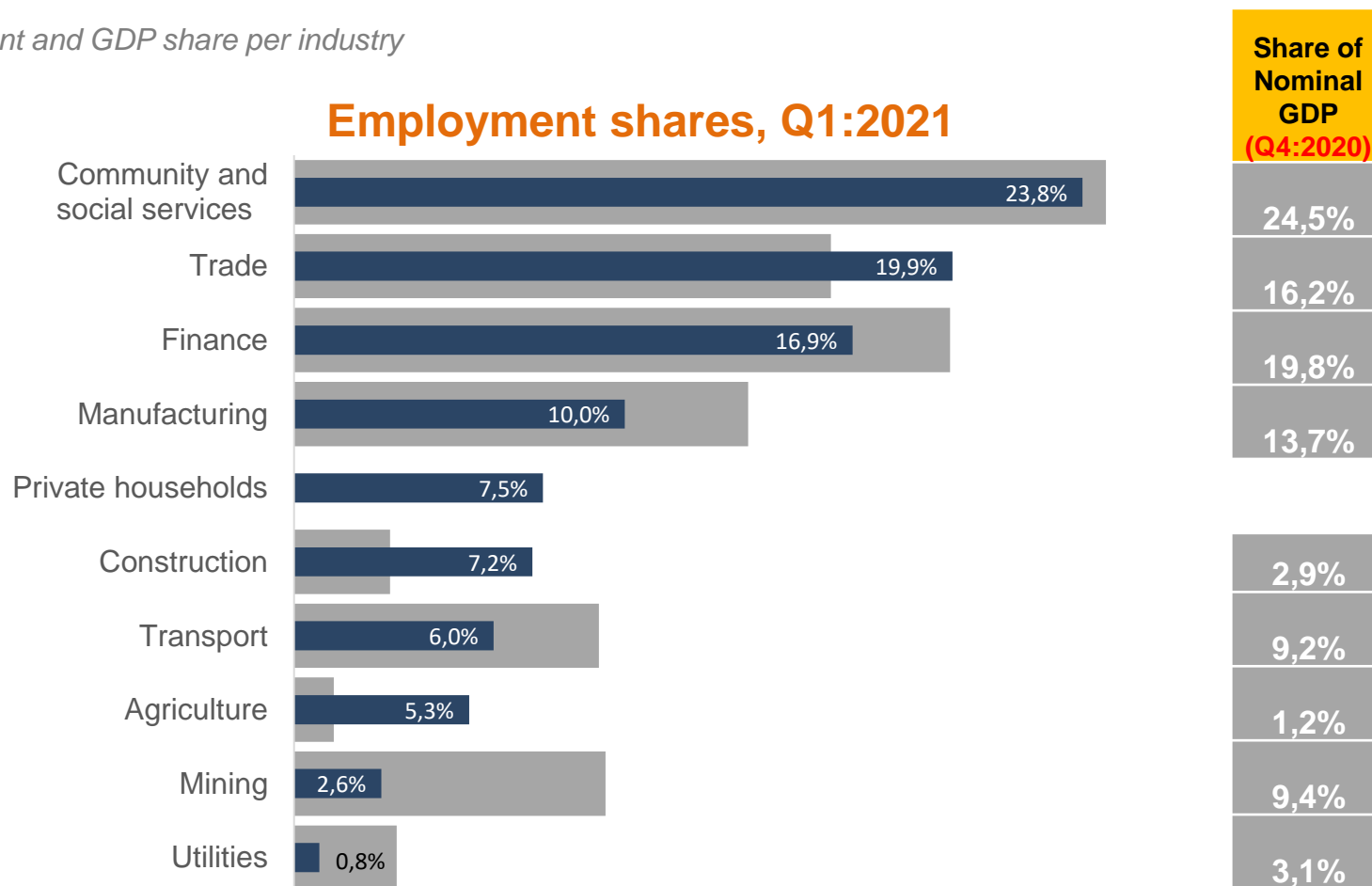
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Trade, construction and agriculture have higher employment shares relative to their GDP contribution.

