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Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) Q4:2021

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Delay of QLFS, Q4:2021 publication



- ❖ QLFS Q4:2021 publication was scheduled for 22 February 2022
- ❖ Stats SA applies **international standards** in the production of official statistics, including labour statistics.
- ❖ In order to provide the public with **quality statistics**, the QLFS had to be subjected to some quality checks. This process took longer than expected, resulting in a delay in the publication of the results for Quarter 4:2021

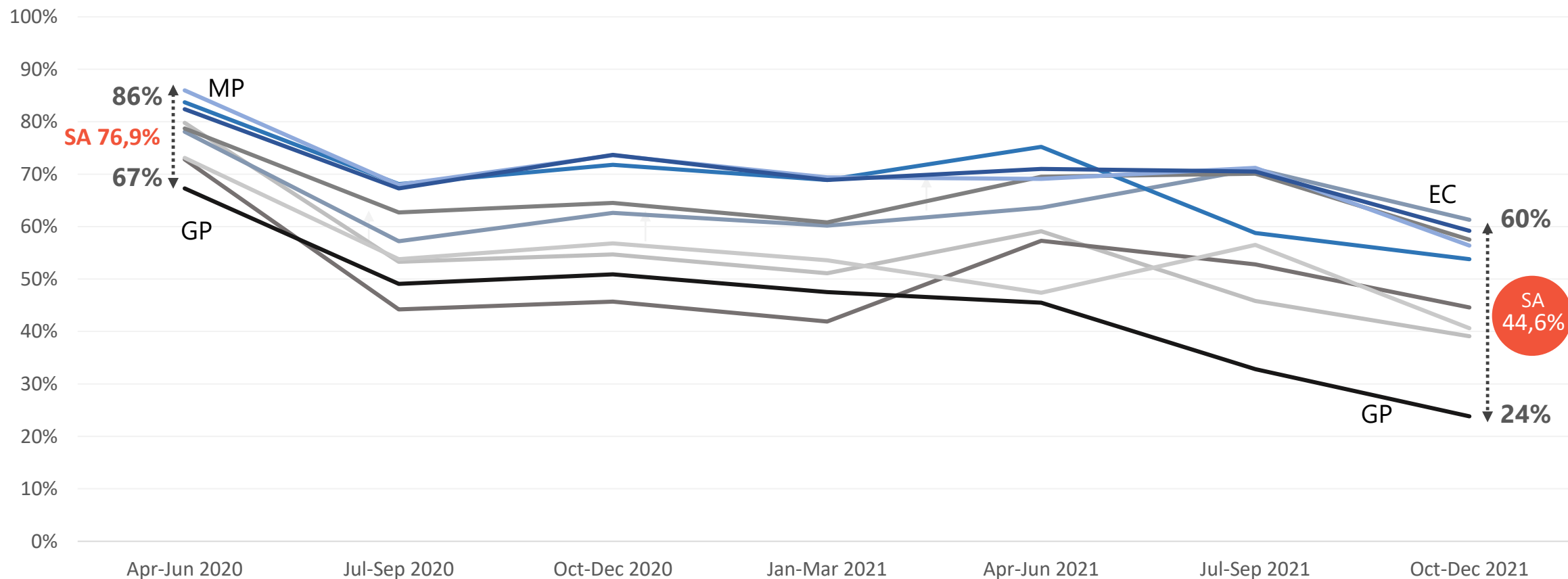
COVID-19 Impact on Data Collection



- ❖ **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 in Q4:2021. This allowed sample rotation to take place for the QLFS in Q4:2021.
- ❖ **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 Q4:2021.
- ❖ This introduced bias in the estimates. Details on how the **bias adjustment** was done is contained in the report.

Response rates during COVID-19 period have been **declining** since Q2:2020. For SA, rates have declined **from an average of 76,9% in Q2:2020 to a low of 44,6% in Q4:2021**

Response rate by province (%)



What does the quality framework(SASQAF) say?

The coefficient of variation (CV) shows the extent of variability of data in a sample in relation to the mean of the population - expressed as a percentage. The CV indicates how far the estimate is from the true value. *So, the higher the CV, the greater the level of dispersion around the mean. **The lower the CV, the more precise the estimate***

Indicators of sampling variability based on SASQAF	
CV ≤ 5%	Reliable
5% < CV ≤ 30%	Reliable enough for most purposes Use with caution!
CV > 30%	Do not publish

CVs of 5% or less indicate that the sample is representative of the true population.

