



stats sa

Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) Q2:2021

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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. The COVID-19 restrictions limiting the movement of the general population in the country were eased prior to data collection of QLFS in Q2: 2021. This allowed sample rotation to take place for the QLFS in Q2: 2021.

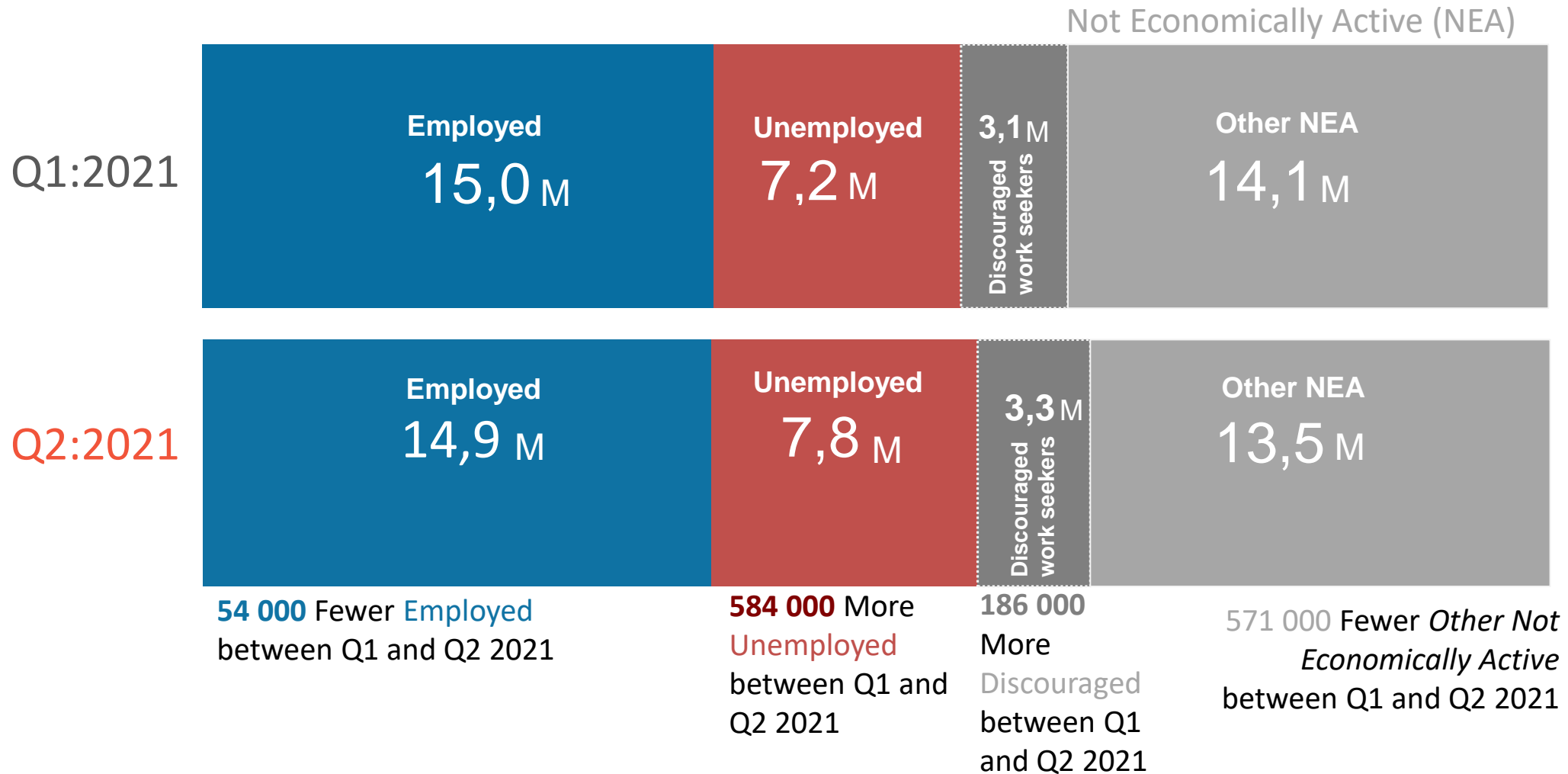
Not all dwelling units on the sample had contact numbers resulting in data being collected from part of the sample where contact numbers were available for QLFS Q2:2021.

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



There were increases in both unemployed and discouraged work seekers in Q2:2021

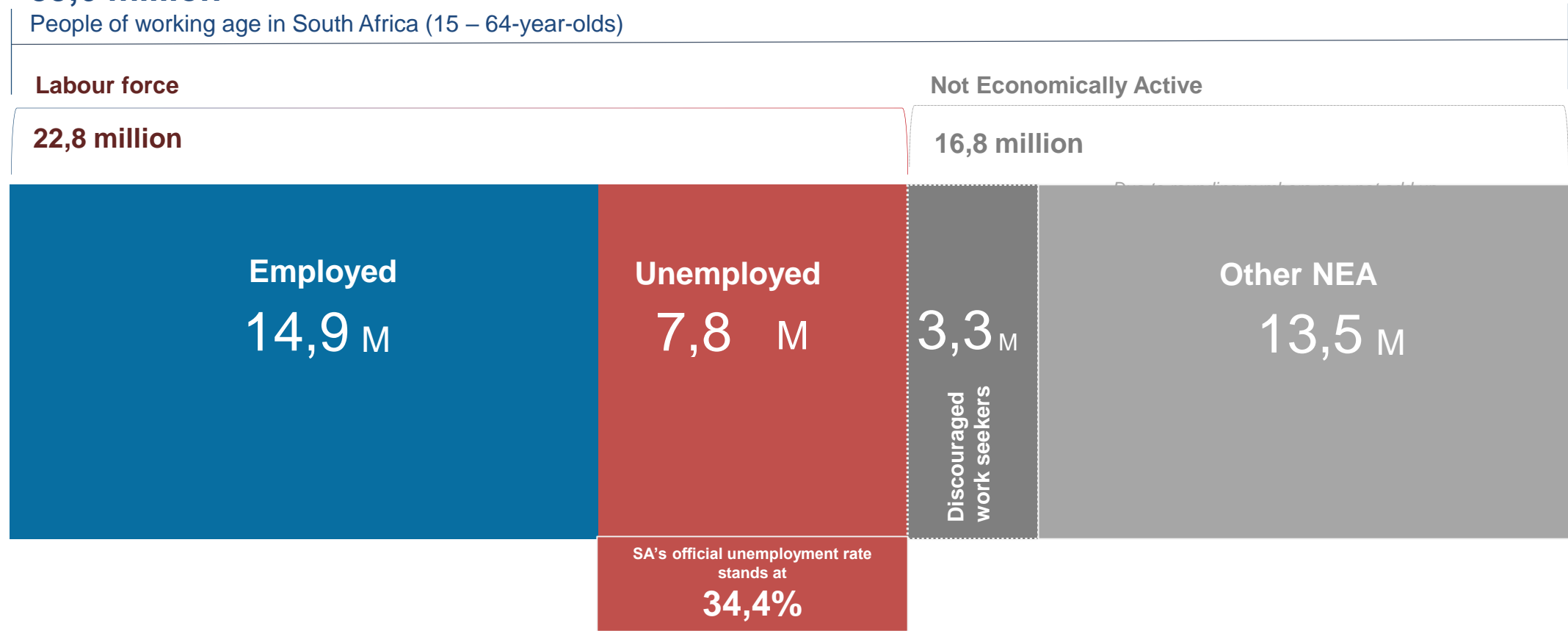
Labour force participation comparison between Q1:2021 and Q2:2021