Employment and GDP share per industry



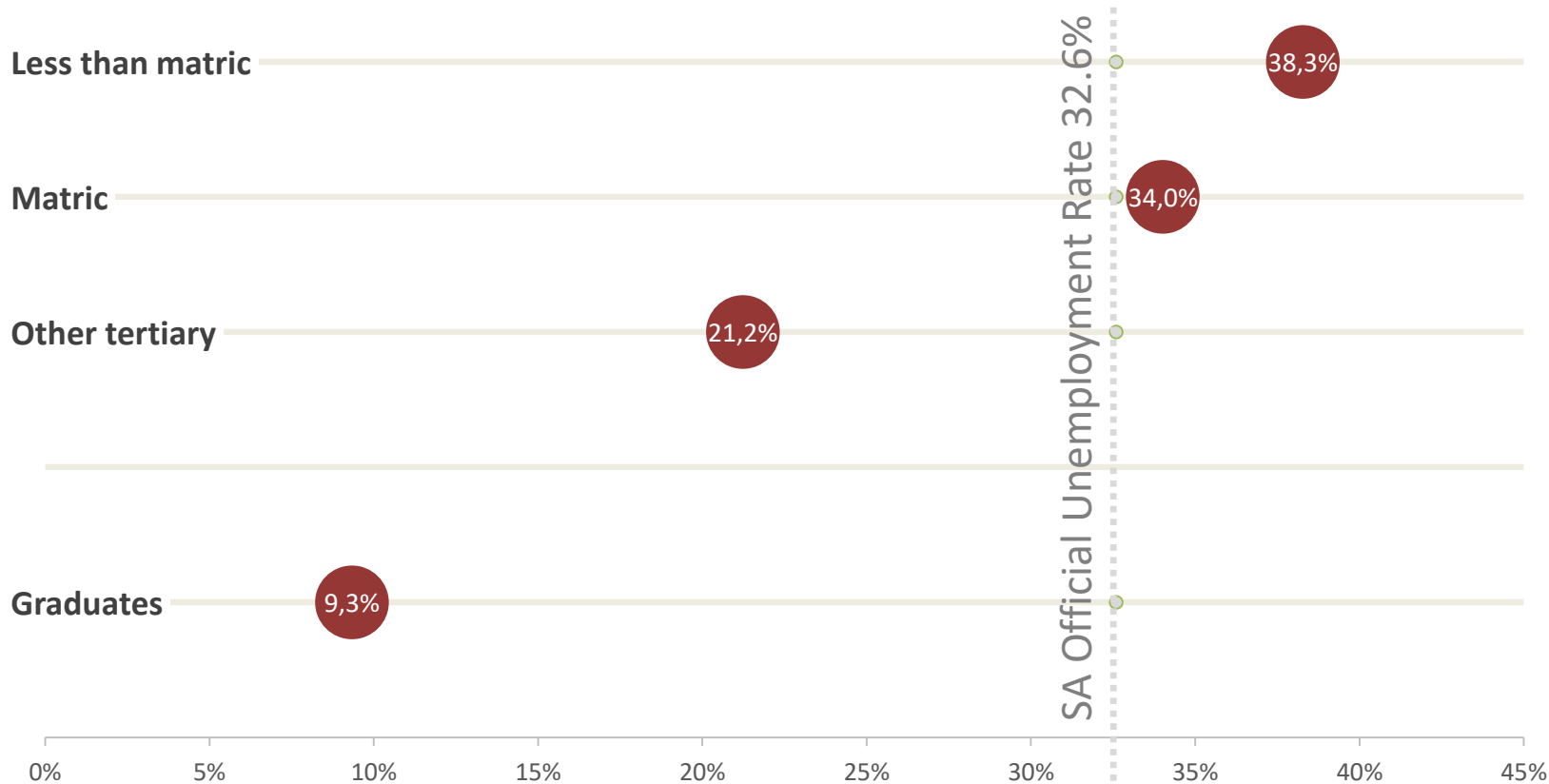
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Graduate unemployment is 23,3% points lower than the national official unemployment rate

Official Unemployment rate Q1:2021



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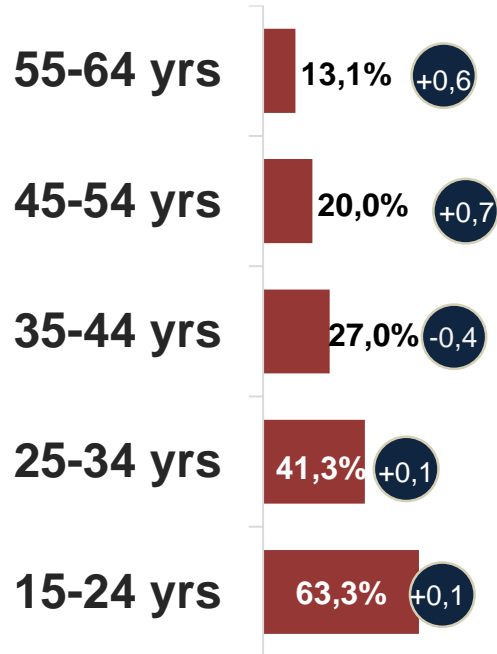


Youth aged 15-24 years and 25-34 years recorded the highest unemployment rates of 63,3% and 41,3% respectively

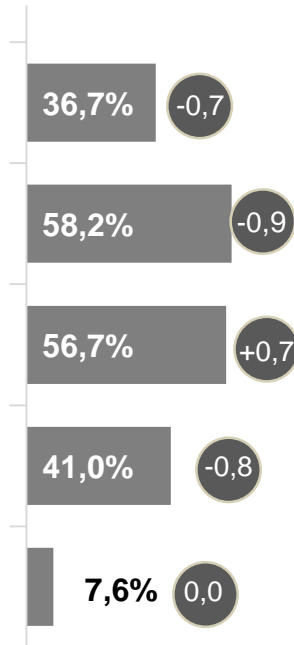
Labour market rates by age group, Q1:2021

