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Department:  
Statistics South Africa  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

# Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) Q3:2021

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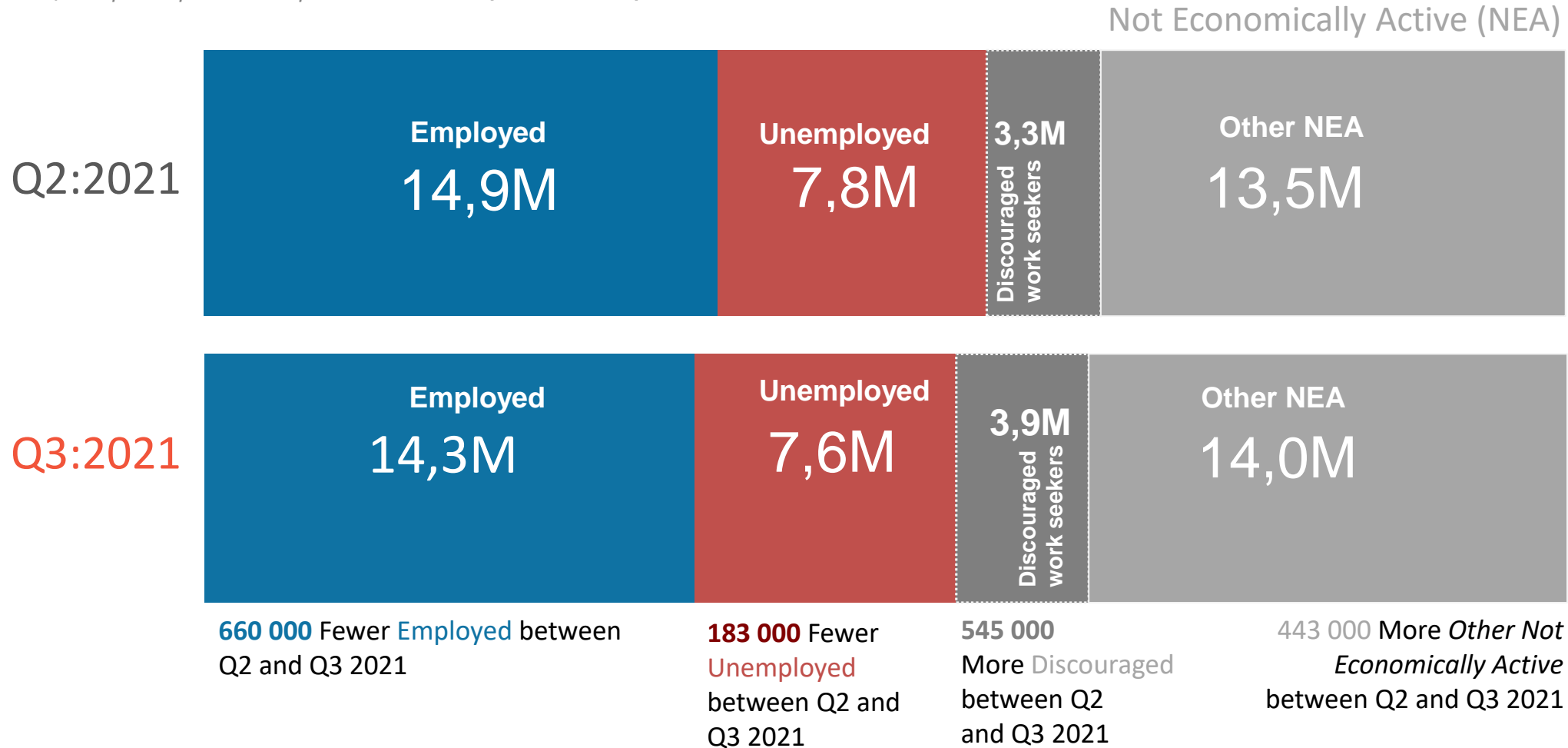
# COVID-19 Impact on Data Collection



- ❖ **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 Q3: 2021. This allowed sample rotation to take place for the QLFS in Q3: 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 Q3:2021.
- ❖ This introduced bias in the estimates. Details on how the **bias adjustment** was done is contained in the report.

# There were decreases in both employed and unemployed in Q3:2021.

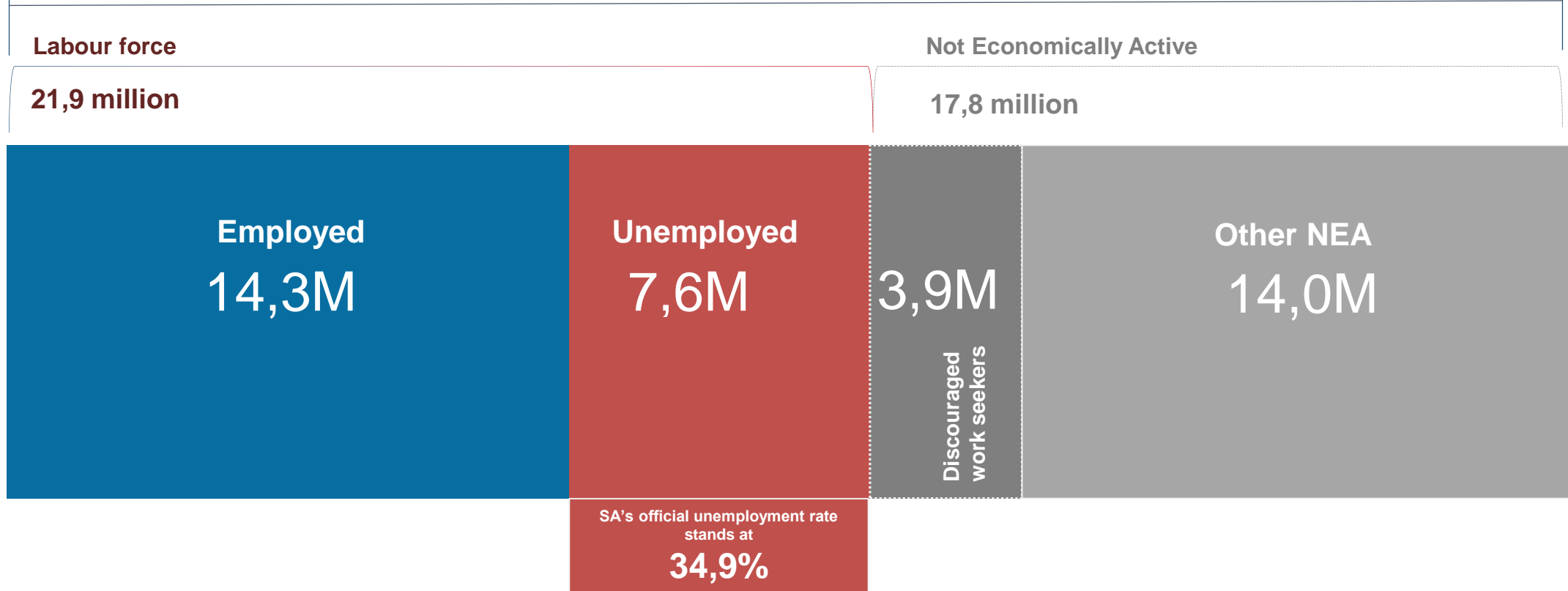
Labour force participation comparison between Q2:2021 and Q3:2021



There were about **660 thousand** less people employed in Q3:2021 than in Q2:2021

## 39,7 million

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



Increased by 0,5 of a percentage point between Q2:2021 and Q3:2021

*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.*

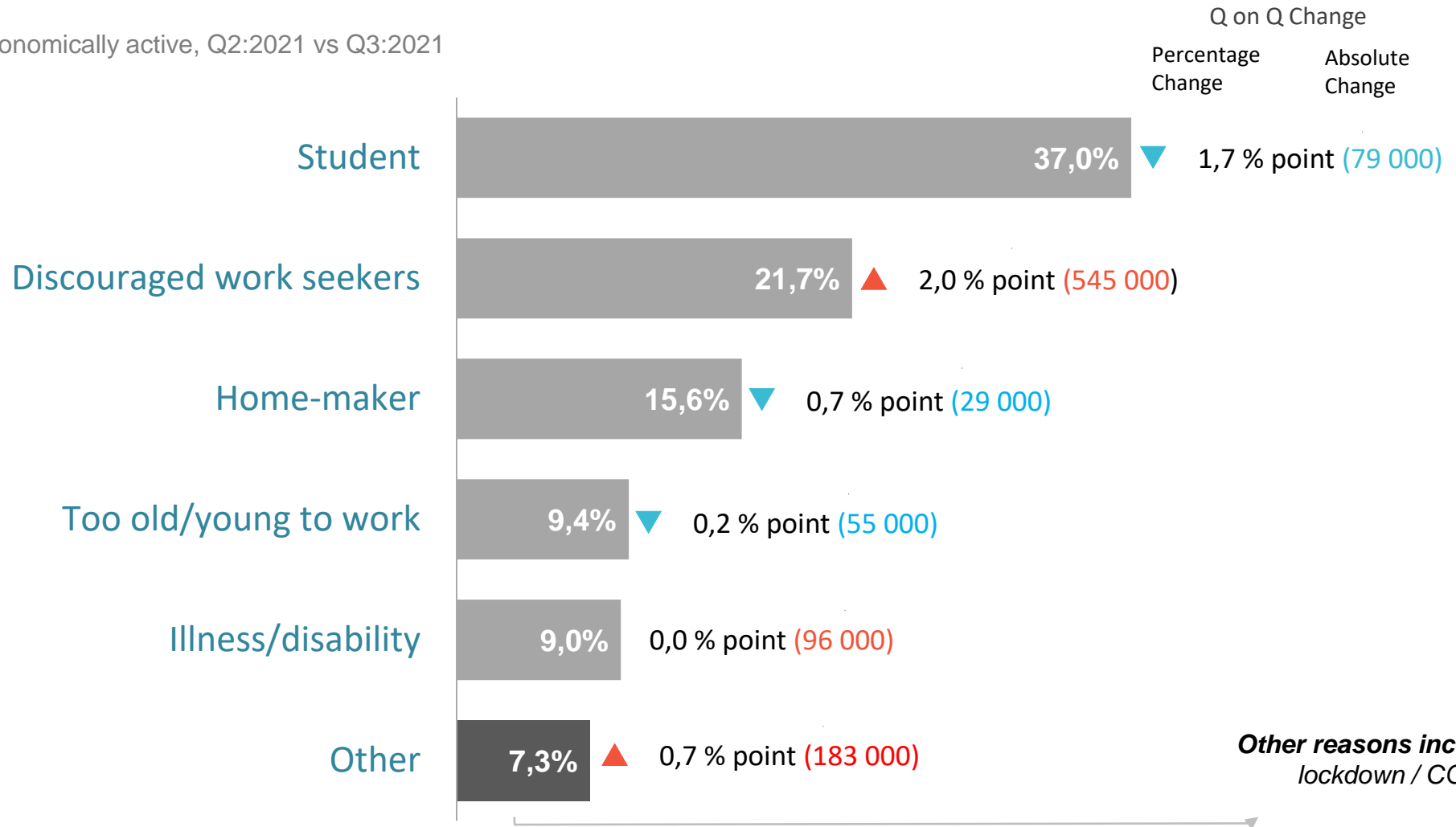
Due to rounding numbers may not add up

The **number of employed have decreased** in the **3 largest provinces** between Q2 & Q3:2021.