Evaluation of reliability of estimates

- ❖ Estimates at national and provincial levels generally have CVs below 30% and most **estimates at metro level have estimates with CVs exceeding 30%.**
- ❖ Therefore, a decision has been made to publish national and provincial estimates and **not publish metro / non-metro estimates.**
- ❖ Estimates with CVs of more than 5% to 30% are published but should be used with caution.
- ❖ There are a few instances where national and provincial estimates have CVs above 30%.
- ❖ In such instances estimates are represented by a dash (-) in the report and a note is included indicating that such estimates cannot be published due to large CVs.

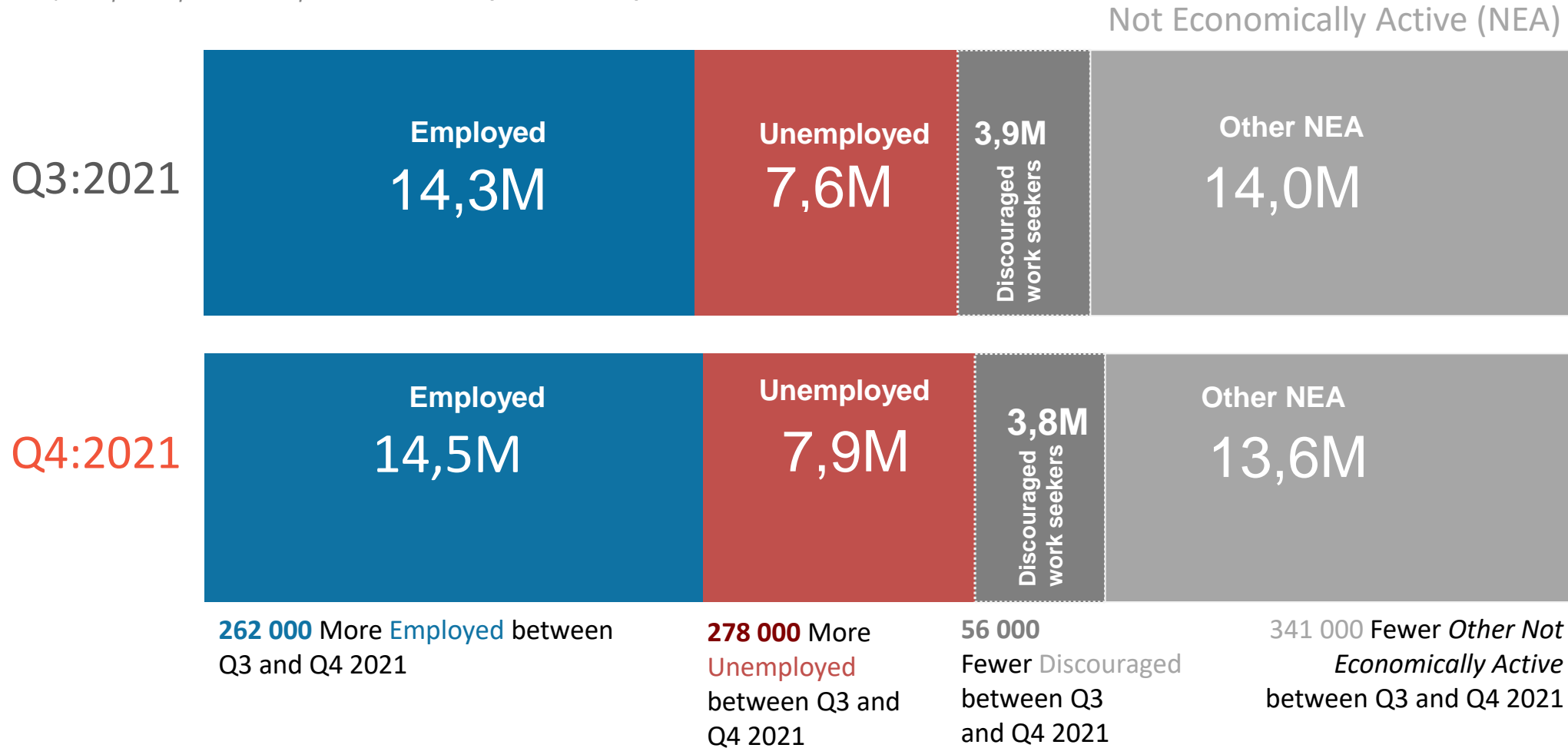
Going forward...



- ❖ The pandemic has lasted far longer than anyone in any country anticipated.
- ❖ When pre-pandemic conditions return, the performance of the QLFS is expected to return to its former levels.
- ❖ Currently the organisation has re-introduced face-to-face interviews using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI), due to eased lockdown levels.
- ❖ Publicity for the survey will also be intensified and Stats SA expects that the use of CAPI will improve the response rates going forward.

There were increases in both employed and unemployed in **Q4:2021**.