Change: Percentage points
Q4:2020 to Q1:2021

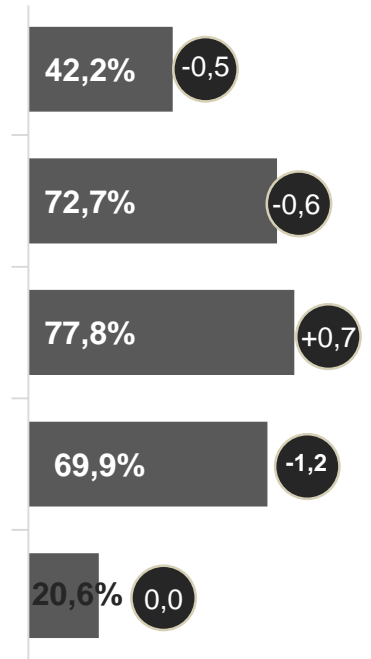
Unemployment rate



Absorption rate



Participation rate



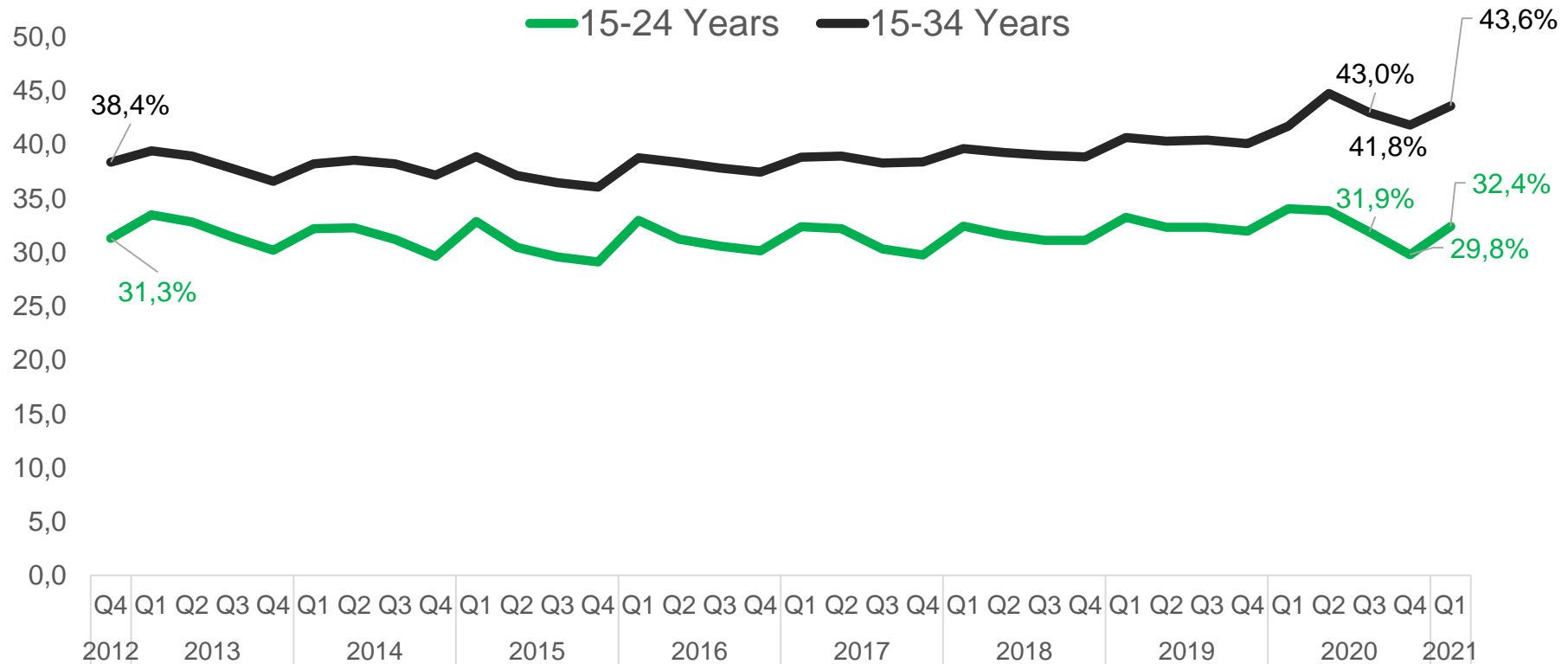
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Approximately **3,3 million (32,4%)** out of 10,2 million young people aged 15-24 years were not in employment, education or training (**NEET**). The overall NEET rate increased by 1,7 percentage points in Q1:2021 compared to Q1:2020.