# The number of Not Economically Active persons **increased by 988 000** in Q3:2021 compared to Q2:2021

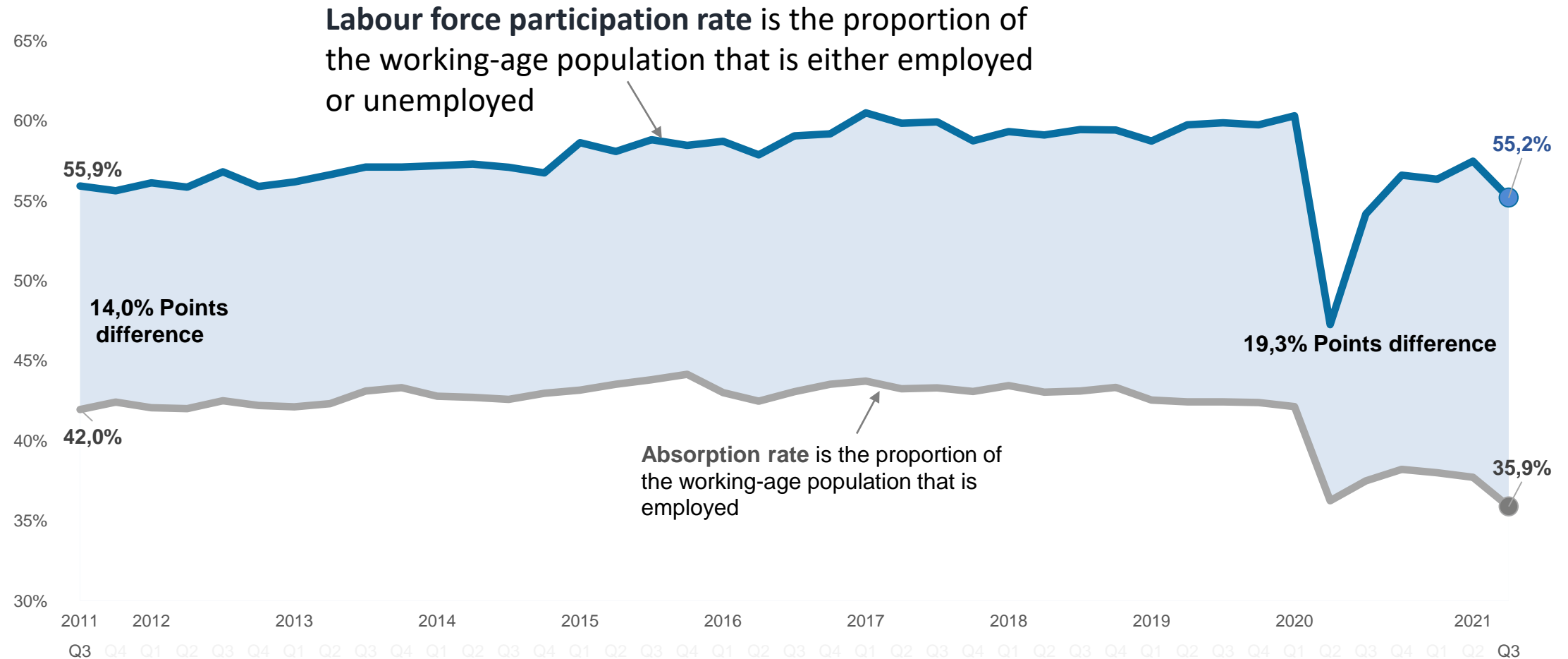
Characteristics of the not economically active, Q2:2021 vs Q3:2021



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

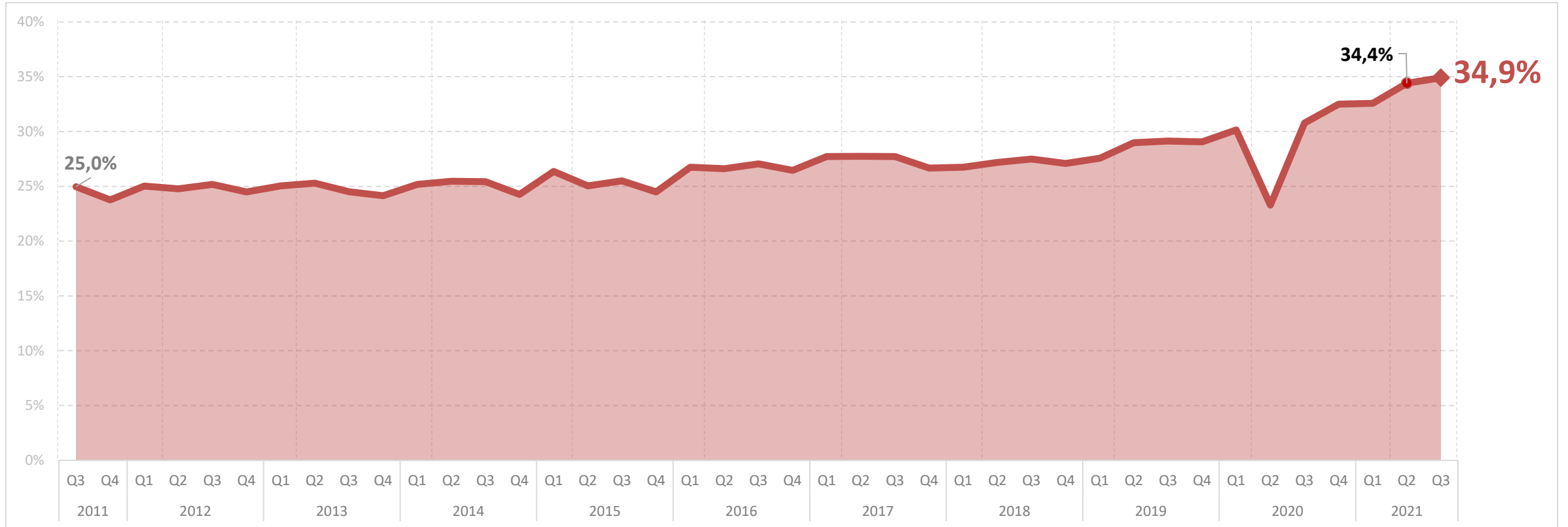
# The Labour force participation rate decreased by 2,3 percentage points from 57,5% in Q2:2021 to 55,2% in Q3:2021

Labour force participation and absorption rates Q3:2011-Q3:2021



# South Africa's **unemployment rate increased** by 0,5 of a percentage point to **34,9%** in Q3:2021 compared to Q2:2021.