There were about 54 thousand less people employed in Q2:2021 than Q1:2021

39,6 million

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

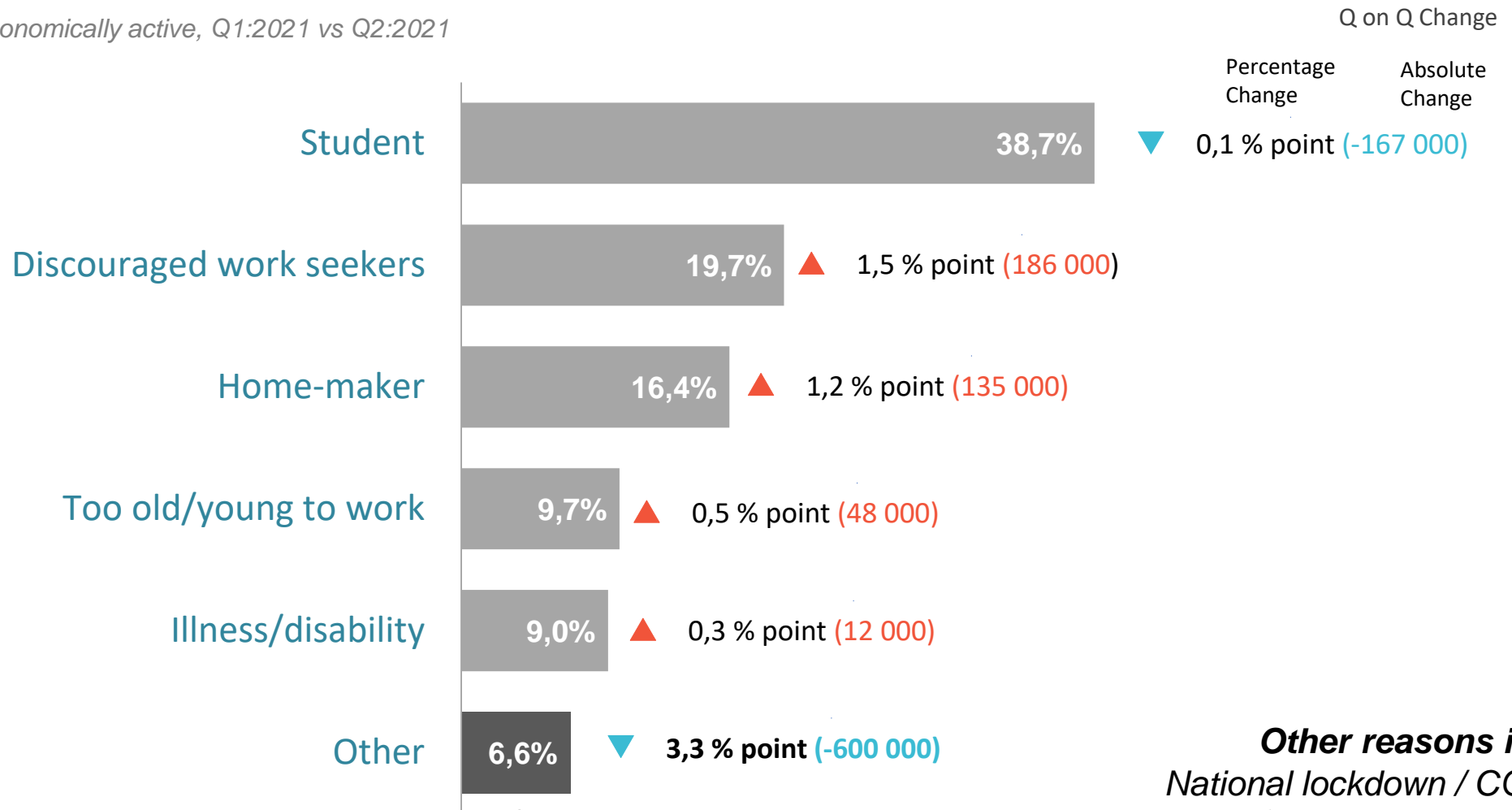


Increased by 1,8 percentage points between Q1:2021 and Q2:2021

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.

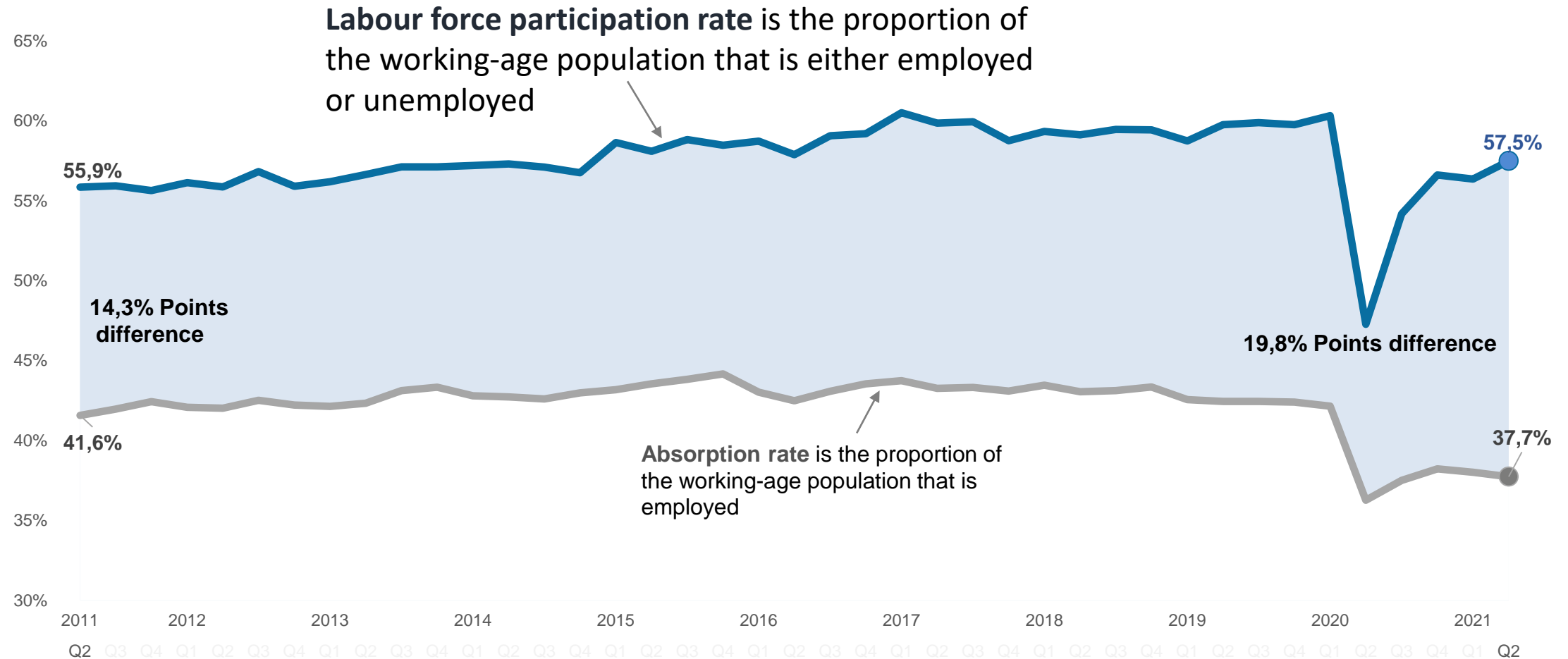
The number of Not Economically Active persons declined by 386 000 in Q2:2021 compared to Q1:2021

Characteristics of the not economically active, Q1:2021 vs Q2:2021



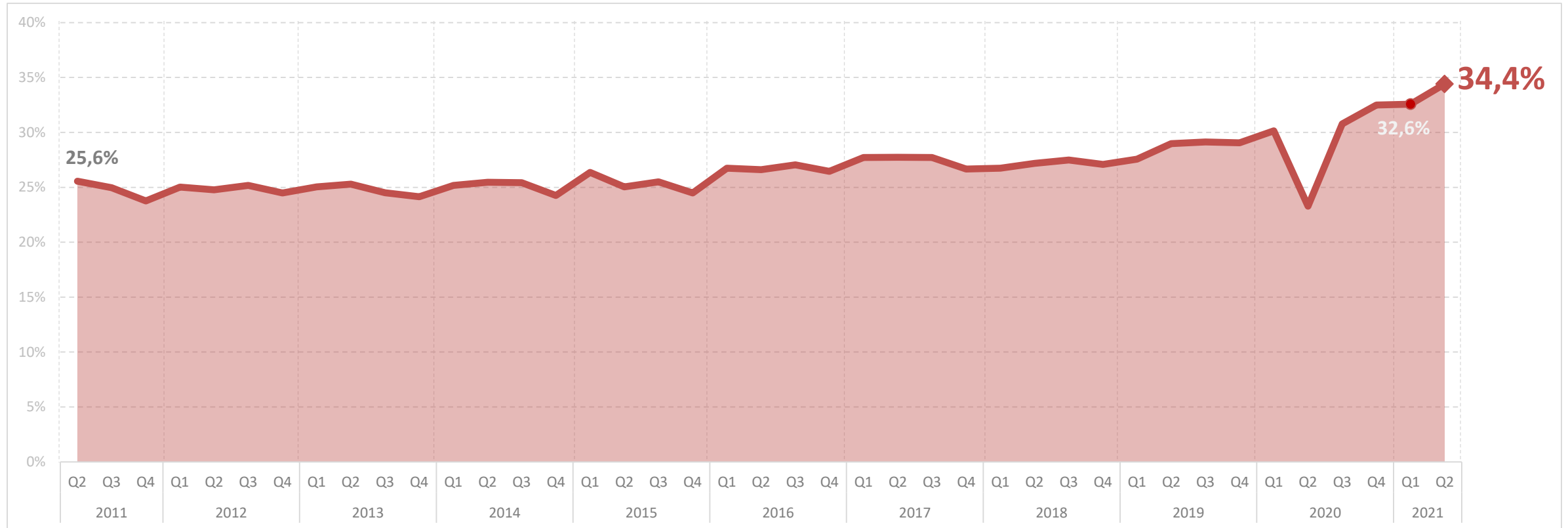
The Labour force participation rate increased by 1,1 percentage points from 56,4% in Q1:2021 to 57,5% in Q2:2021