NEET rate ages 15-24 & 15-34, 2012-2021



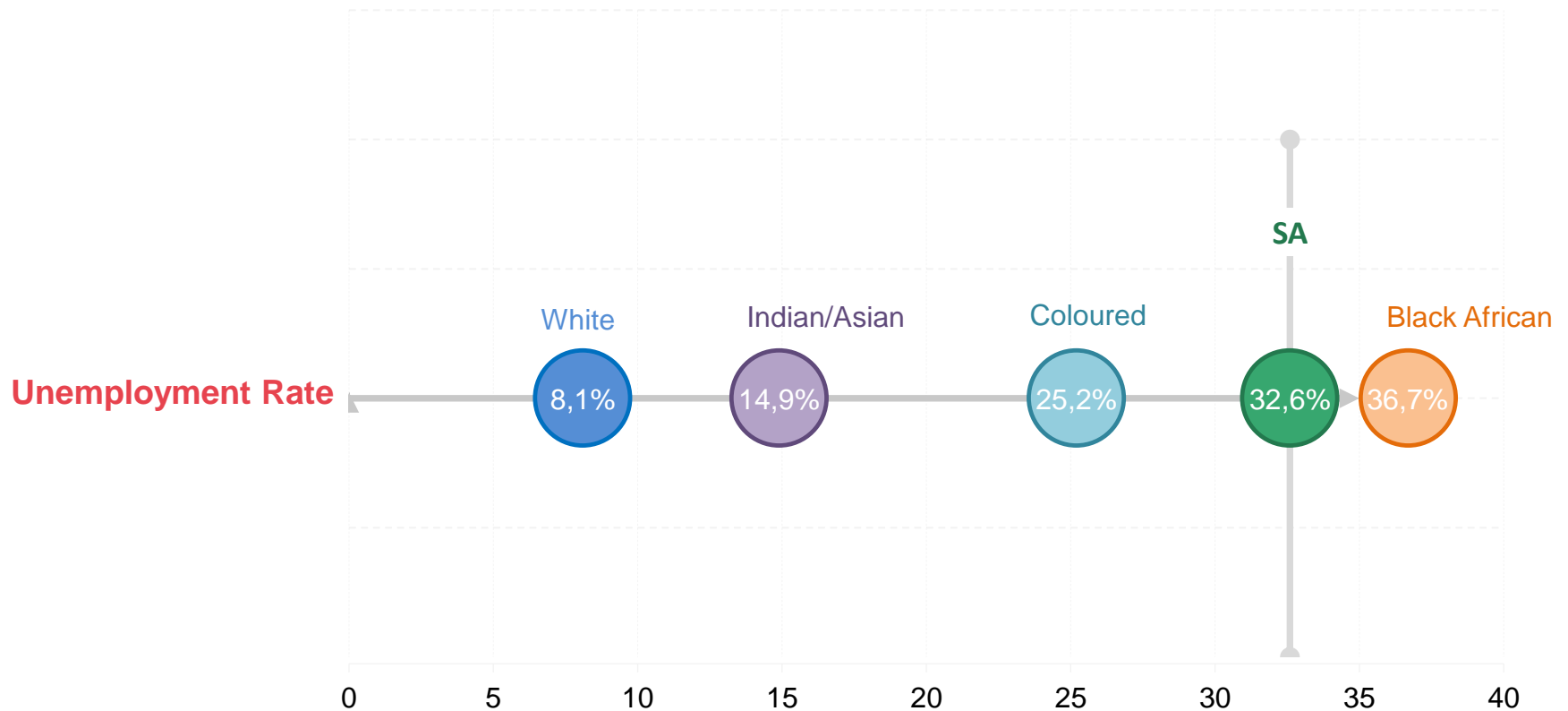
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The unemployment rate among the **black African (36,7%)** population group remains **higher** than the national average and other population groups. (From 36,5% in Q4:2020)

OFFICIAL unemployment rate by population group, Q1:2021



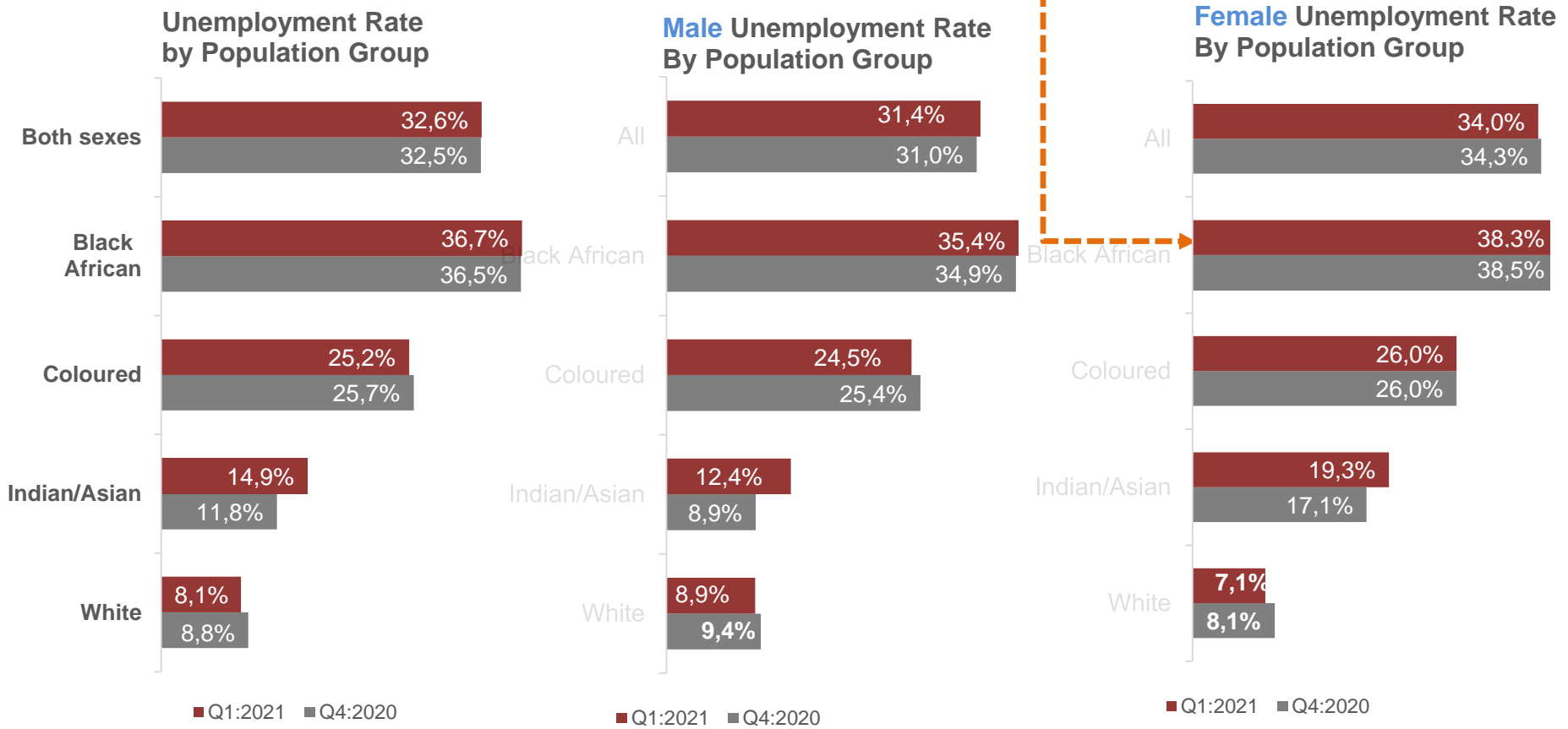
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Black African women are the most vulnerable with an unemployment rate of 38,3% in Q1:2021.