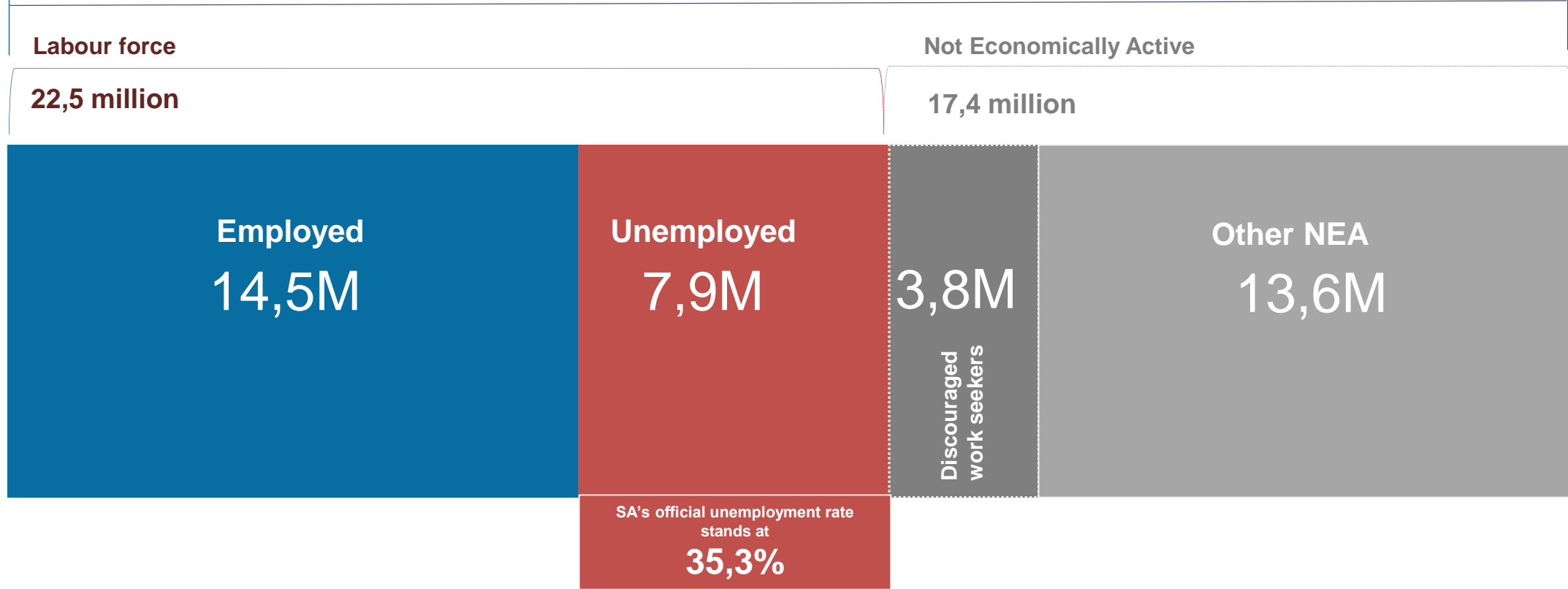
Labour force participation comparison between Q3:2021 and Q4:2021



There were about **262 thousand** more people employed in Q4:2021 than in Q3:2021