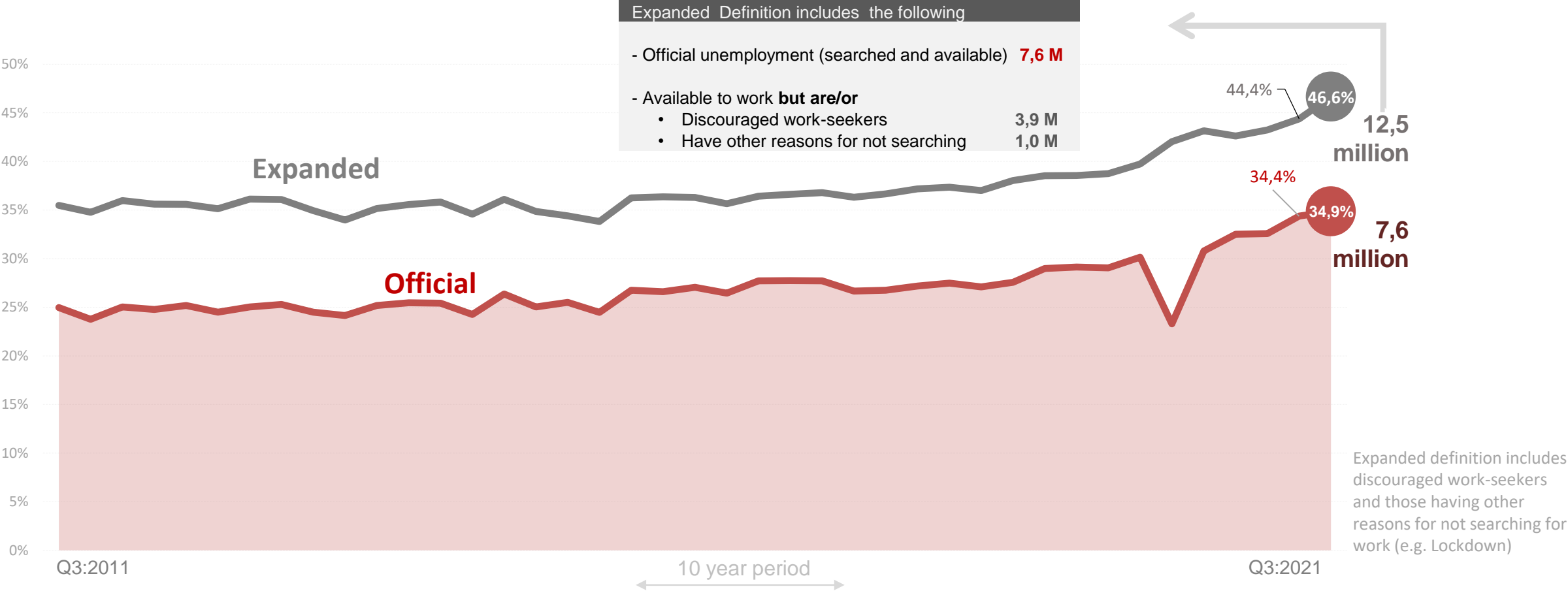
Unemployment rate: Q3:2011 to Q3:2021





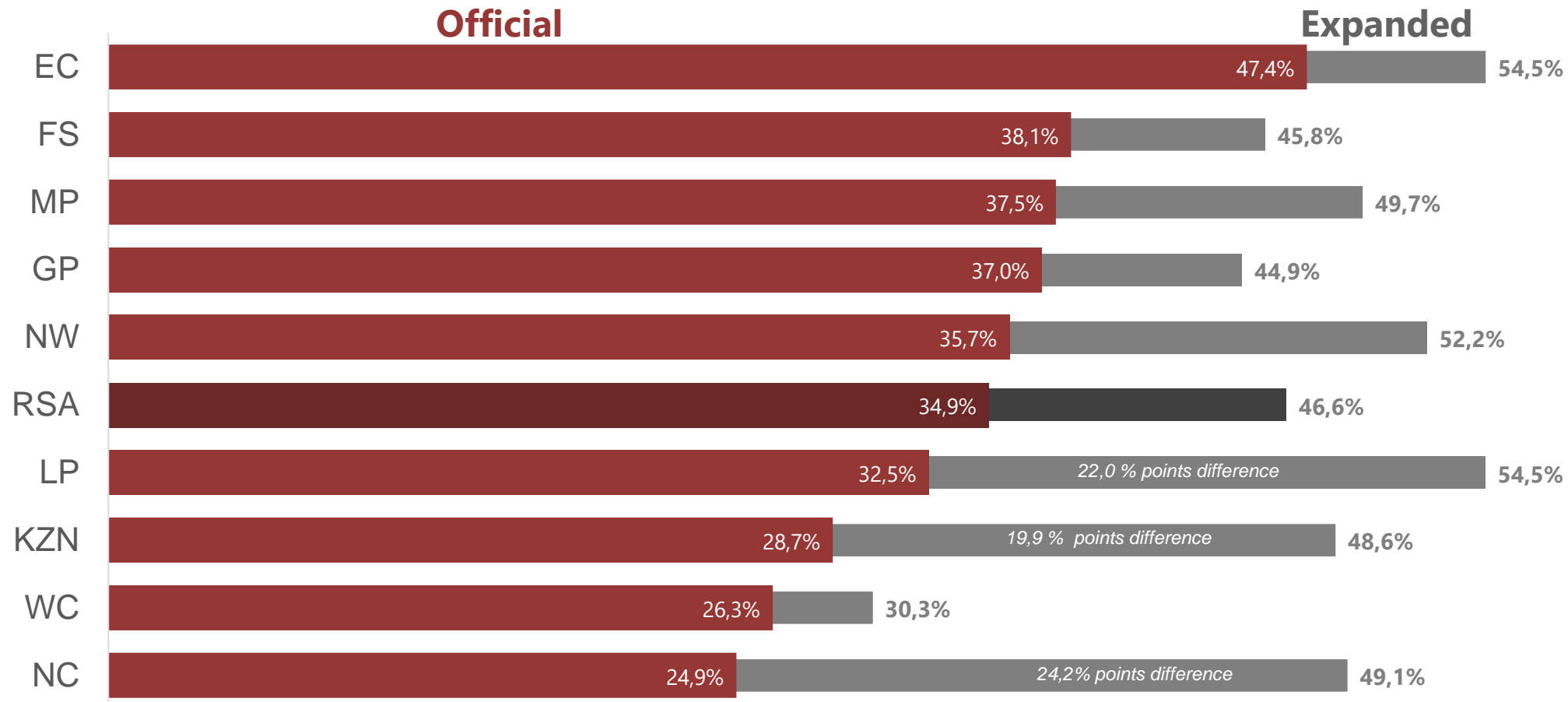
# Expanded unemployment increased by 2,2 percentage points to 46,6% in Q3:2021 compared to Q2:2021.

Official vs Expanded unemployment: Q3:2011-Q3:2021



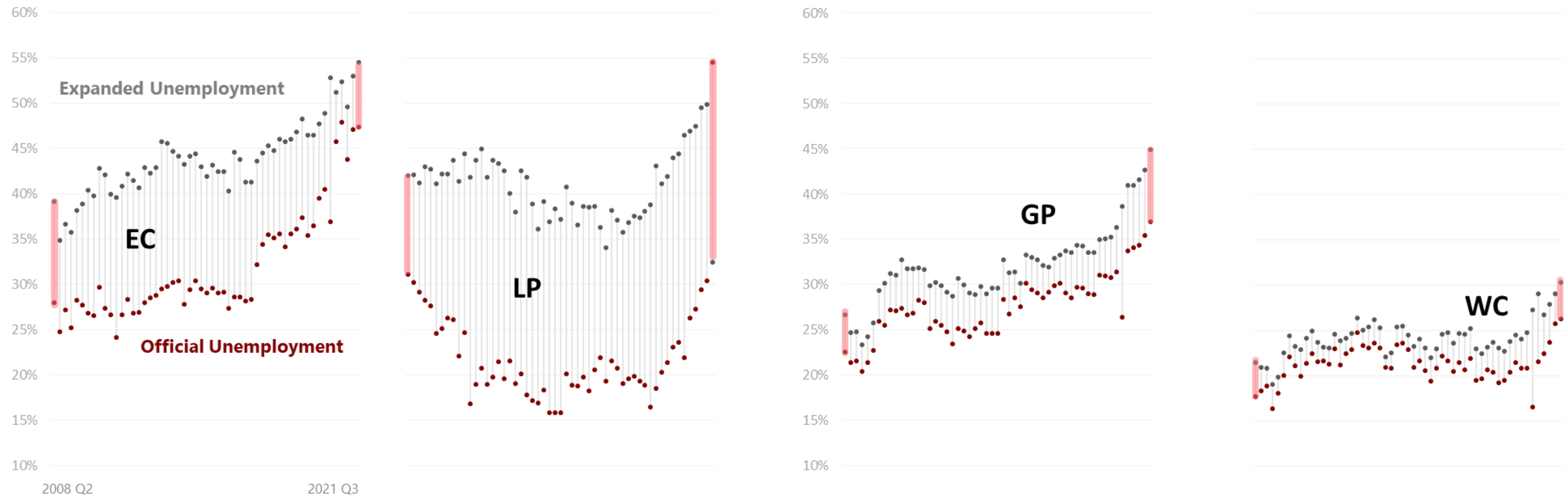
# EC, LP and NW recorded expanded unemployment rates above 50,0% in Q3:2021. *NC and LP have more than 20,0 percentage points difference between their expanded and official unemployment rates.*

Provincial unemployment rate: Official vs Expanded Q3:2021



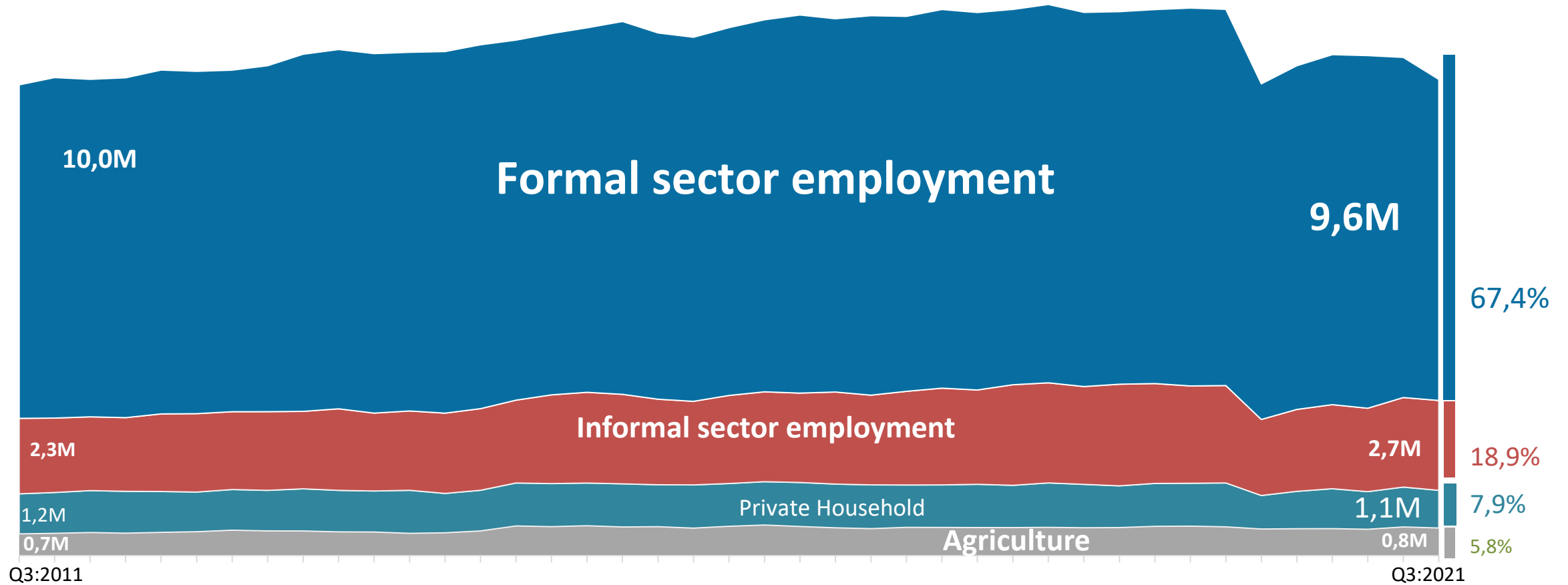
# The gap between **official** and **expanded** unemployment rates can differ significantly over time and location.