Labour force participation and absorption rates Q2:2011-Q2:2021



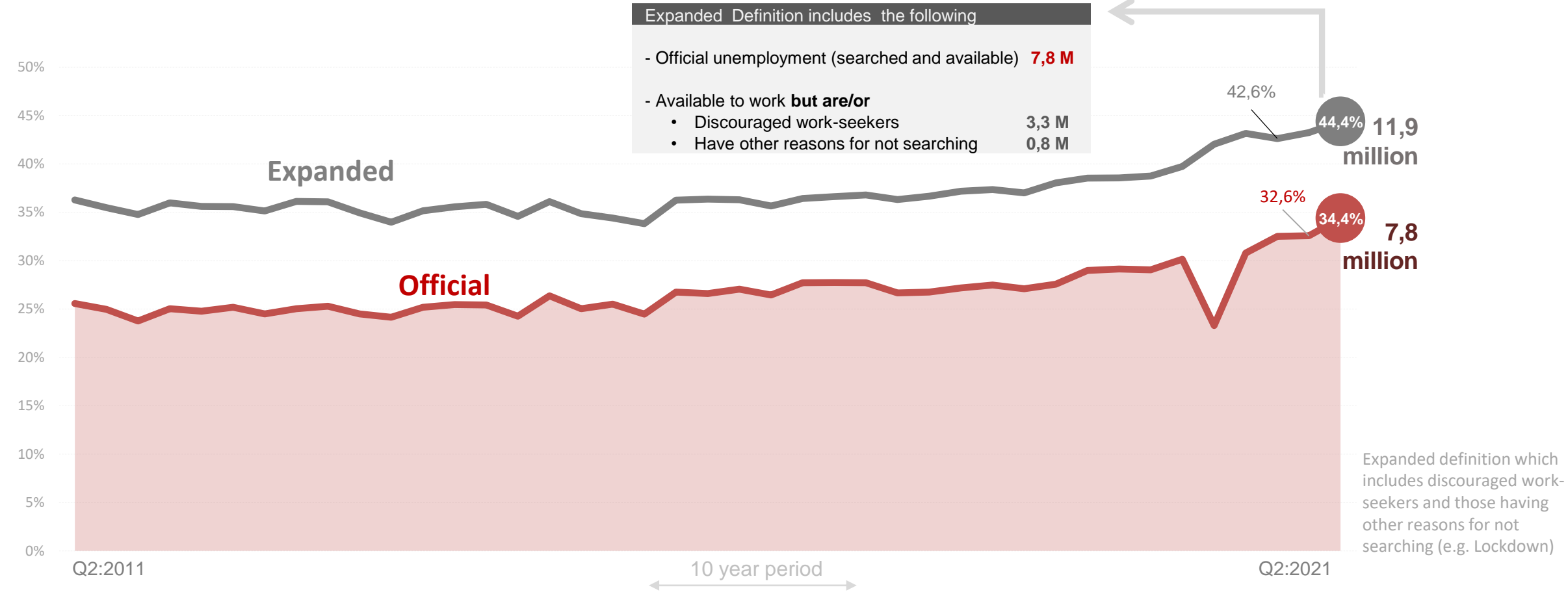
South Africa's **unemployment rate increased** by 1,8 percentage points to **34,4%** in Q2:2021 compared to Q1:2021.

Unemployment rate from Q2:2011 to Q2:2021



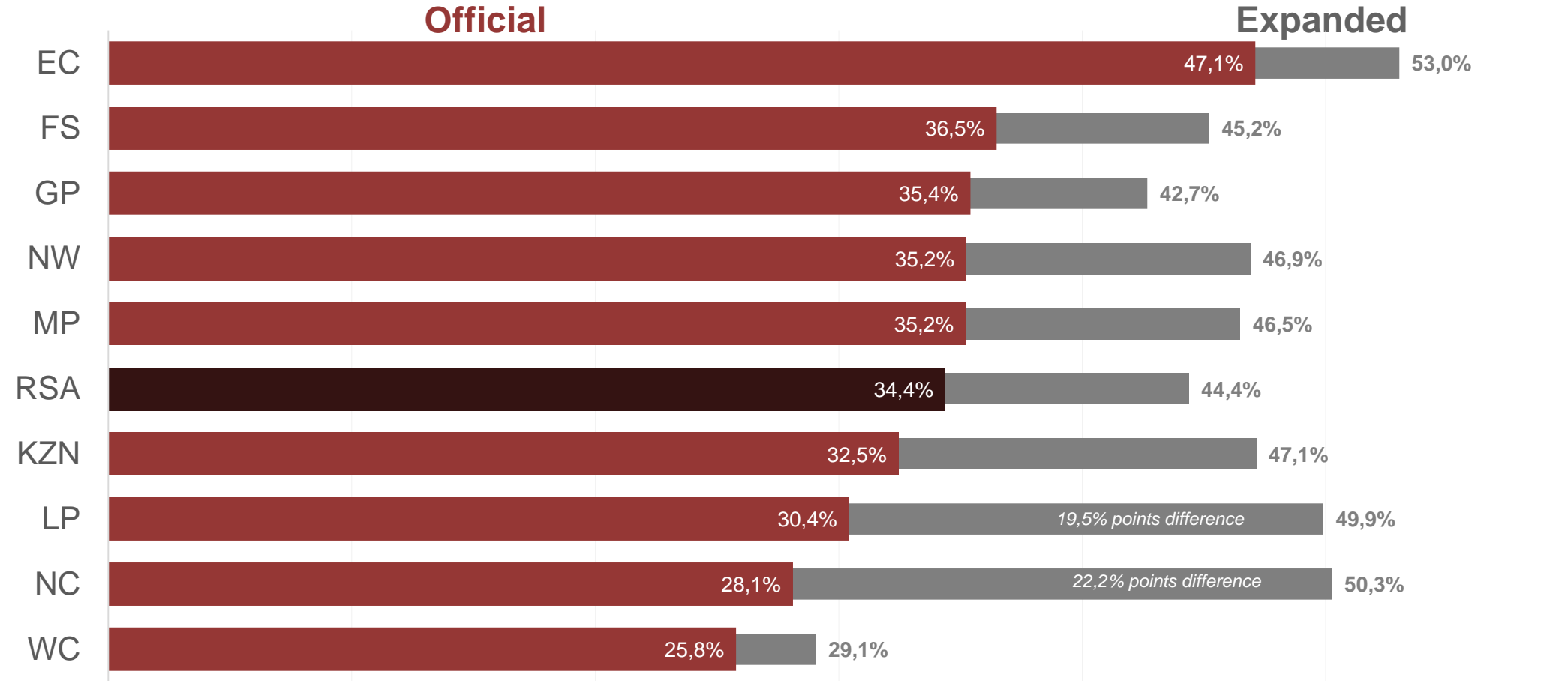
Expanded unemployment increased by 1,2 percentage points to 44,4% in Q2:2021 compared to Q1:2021.

Official vs Expanded unemployment Q2:2011-Q2:2021



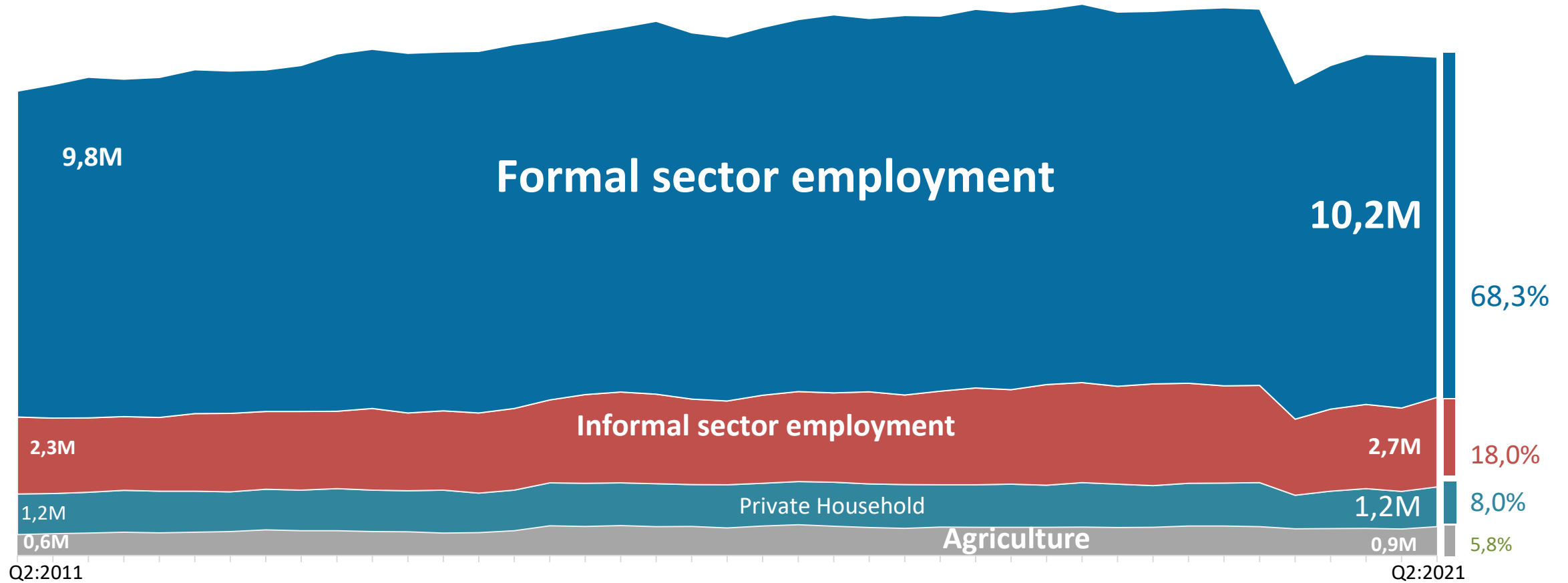
EC recorded the highest official and expanded unemployment rates. LP and NC provinces have more than 15,0 percentage points difference between their expanded and official unemployment rates.