39,9 million

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



Increased by 0,4 of a percentage point between Q3:2021 and Q4:2021

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

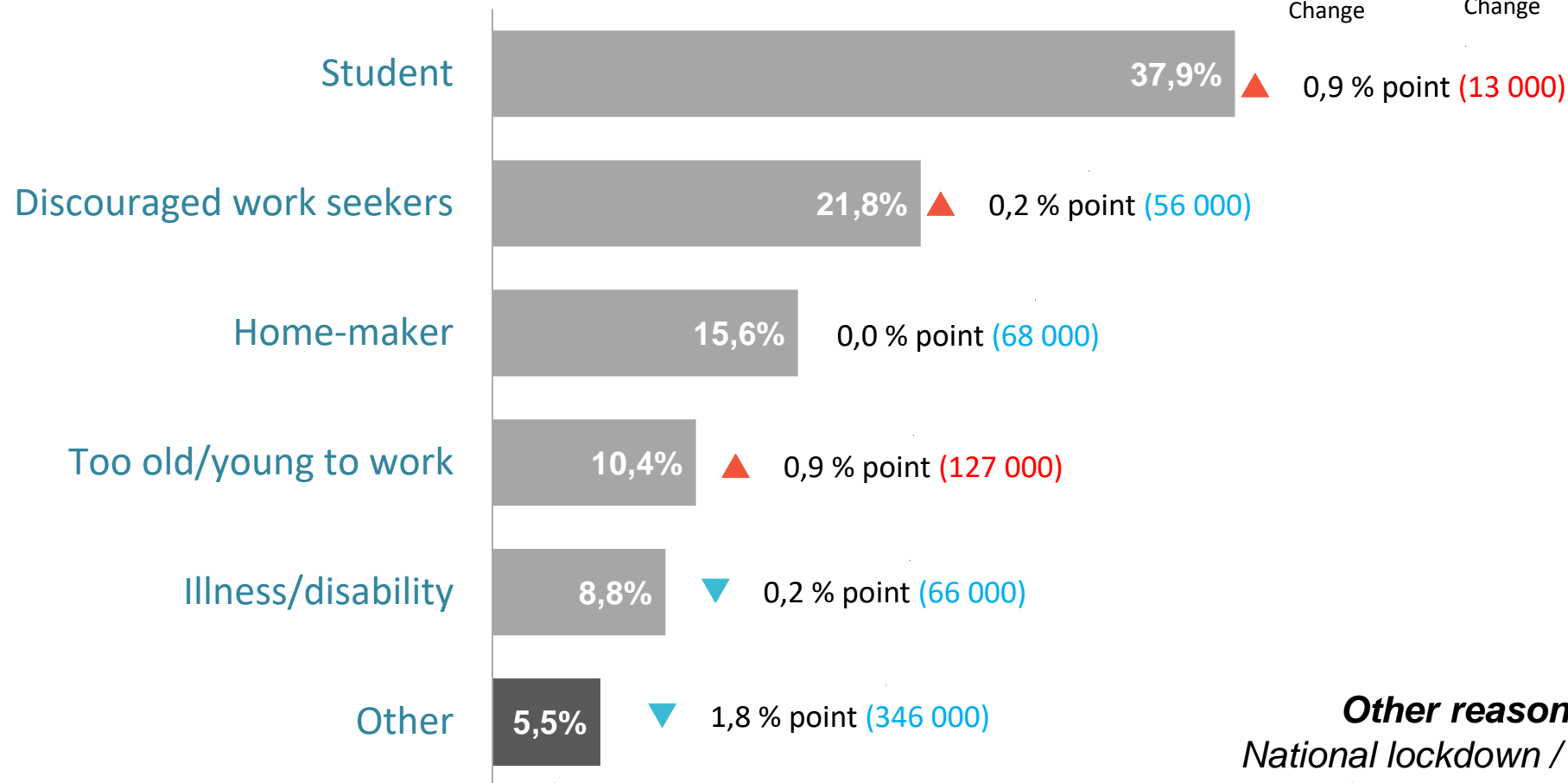
The number of **Not Economically Active** persons **decreased by 397 000** in Q4:2021 compared to Q3:2021