Official vs Expanded unemployment 2008 – 2021 Q3 by selected province



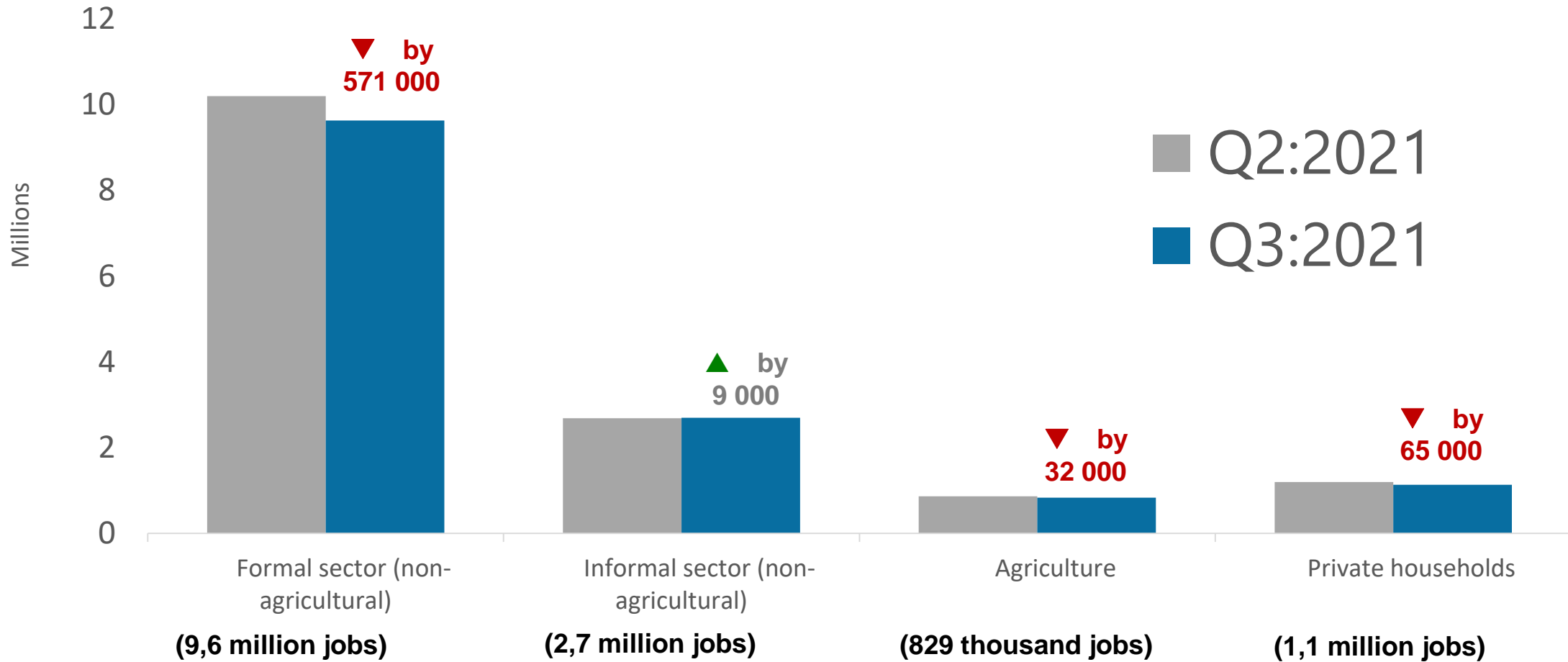
# The **formal sector** in South Africa accounts for **67,4%** of total employment.

Employment share by sector, Q3:2011 to Q3:2021



# Formal sector employment decreased by 571 thousand jobs between Q2:2021 and Q3:2021

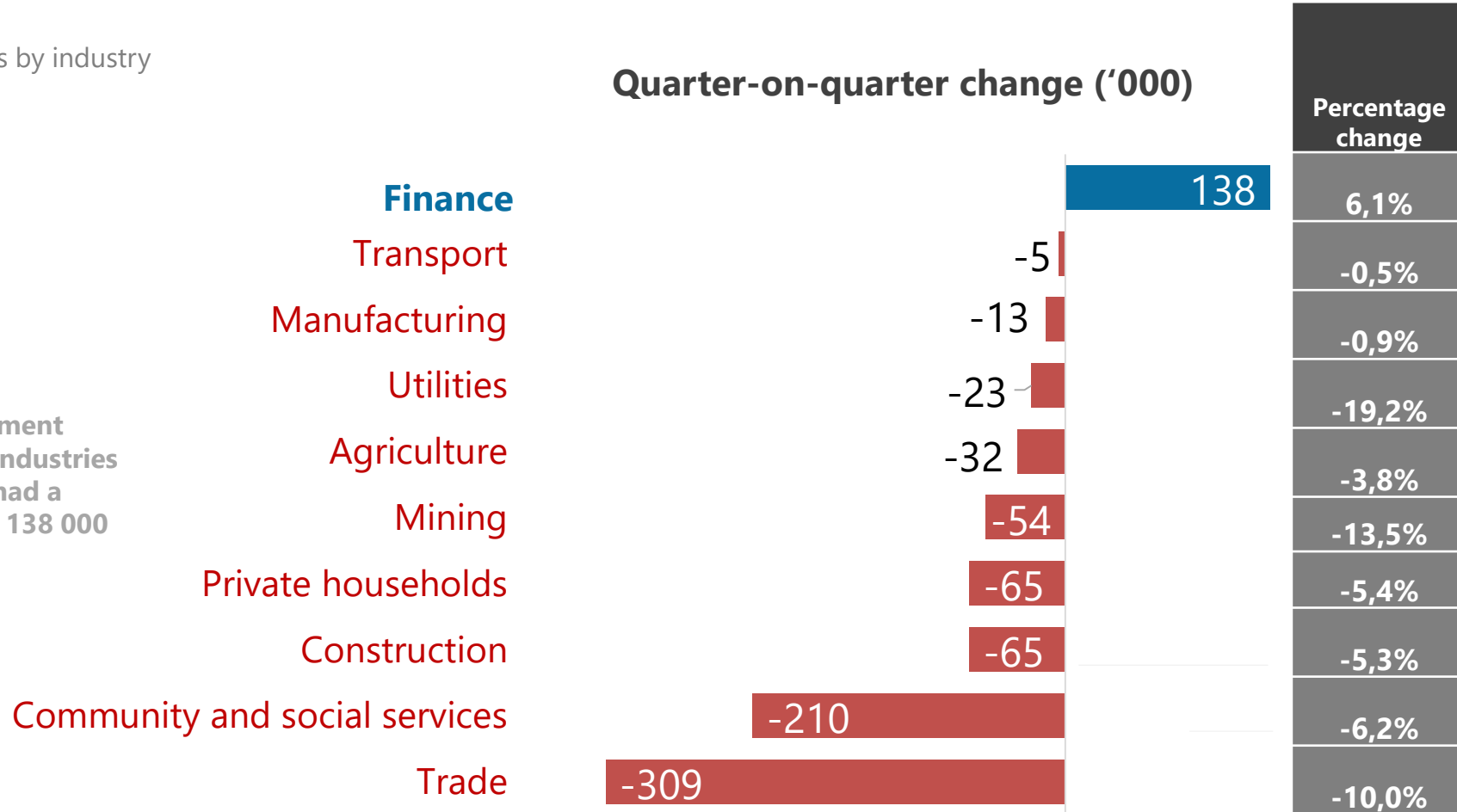
Employment changes by sector, (Quarter-on-quarter)



# Employment **declined by 660 000** in Q3:2021 compared to Q2:2021.

Employment changes by industry

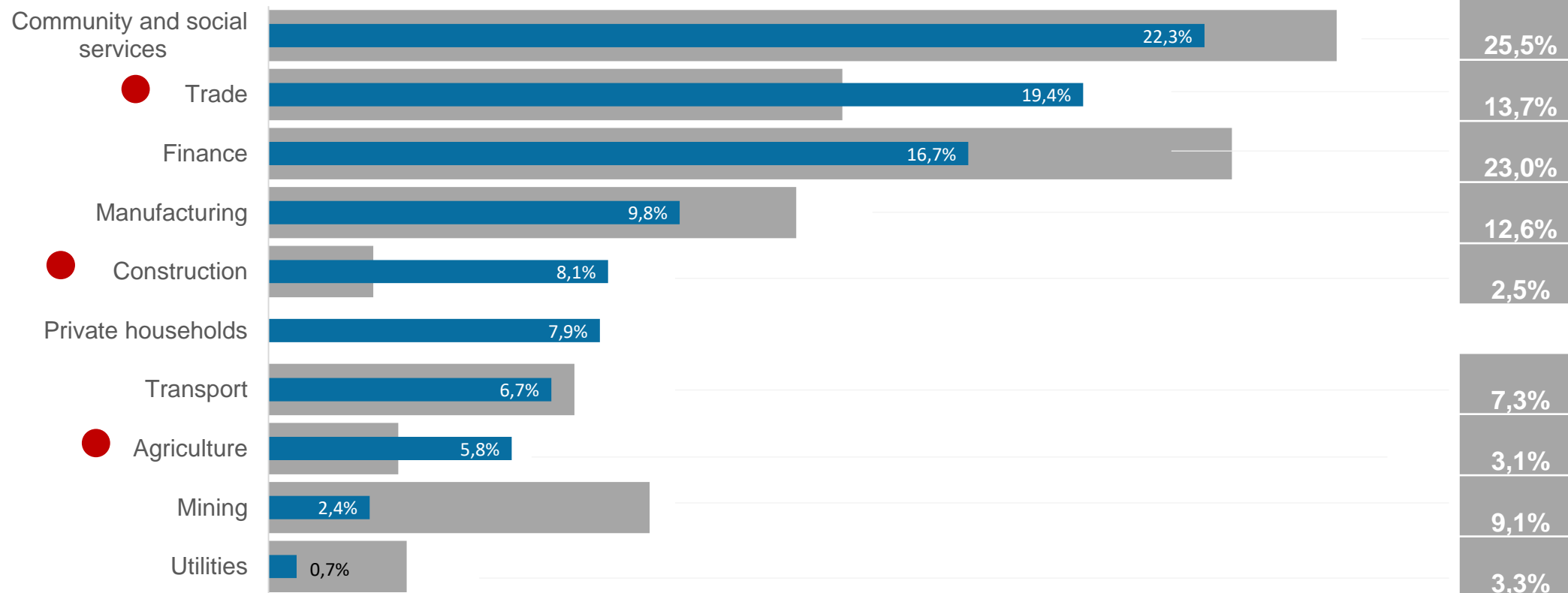
Decreases in employment were observed in all industries except Finance that had a quarterly increase of 138 000