Provincial unemployment rate: Official vs Expanded Q2:2021



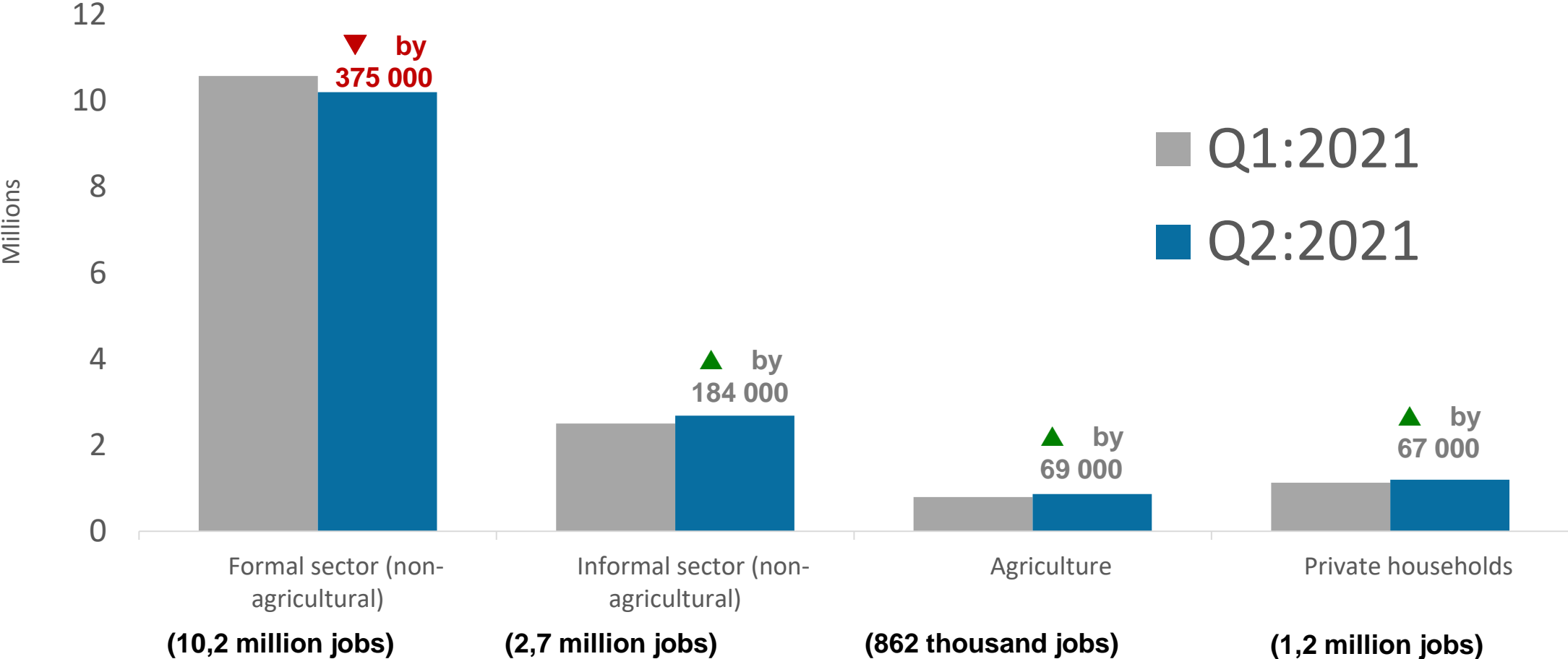
The formal sector in South Africa accounts for **68,3%** of total employment.

Employment share by sector, Q2:2011 to Q2:2021



Formal sector employment decreased by 375 thousand jobs between Q1:2021 and Q2:2021

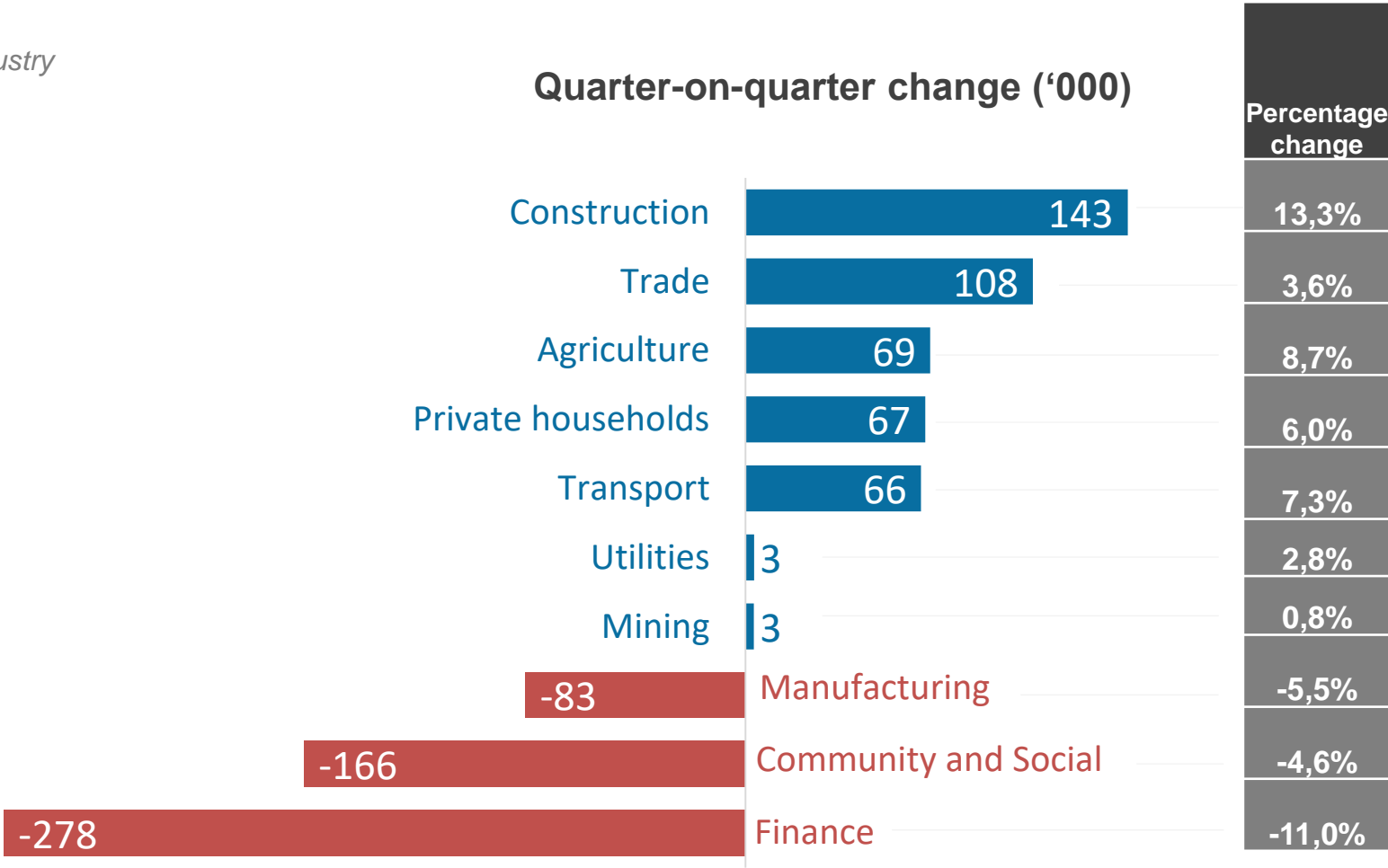
Employment changes by sector, (Quarter-on-quarter increase)



Employment declined by 54 000 in Q2:2021 compared to Q1:2021.