Characteristics of the not economically active, Q3:2021 vs Q4:2021

Q on Q Change

Percentage Change

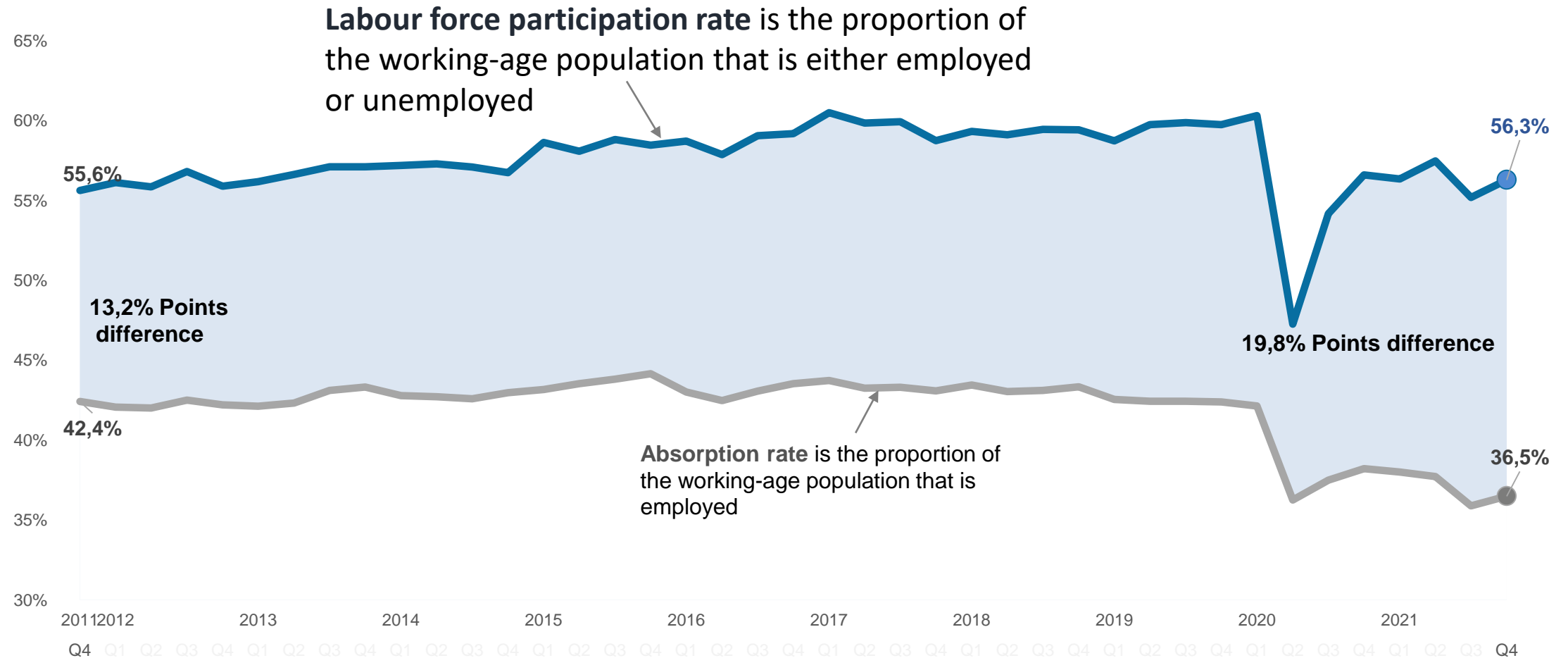
Absolute Change



Other reasons include:
National lockdown / COVID-19

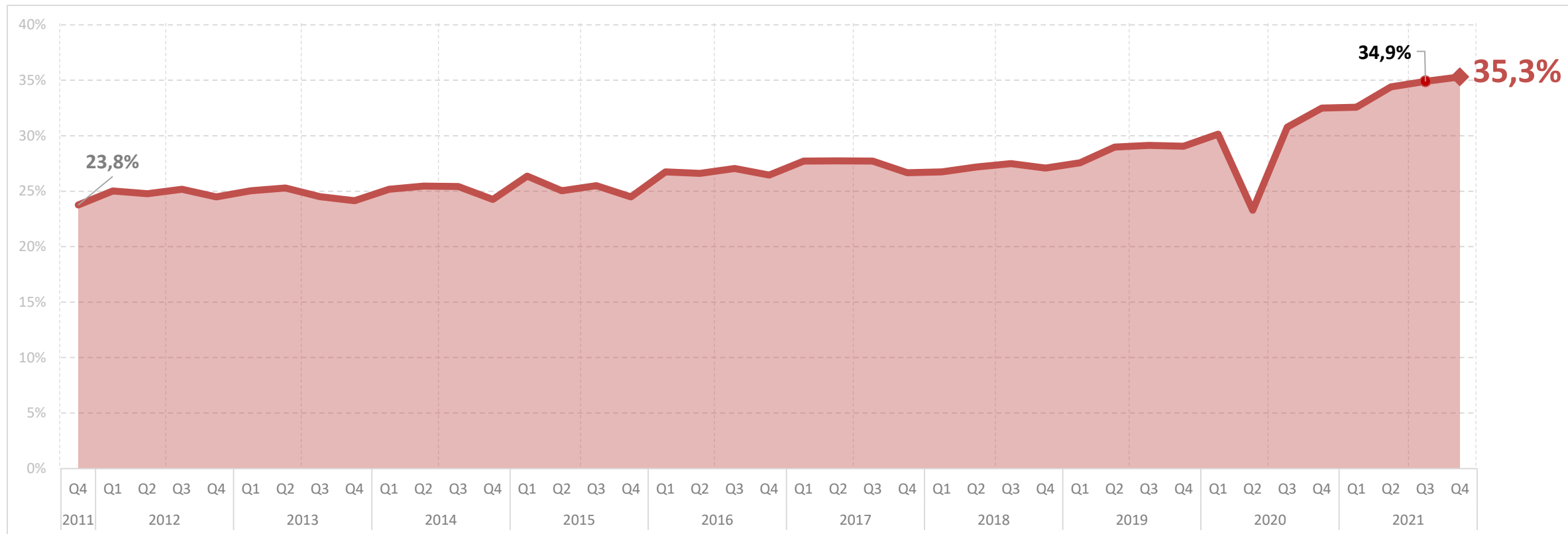
The Labour force participation rate increased by 1,1 percentage points from 55,2% in Q3:2021 to 56,3% in Q4:2021