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

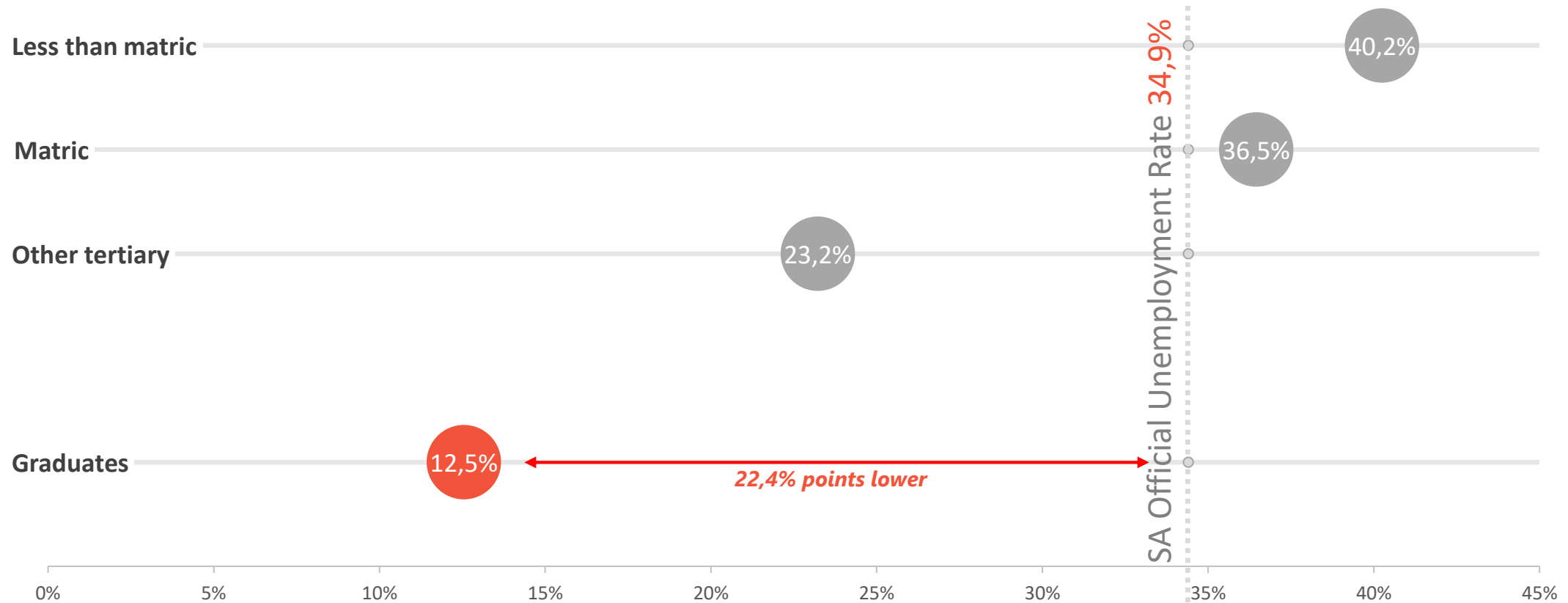
Employment and GDP share per industry

## Employment shares, Q3:2021



# Graduate unemployment (12,5%) is 22,4% points lower than the national official unemployment rate

Official Unemployment rate Q3:2021





• Youth aged 15-24 years and 25-34 years recorded the highest unemployment rates of 66,5% and 43,8% respectively

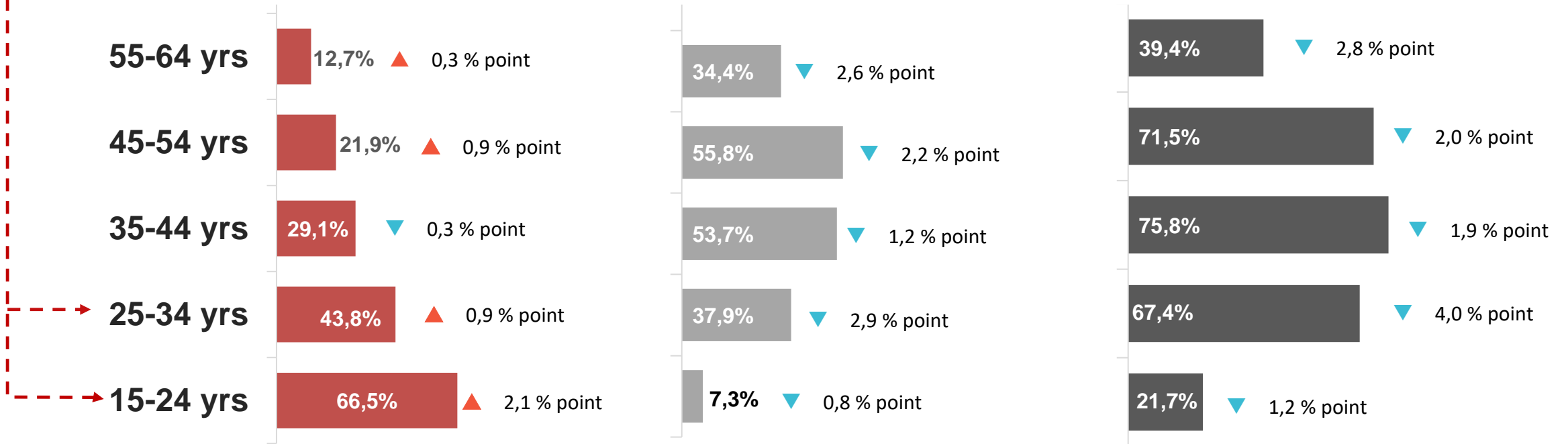
Labour market rates by age group, Q3:2021