Employment changes by industry

Quarter-on-quarter change ('000)

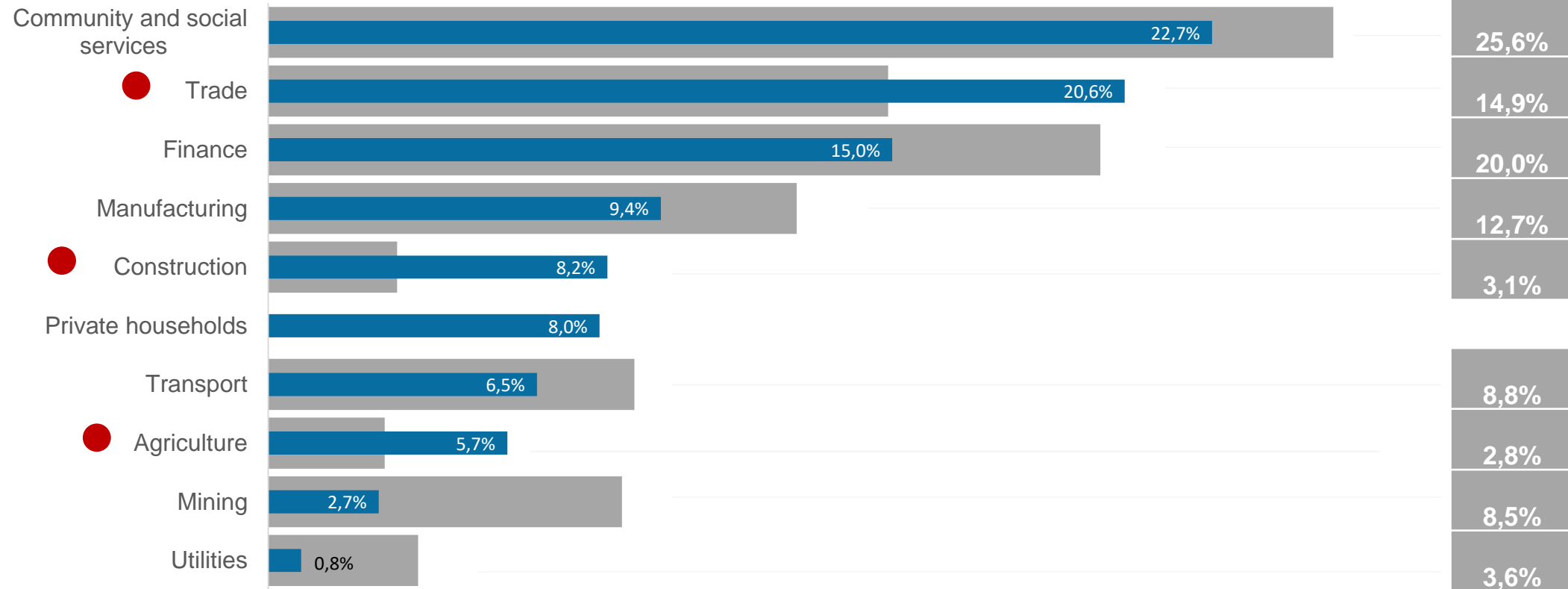


Decreases were observed in Finance, Community and social services, and Manufacturing.

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

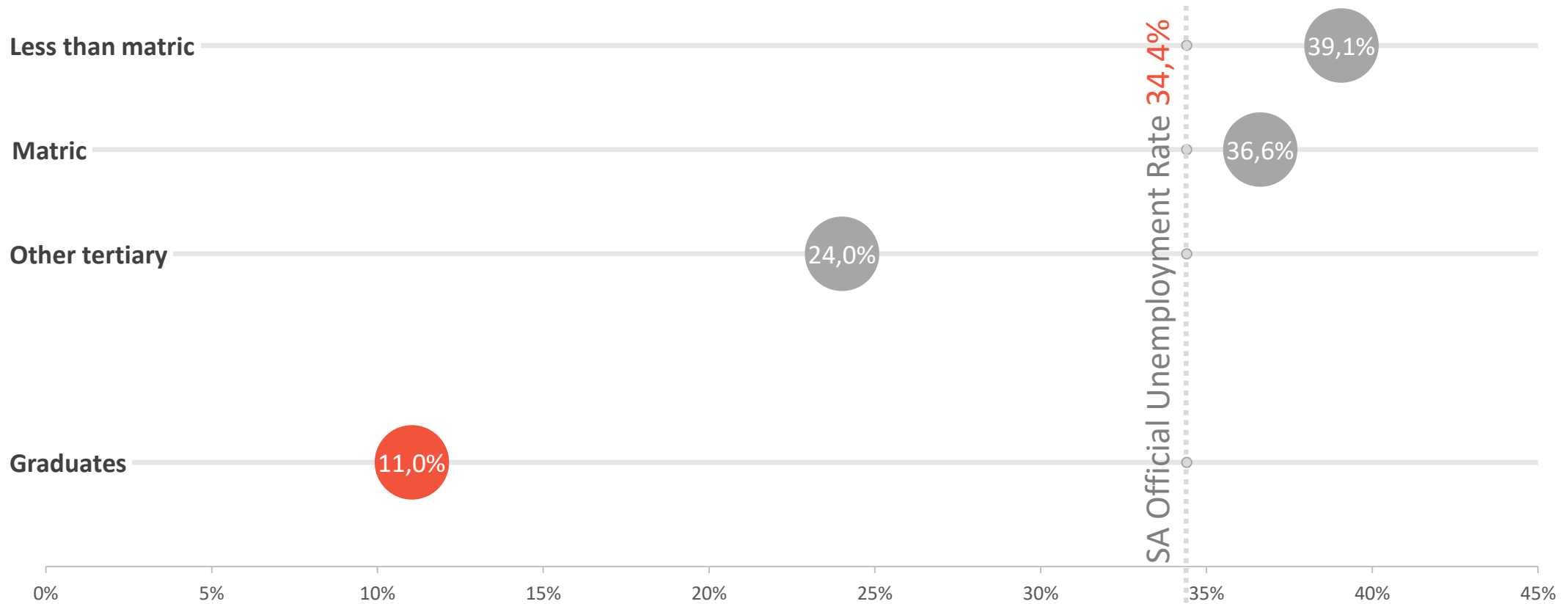
Employment and GDP share per industry

Employment shares, Q2:2021



Graduate unemployment is 23,4% points lower than the national official unemployment rate

Official Unemployment rate Q2:2021



• Youth aged 15-24 years and 25-34 years recorded the highest unemployment rates of 64,4% and 42,9% respectively

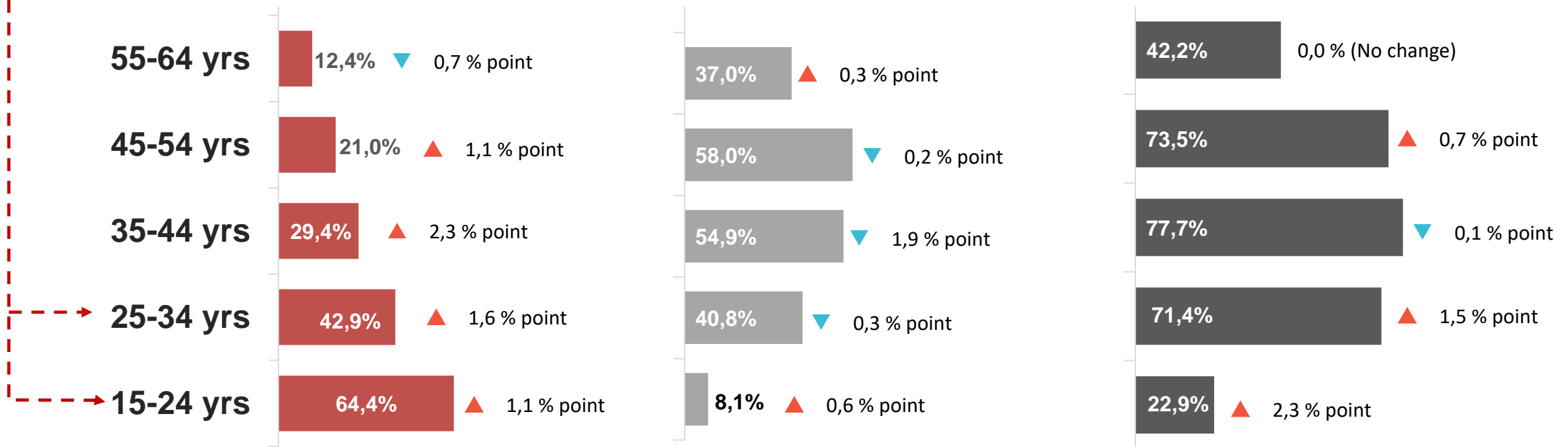
Labour market rates by age group, Q2:2021