OFFICIAL unemployment rate by population group and sex



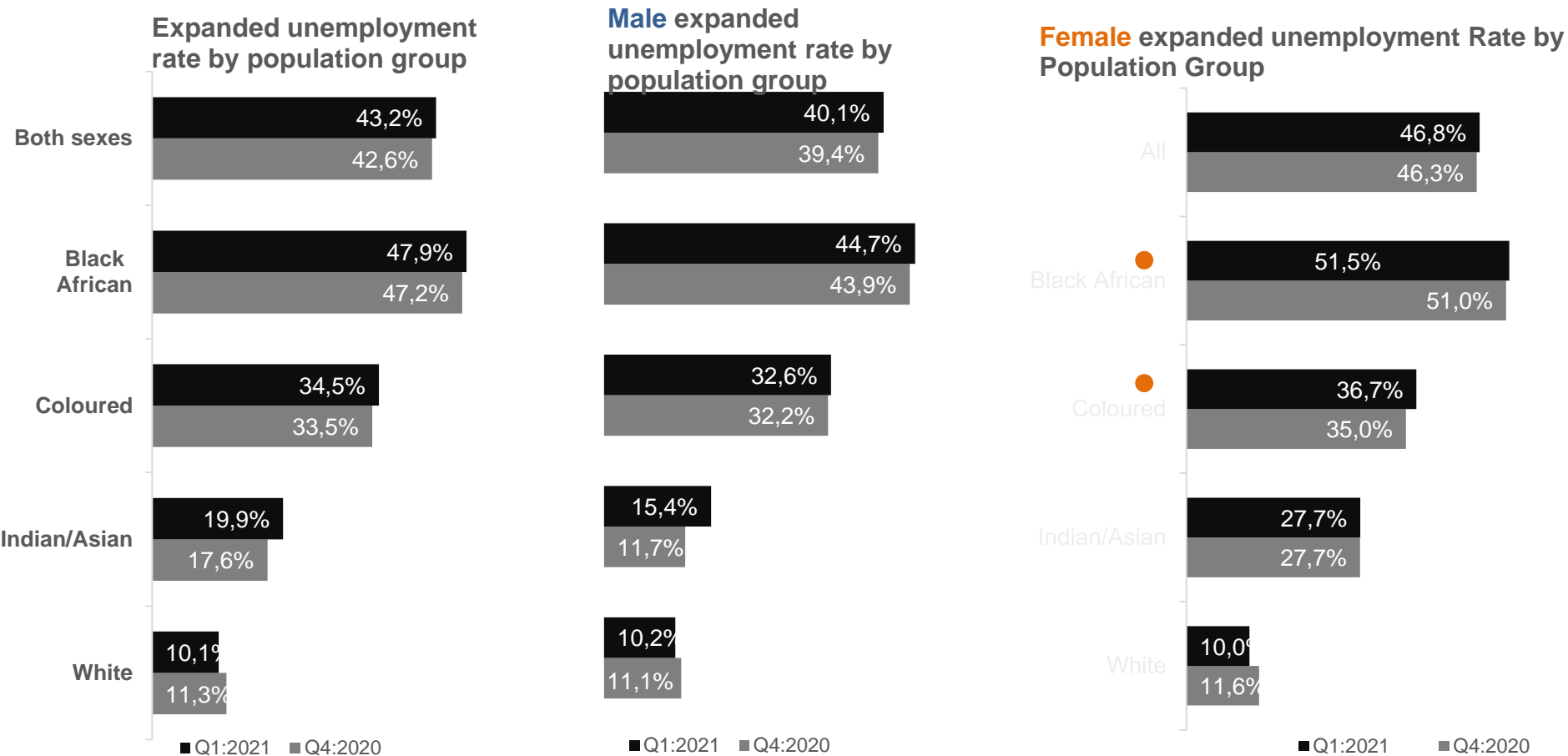
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Irrespective of gender, the **black African and coloured** population groups **remain vulnerable** in the labour market.