▲ ▼ Change: Percentage points  
Q2:2021 to Q3:2021

### Unemployment rate

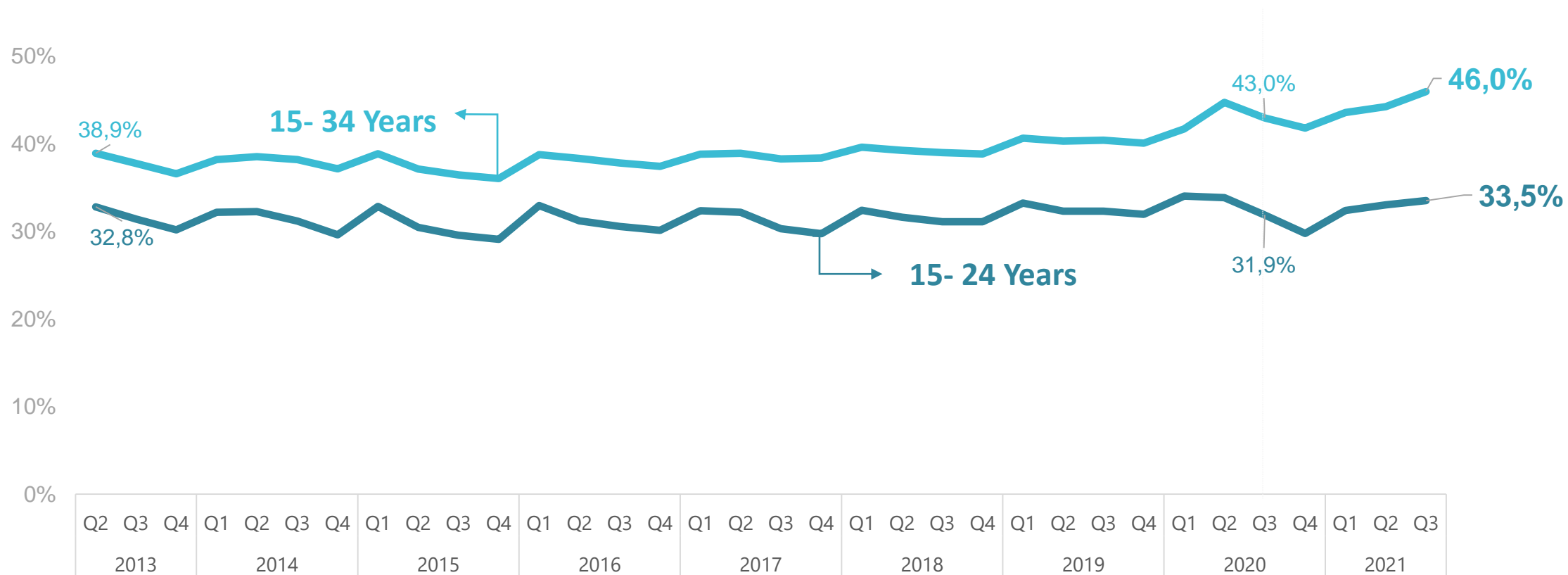
### Absorption rate

### Participation rate



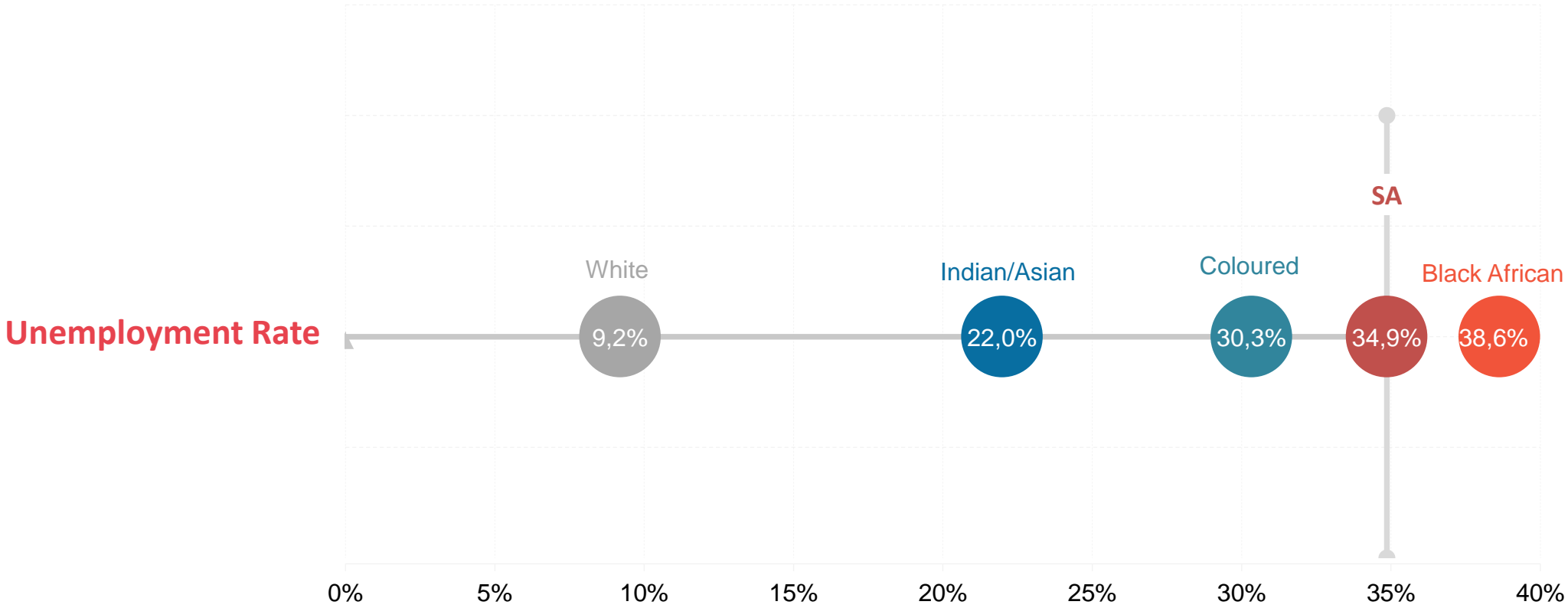
Approximately **3,4 million** (33,5%) out of 10,2 million young people **aged 15-24** years were not in employment, education or training (NEET). *The overall NEET rate increased by 1,6 percentage points in Q3:2021 compared to Q3:2020.*

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



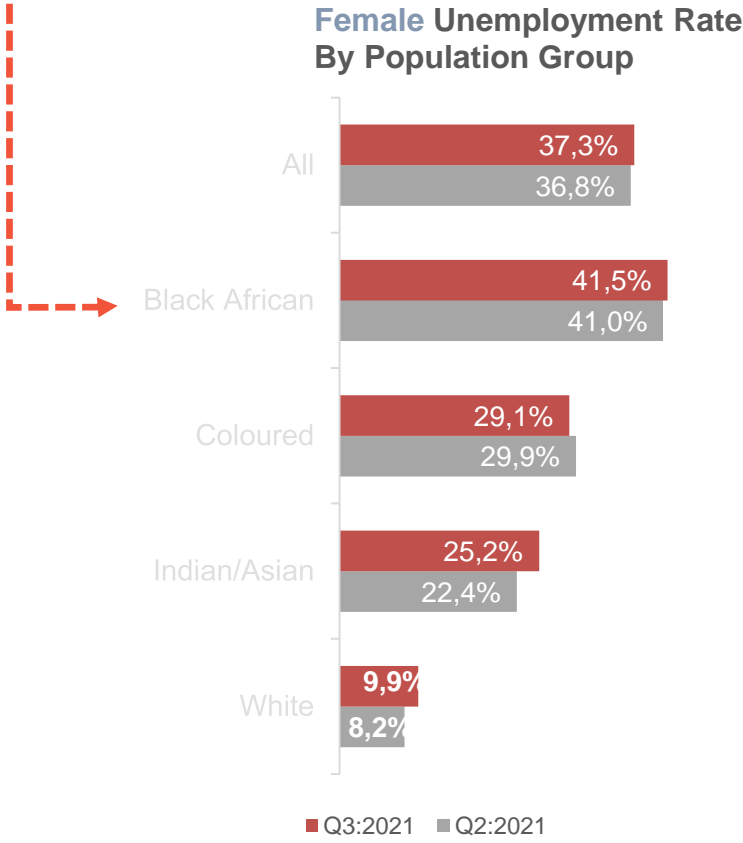
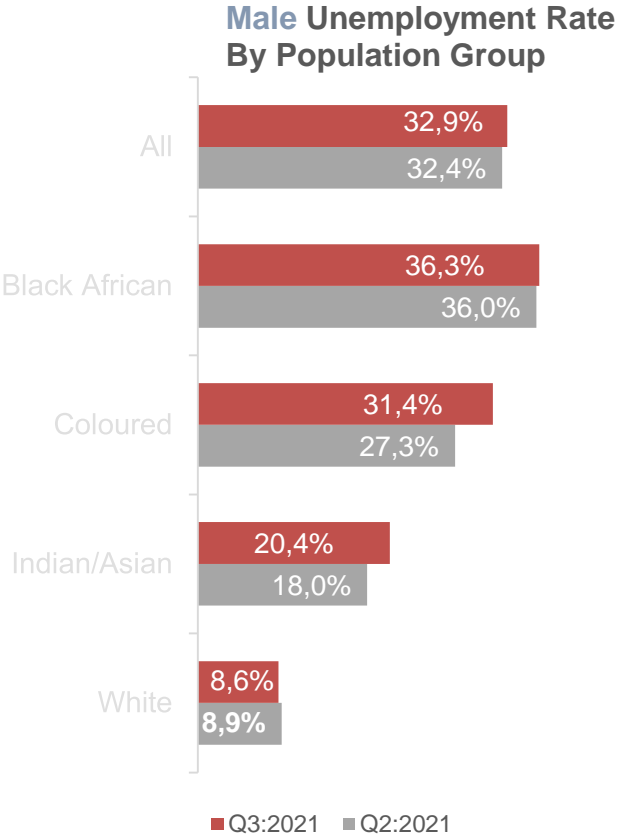
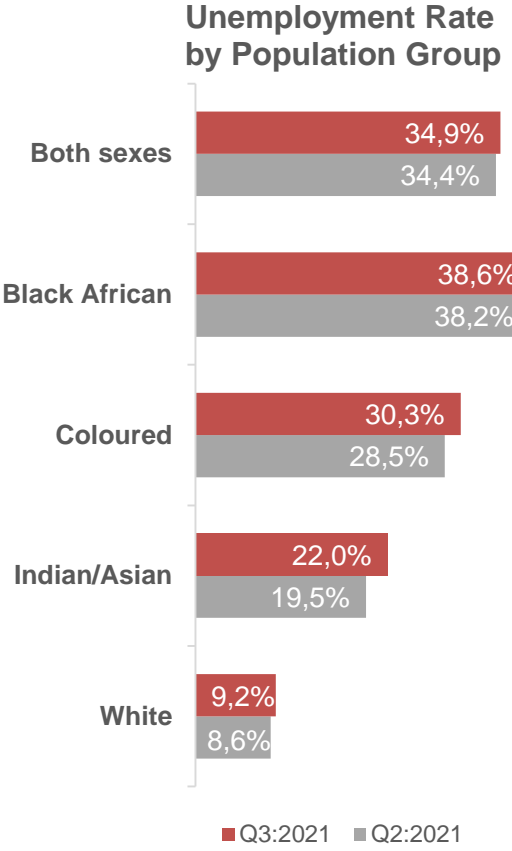
The unemployment rate among the **Black African (38,6%)** population group remains higher than the national average and other population groups. (From 38,2% in Q2:2021)