▲ ▼ Change: Percentage points
Q1:2021 to Q2:2021

Unemployment rate

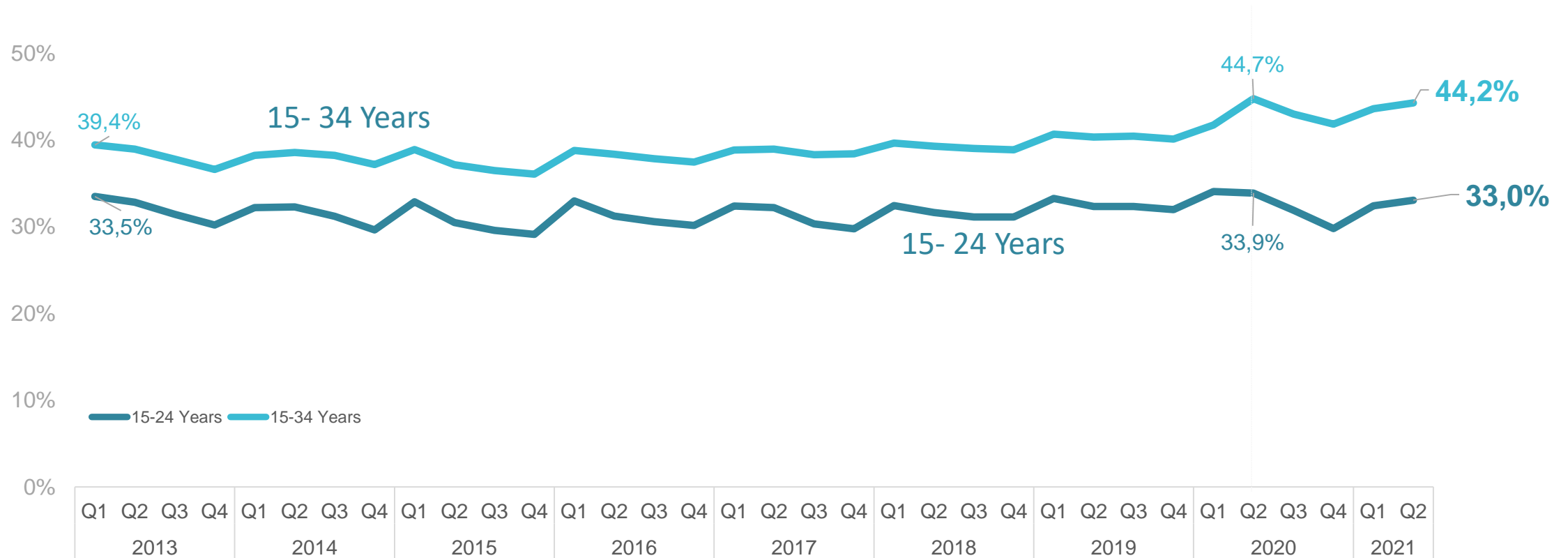
Absorption rate

Participation rate



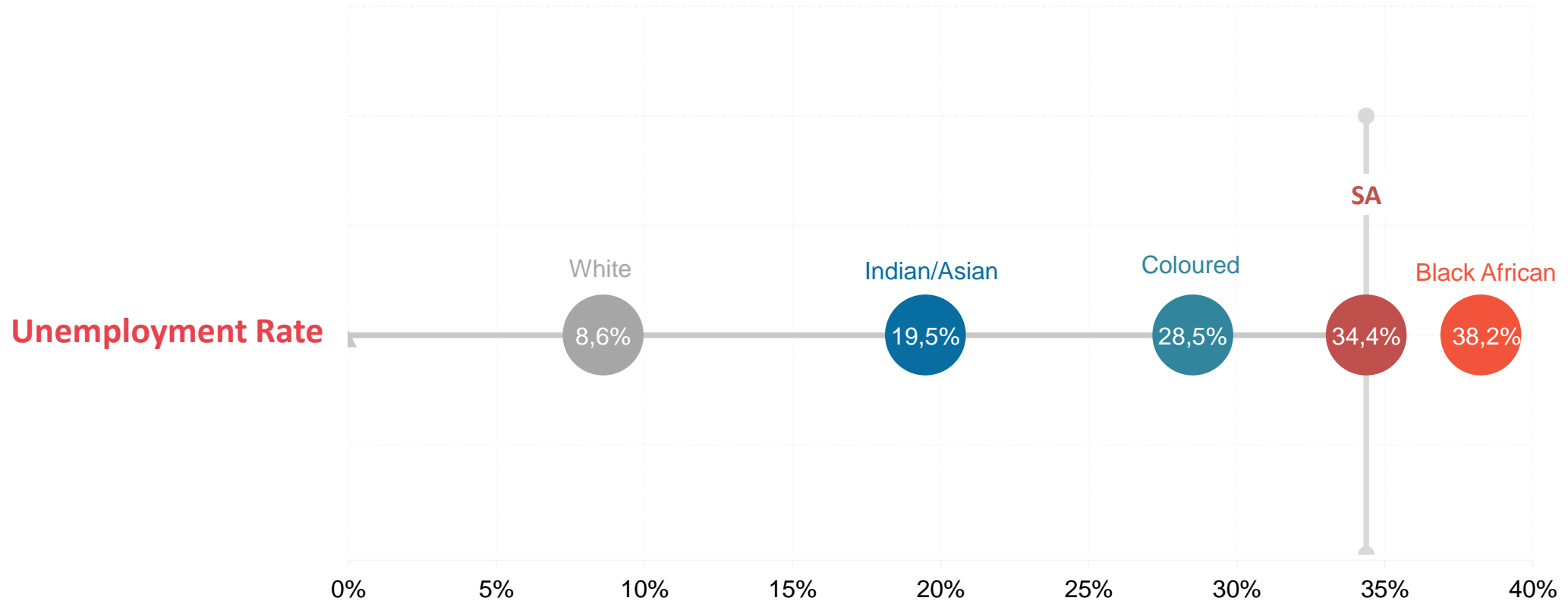
Approximately 3,4 million (33,0%) out of 10,2 million young people aged 15-24 years were not in employment, education or training (NEET). The overall NEET rate decreased by 0,8 of a percentage point in Q2:2021 compared to Q2:2020.

NEET rate ages 15-24 & 15-34, 2013-2021



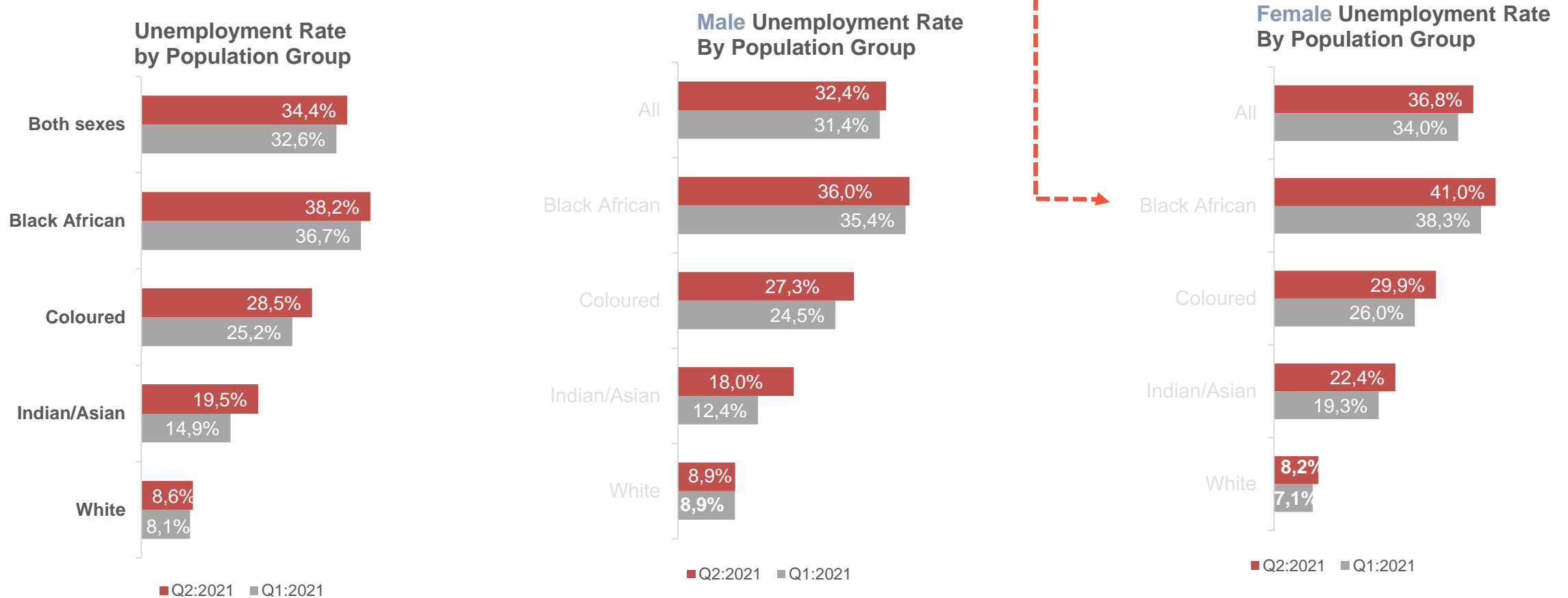
The unemployment rate among the black African (38,2%) population group remains higher than the national average and other population groups. (From 36,7% in Q1:2021)