EXPANDED unemployment rate by population group and sex



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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.

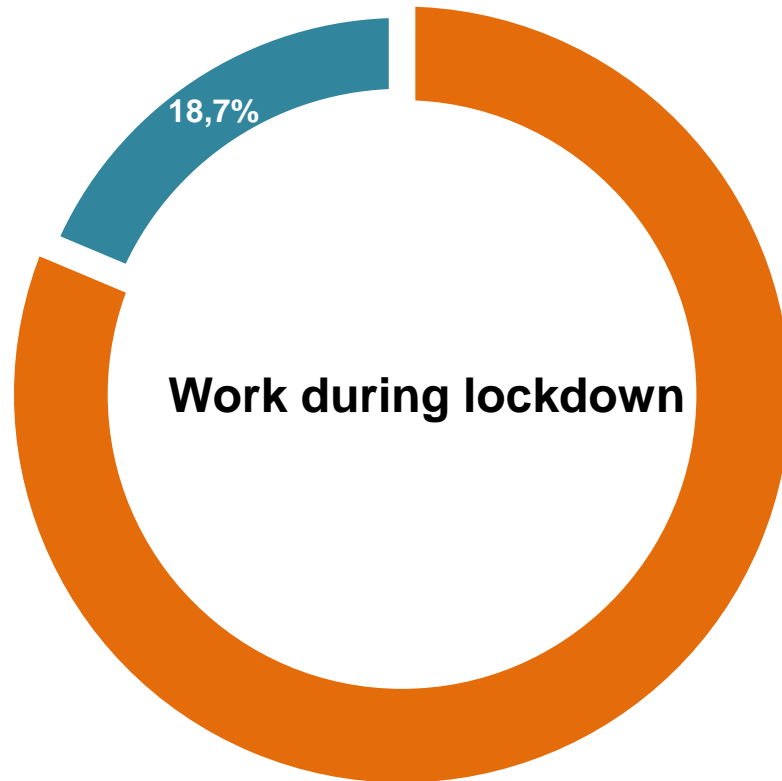


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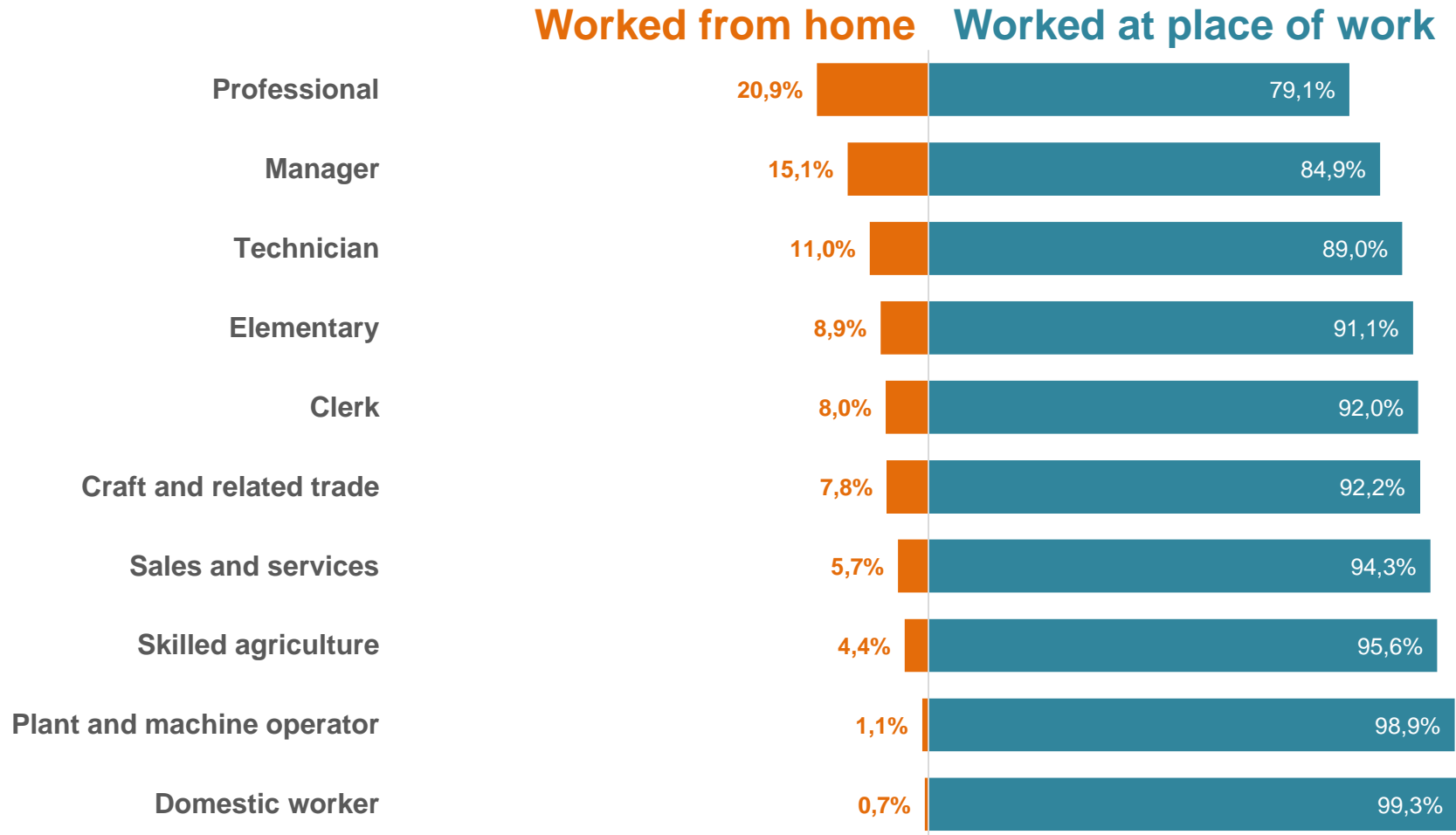
Of the 15,0 million persons who were employed in **Q1:2021**, at least **8 in every ten (81,3%)** were expected to **work during the national lockdown** by the companies/organisations they work for.