*OFFICIAL* unemployment rate by population group, Q3:2021



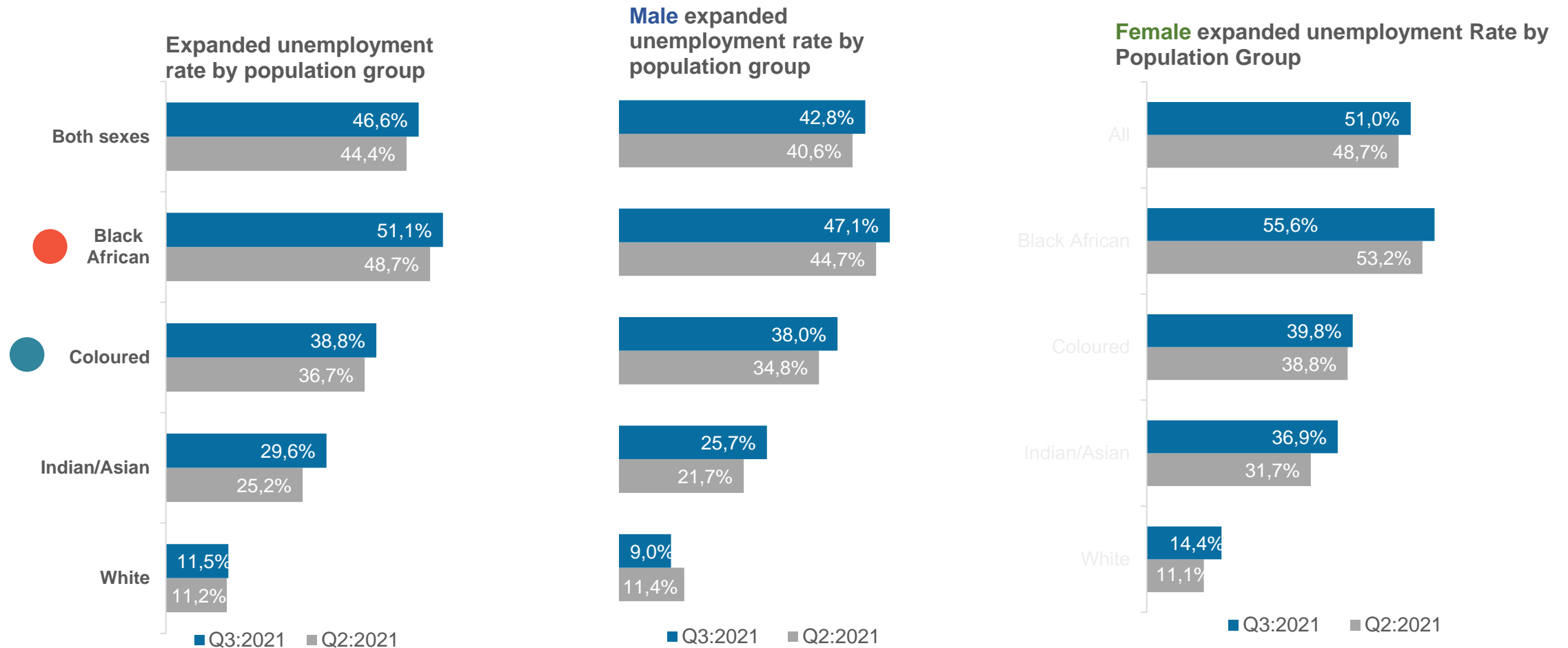
**Black African** women are the most vulnerable with an **unemployment rate of 41,5%** in Q3:2021. This is 4,2 percentage points higher than the national average for females.

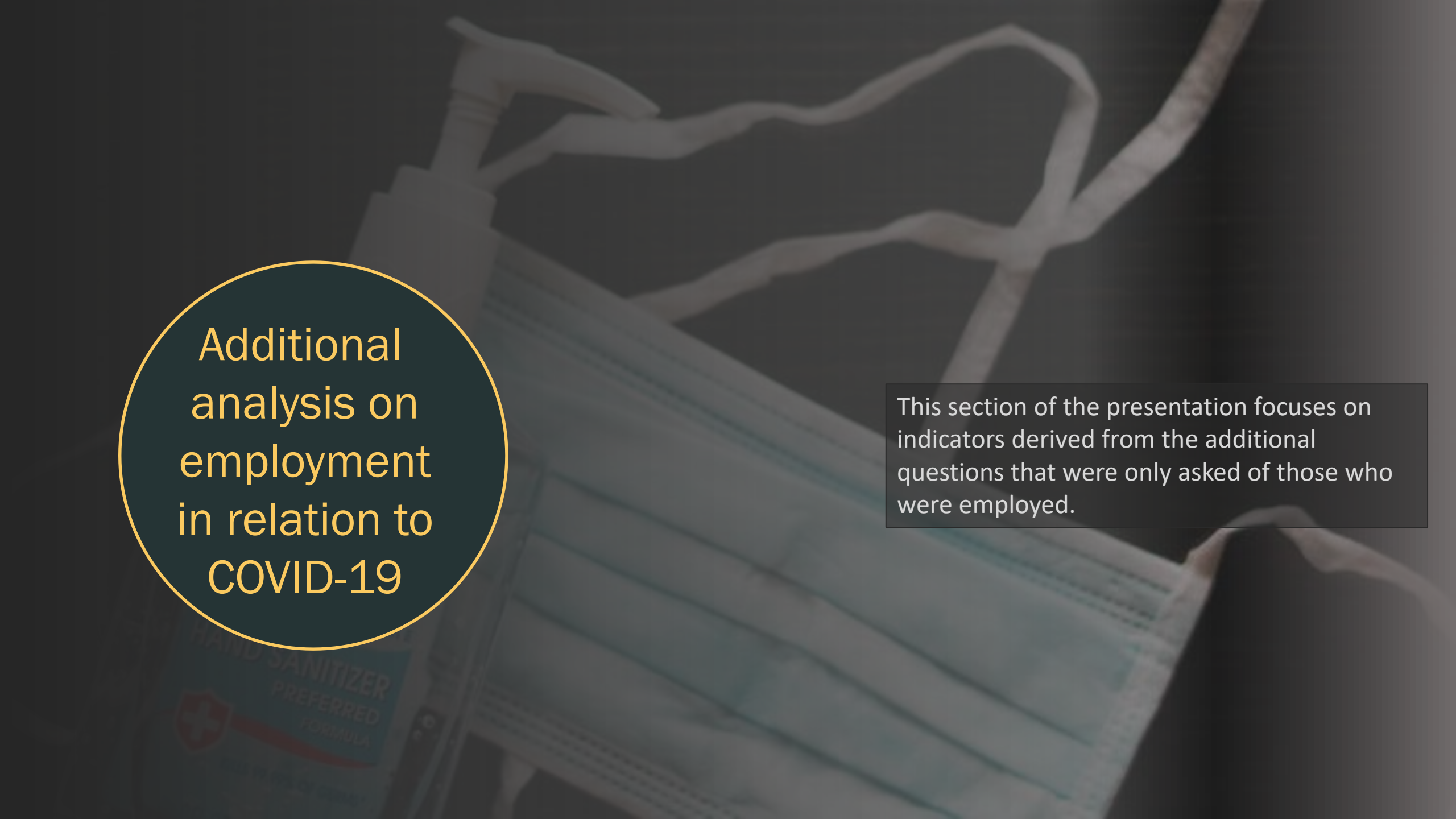
*OFFICIAL* unemployment rate by population group and sex



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

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



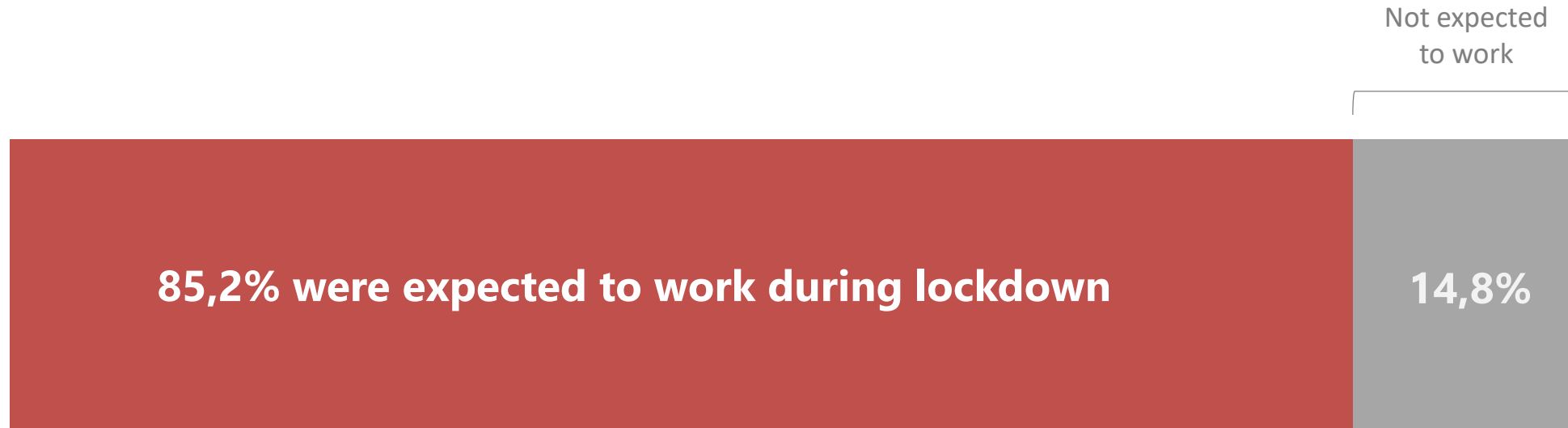


Additional  
analysis on  
employment  
in relation to  
COVID-19

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

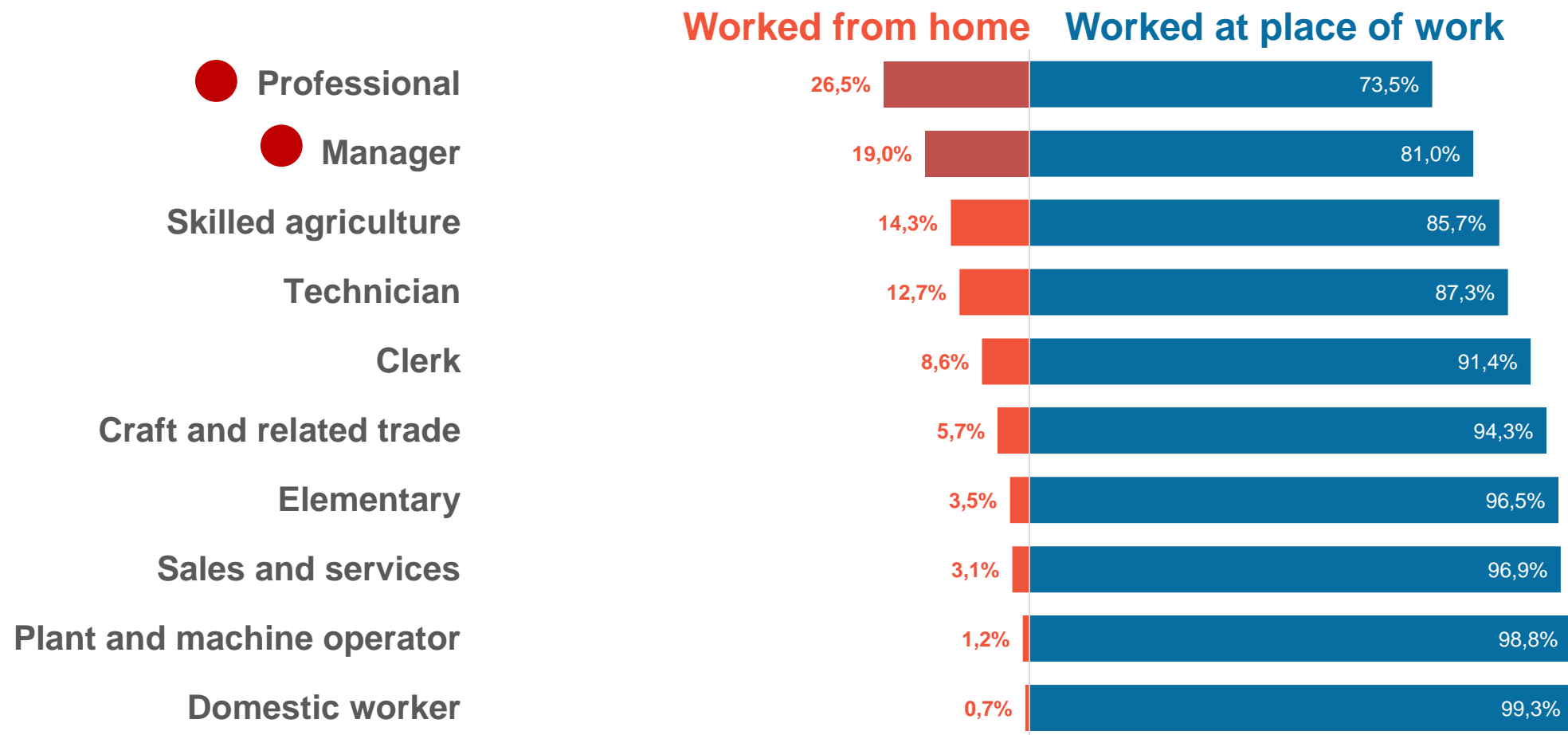
Of the 14,3 million persons who were employed in Q3:2021, at least **8 in every ten** (85,2%) were expected to **work during the national lockdown** by the companies/organisations they work for.