OFFICIAL unemployment rate by population group, Q2:2021



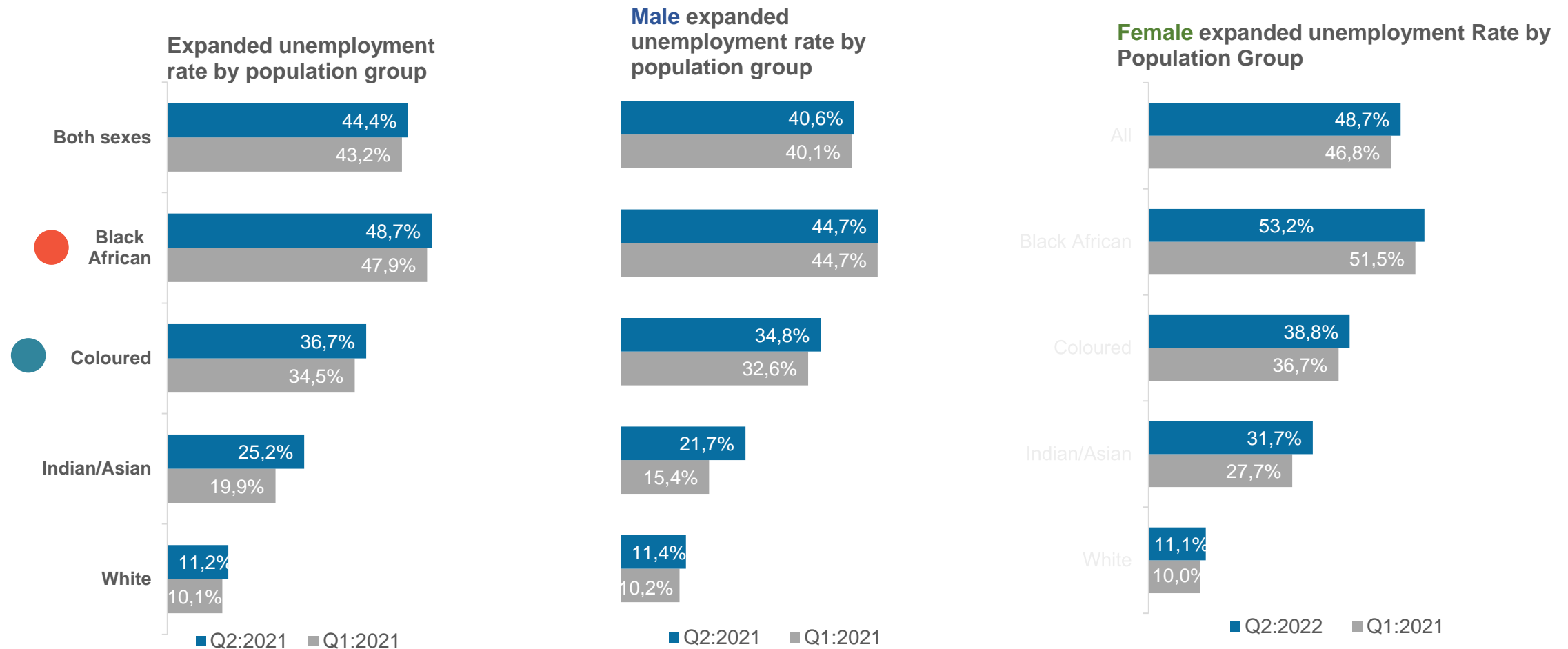
Black African women are the most vulnerable with an **unemployment rate of 41,0%** in Q2:2021. This is 4,2 percentage points higher than the national average


OFFICIAL unemployment rate by population group and sex



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

EXPANDED unemployment rate by population group and sex



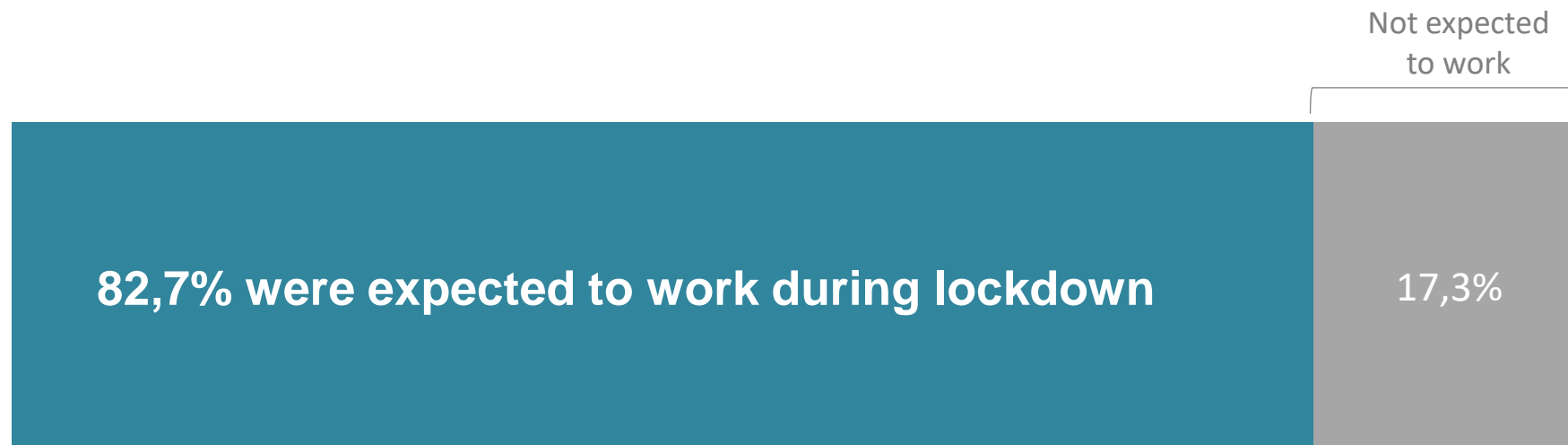


Additional
analysis on
employment
in relation to
COVID-19

This section of the presentation focuses on indicators derived from the additional questions that were only asked of those who were employed.

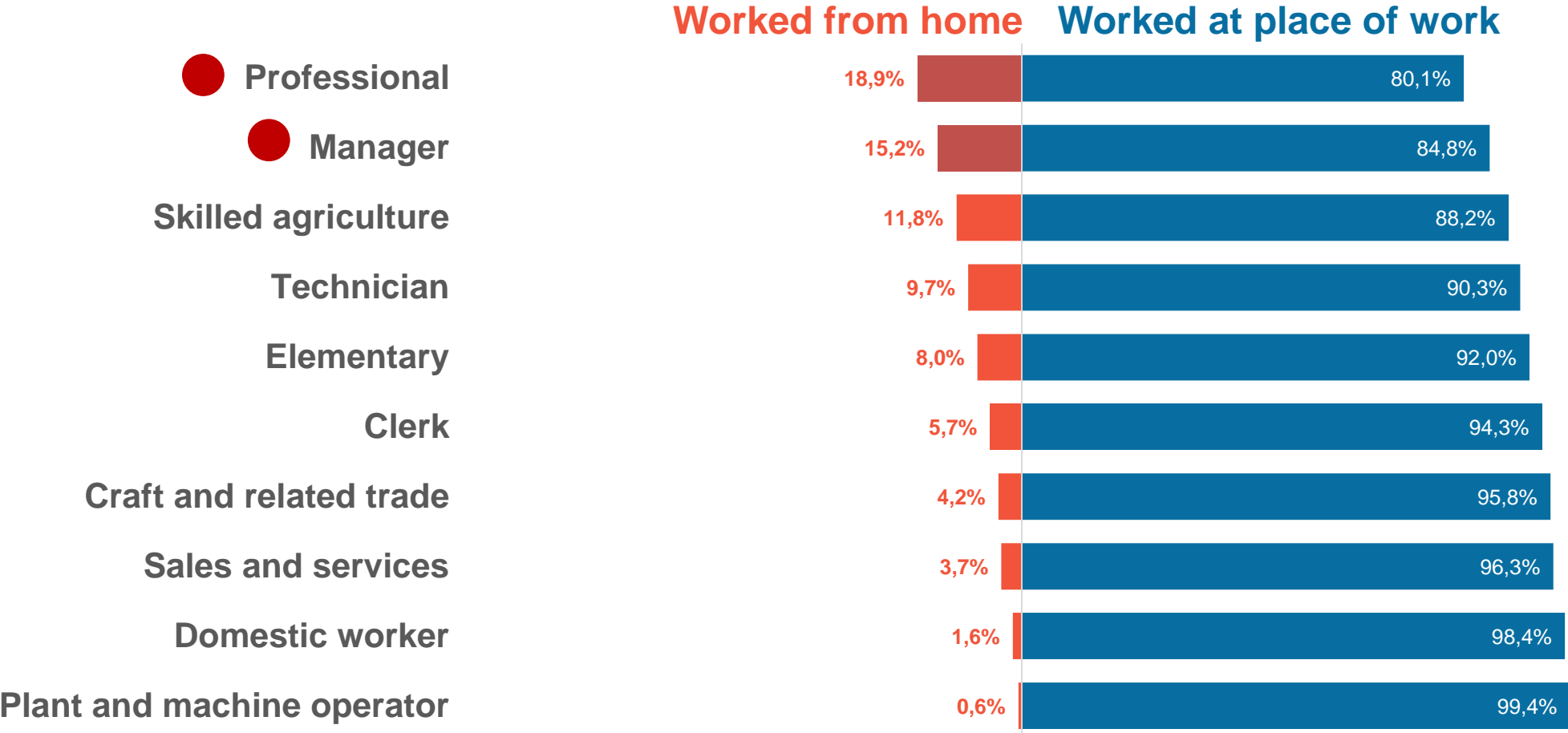
Of the 14,9 million persons who were employed in Q2:2021, at least **8 in every ten (82,7%)** were expected to **work during the national lockdown** by the companies/organisations they work for.