81,3% were expected to work

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

Place of work for persons who did any work by occupation, Q1: 2021



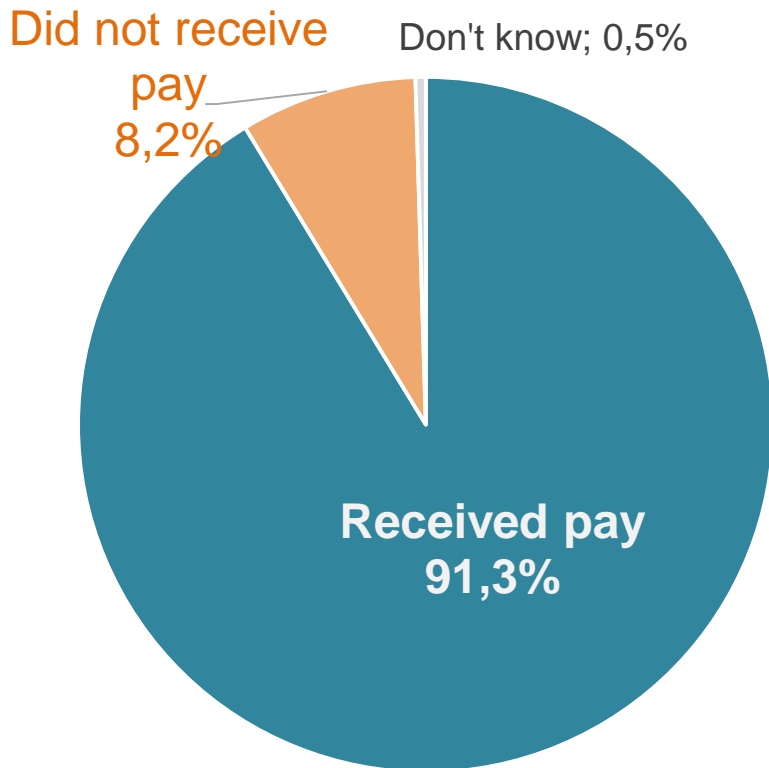
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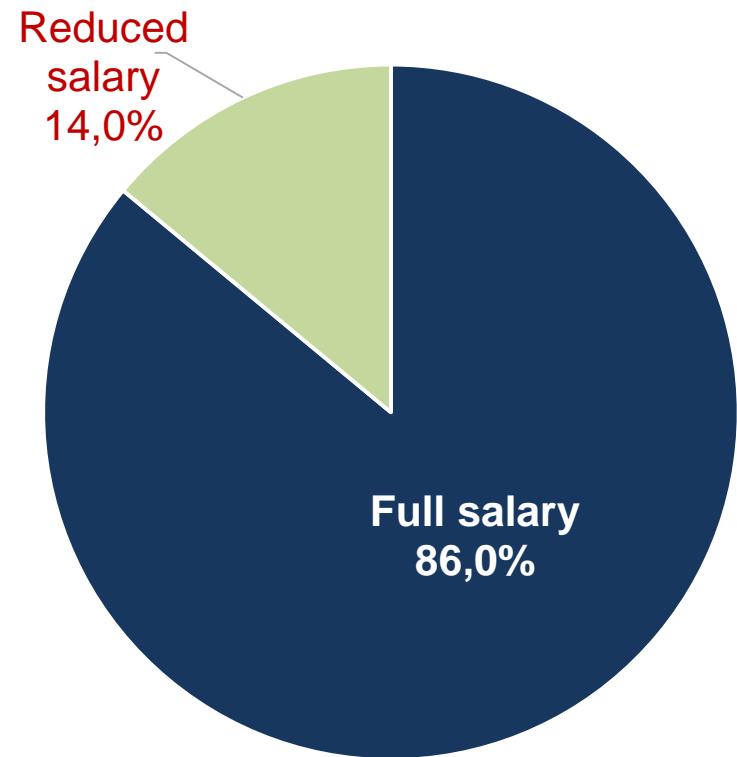