Labour force participation and absorption rates Q4:2011-Q4:2021



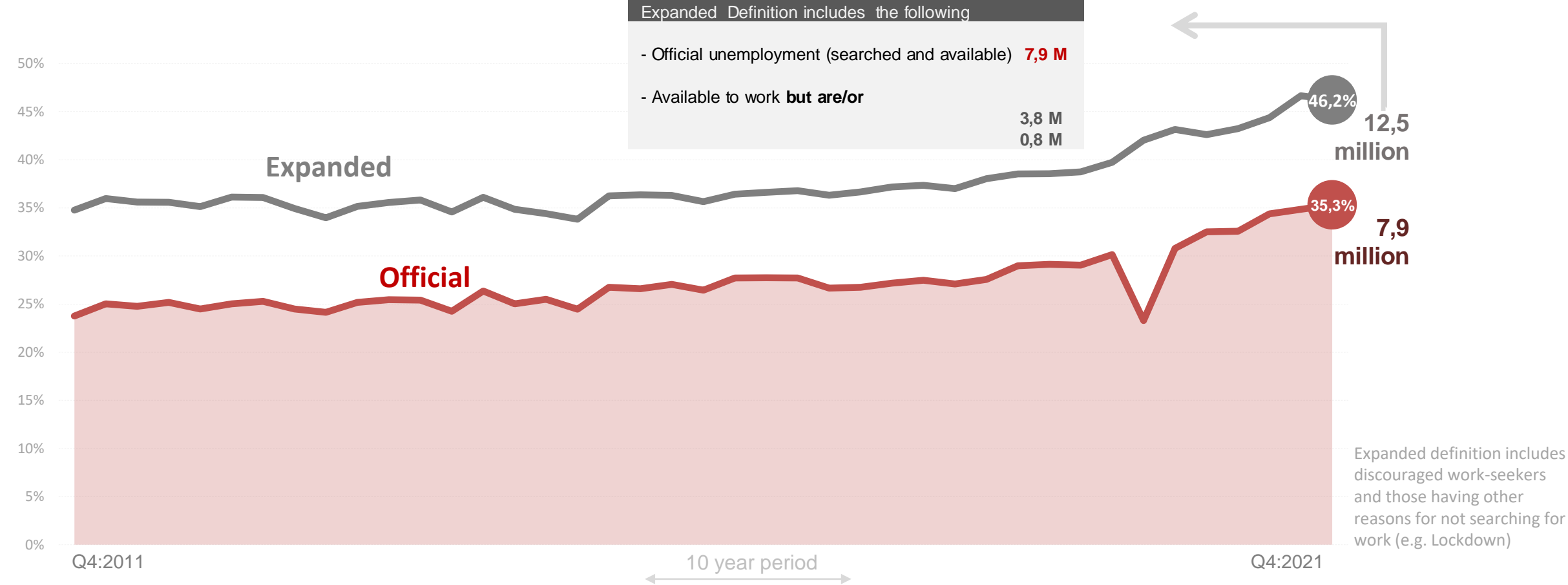
South Africa's **unemployment rate increased** by 0,4 of a percentage point to **35,3%** in Q4:2021 compared to Q3:2021.

Unemployment rate: Q4:2011 to Q4:2021



Expanded unemployment decreased by 0,4 of a percentage point to 46,2% in Q4:2021 compared to Q3:2021.