*Percentage distribution of those who worked during lockdown*



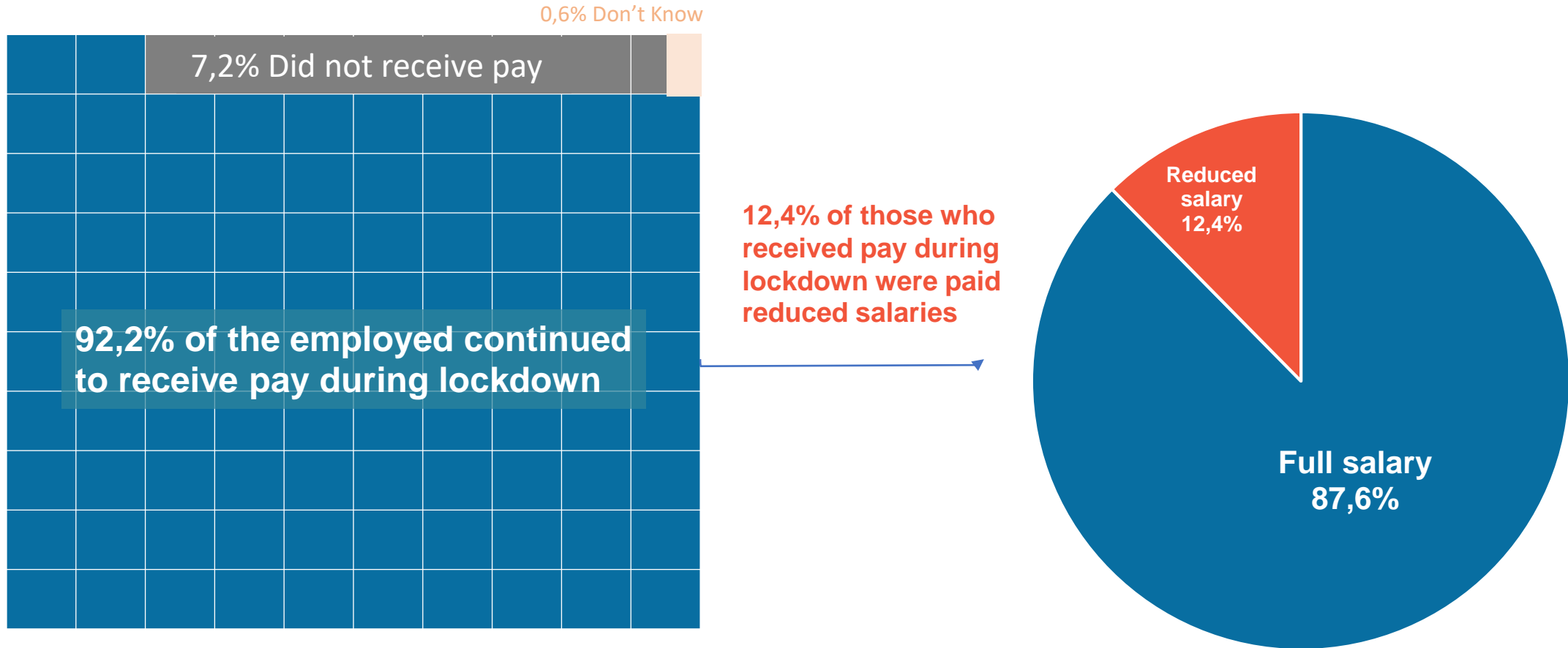
# Professionals and Managers were more likely than all other occupations to be working from home.

Place of work for persons who did any work by occupation, Q3: 2021



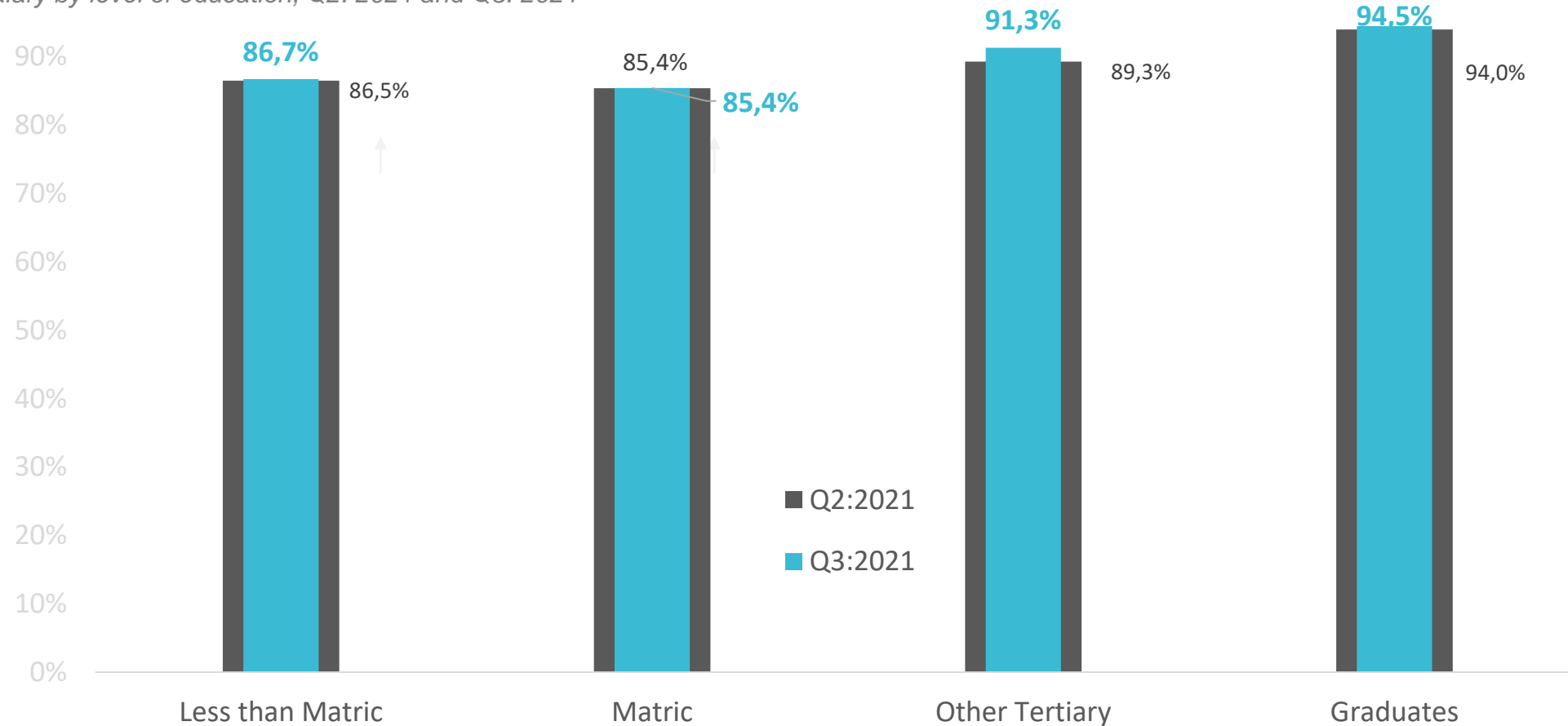


# 92,2% of the employed continued to receive pay during lockdown compared to 91,0% in Q2: 2021.



About 9 in 10 graduates received their full salary in both Q2:2021 and Q3:2021. The share of those receiving full salary **increased** between Q2:2021 and Q3:2021 except among those with matric, where it remained unchanged at 85,4%.

Full salary by level of education, Q2: 2021 and Q3: 2021

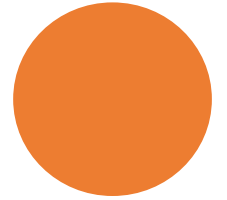


# RECAP (QLFS, Q3:2021)

Unemployment rate (**34,9%**) **increased** by 0,5 of a percentage point. Absorption rate (35,9%) and labour force participation rate (55,2%) decreased by 1,8 and 2,3 percentage points respectively.

Trade (309 000), Community and social services (210 000) and Construction (65 000) recorded the largest **employment losses**.

The number of **not economically active** **increased** by 988 000 in Q3:2021 compared to Q2:2021.



QLFS

Q3:2021

Ndzi hela kwala!



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