91,3% of the employed continued to receive pay during lockdown compared to those in Q4:2020 (88,9%)

Q1:2021

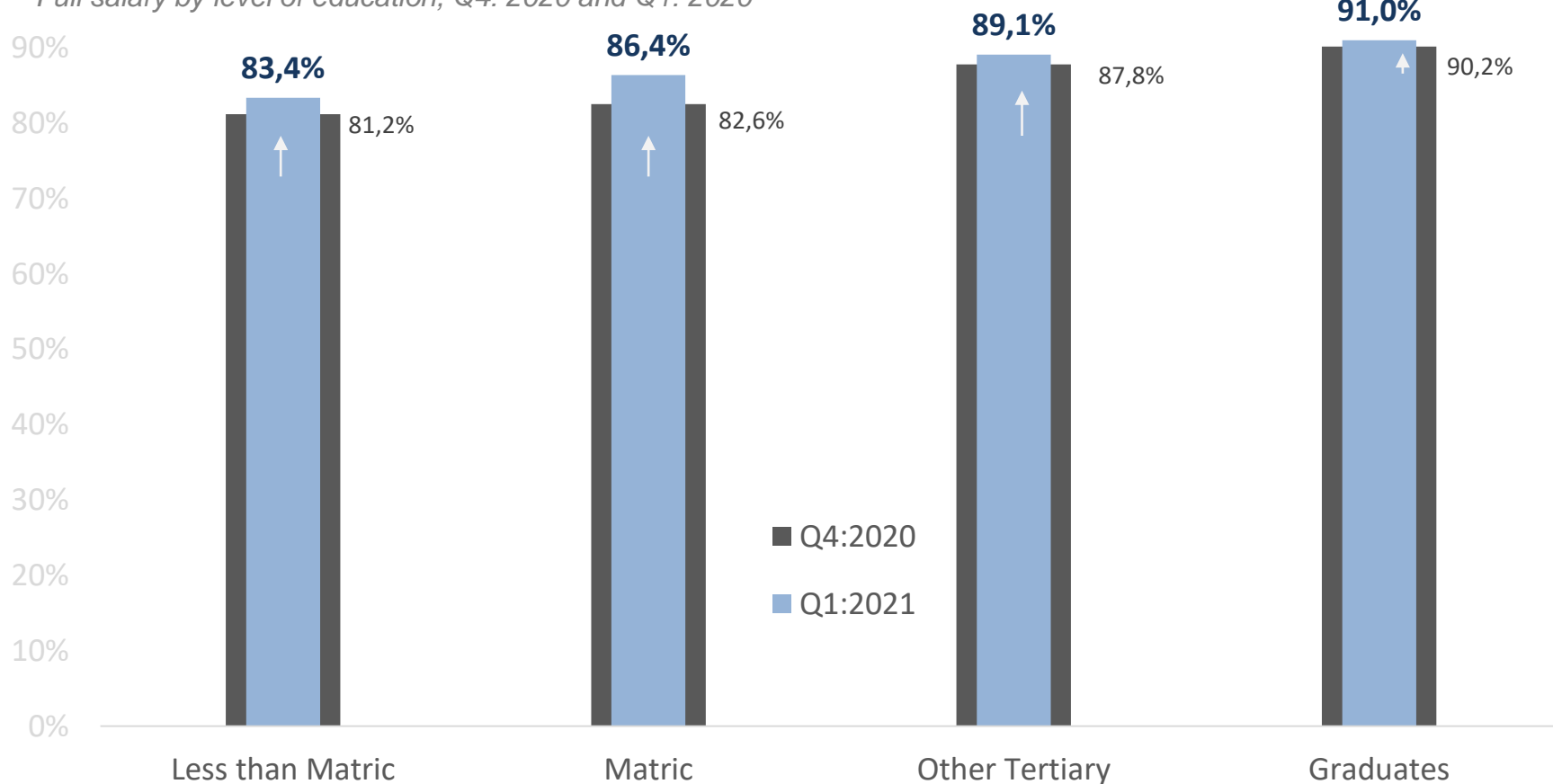


14,0% of those who received pay during lockdown were paid reduced salaries.



About 9 in 10 graduates received their full salary in Q1:2021. The share of those receiving full salary **increased** irrespective of level of education between Q4:2020 and Q1:2021. *16,6% of those with less than matric received reduced pay in Q1:2021*

Full salary by level of education, Q4: 2020 and Q1: 2021



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Recap QLFS Q1:2021



Unemployment rate



Unemployment rate (32,6%) increased by 0,1 of a percentage point.

Absorption rate (38,0) and labour force participation rate (56,4) decreased by 0,2 of a percentage point each.

Employment losses



Construction (**87 000**), trade (**84 000**) and private households (**70 000**) recorded the largest employment losses.

Not economically active



The number of not economically active **increased by 164 000** in Q1:2021 compared to Q4:2020.

QLFS

Q1:2021

Ndzi hela kwala!



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