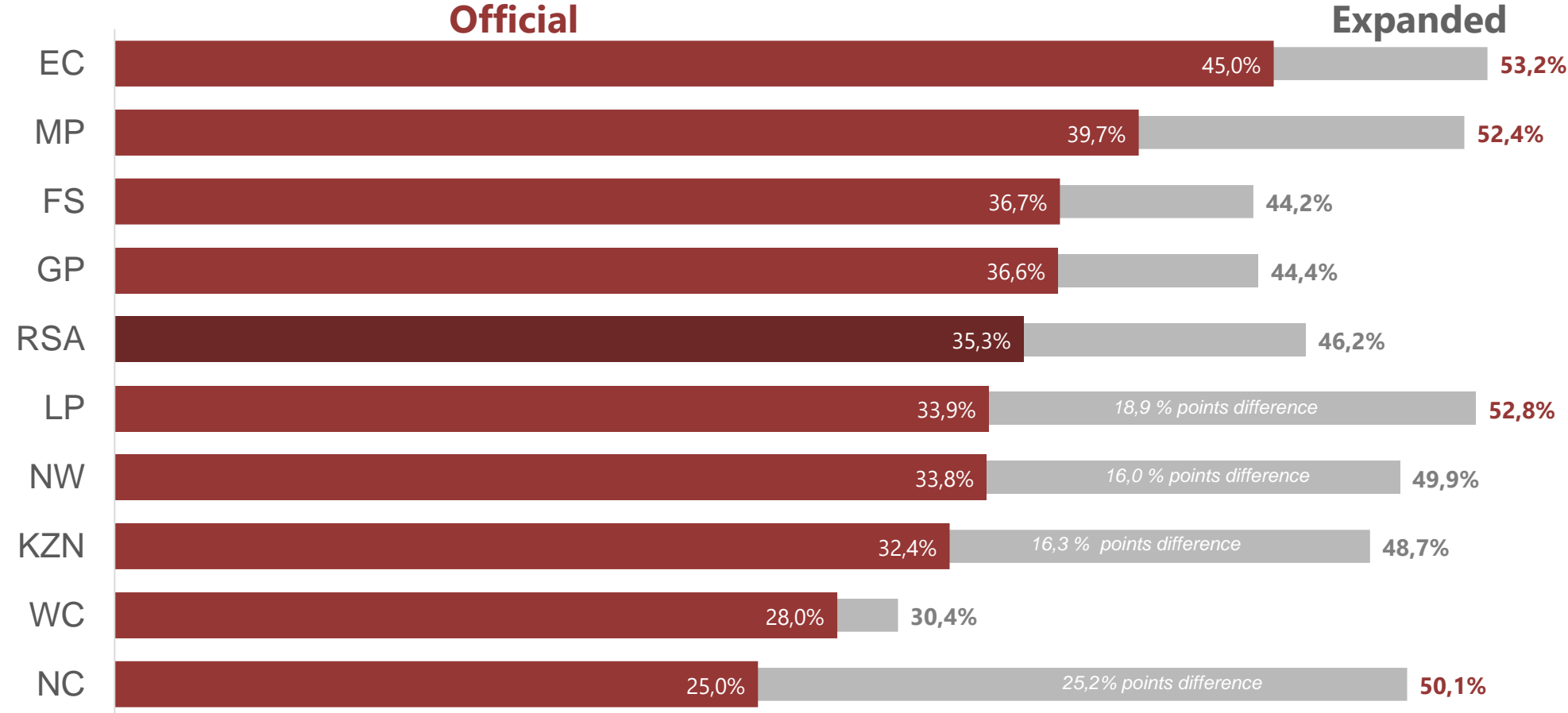
Official vs Expanded unemployment: Q4:2011-Q4:2021



EC, LP, MP and NC recorded expanded unemployment rates above 50,0% in Q4:2021.

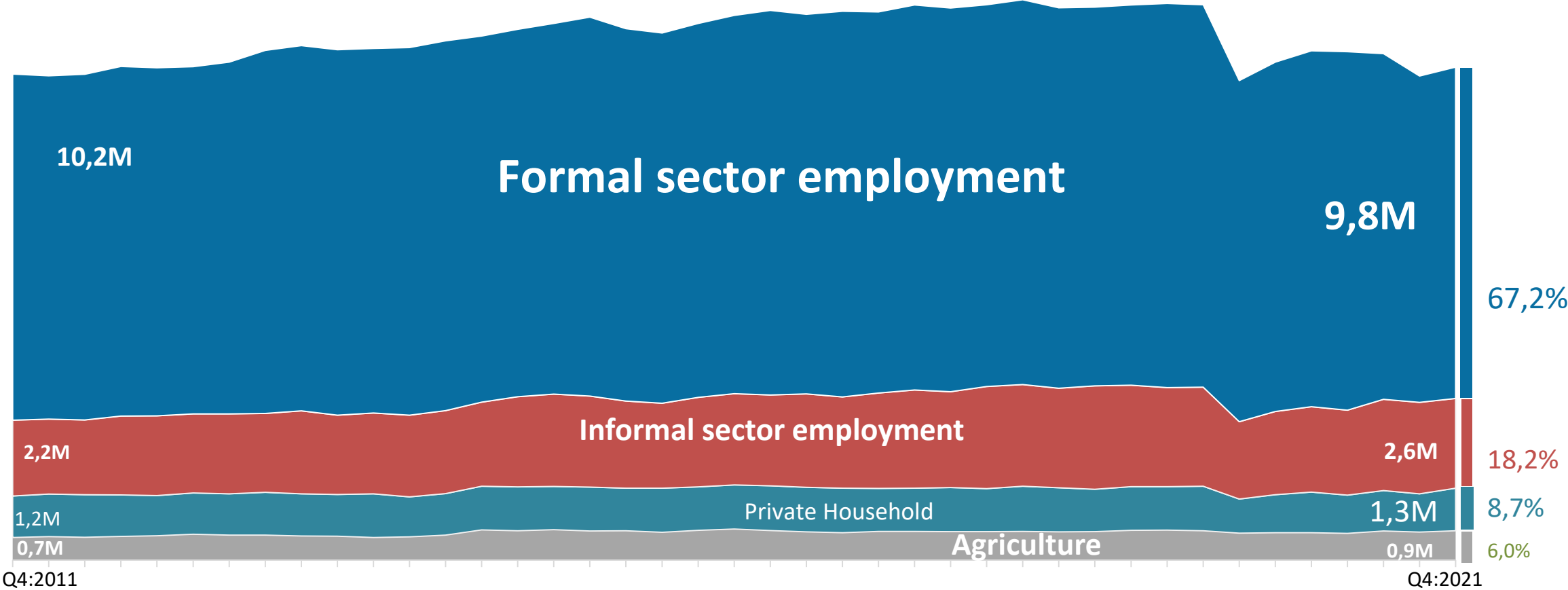
NC recorded more than 25 percentage points difference between expanded and official unemployment rates.