Percentage distribution of those who worked during lockdown

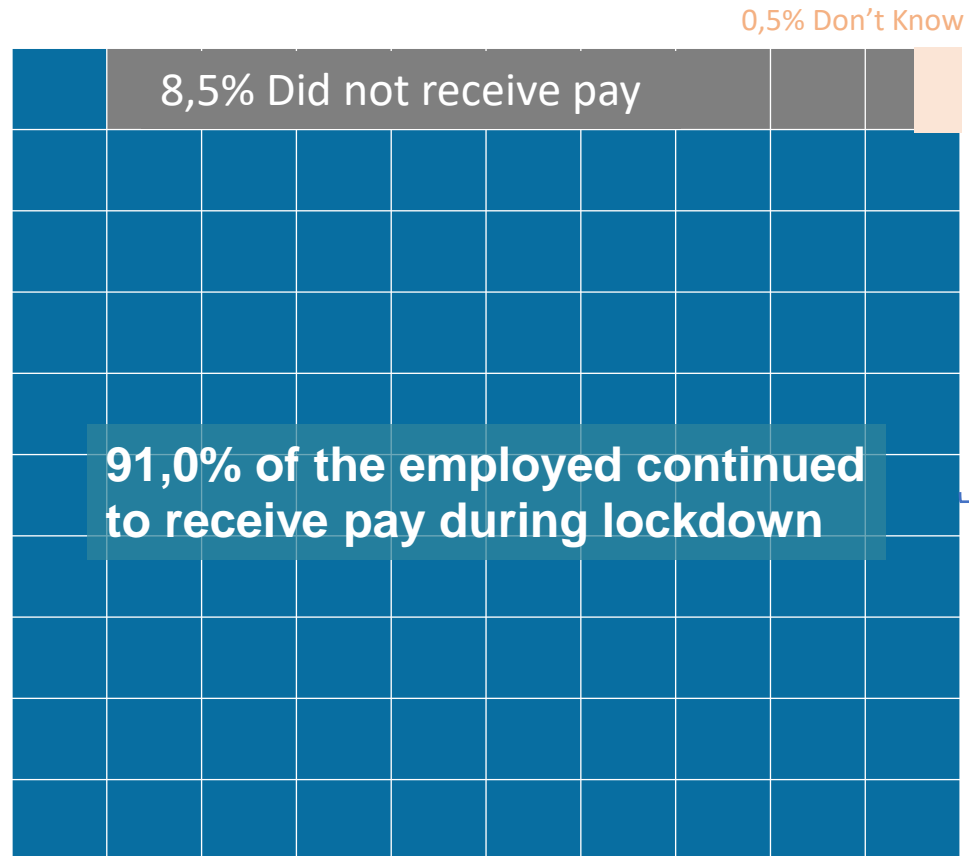


Professionals and Managers were more likely than all other occupations to be working from home.

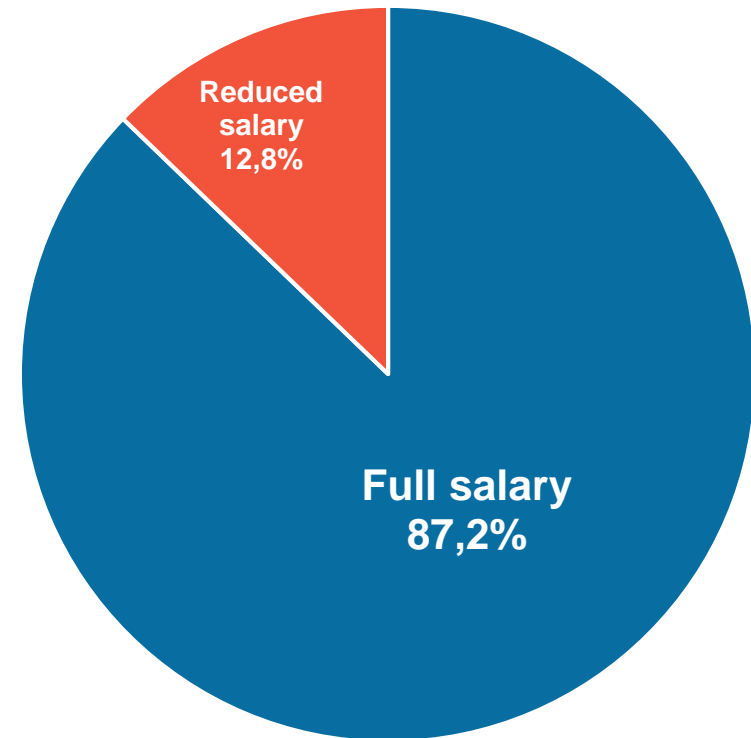
Place of work for persons who did any work by occupation, Q2: 2021



91,0% of the employed continued to receive pay during lockdown compared to those in Q1:2021 (91,3%)

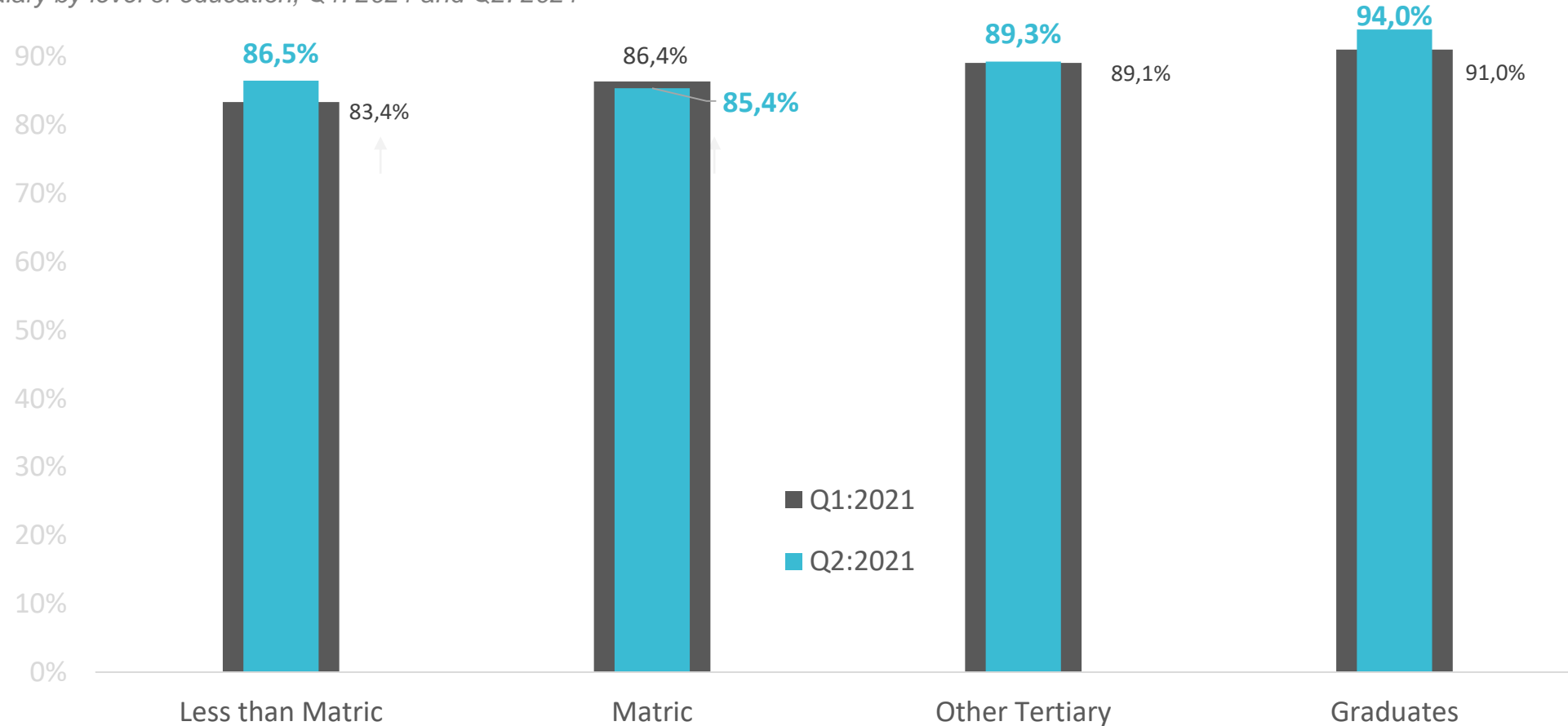


12,8% of those who received pay during lockdown were paid reduced salaries



About 9 in 10 graduates received their full salary in Q2:2021. The share of those receiving full salary **increased** between Q1:2021 and Q2:2021 except among those with matric, where it declined from 86,4% to 85,4%.

Full salary by level of education, Q1: 2021 and Q2: 2021



RECAP (QLFS, Q2:2021)

Unemployment rate (**34,4%**) **increased** by 1,8 percentage points. Absorption rate (37,7) declined by 0,3 of a percentage point while labour force participation rate (57,5) increased by 1,1 percentage points.

Finance (278 000), Community and social services (166 000) and Manufacturing (83 000) recorded the largest **employment losses**.

The number of **not economically active decreased** by 386 000 in Q2:2021 compared to Q1:2021.



QLFS

Q2:2021

Ndzi hela kwala!



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