Provincial unemployment rate: Official vs Expanded Q4:2021



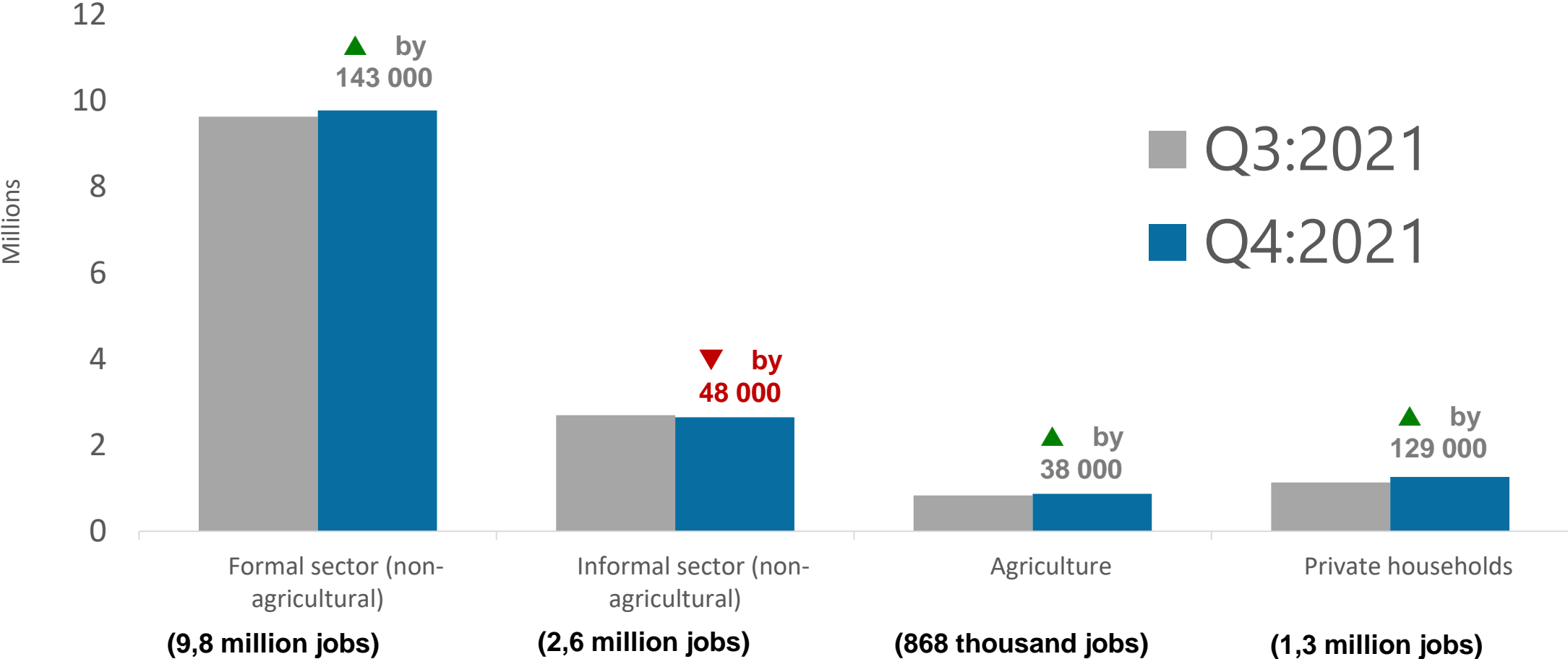
The **formal sector** in South Africa accounts for **67,2%** of total employment.

Employment share by sector, Q4:2011 to Q4:2021



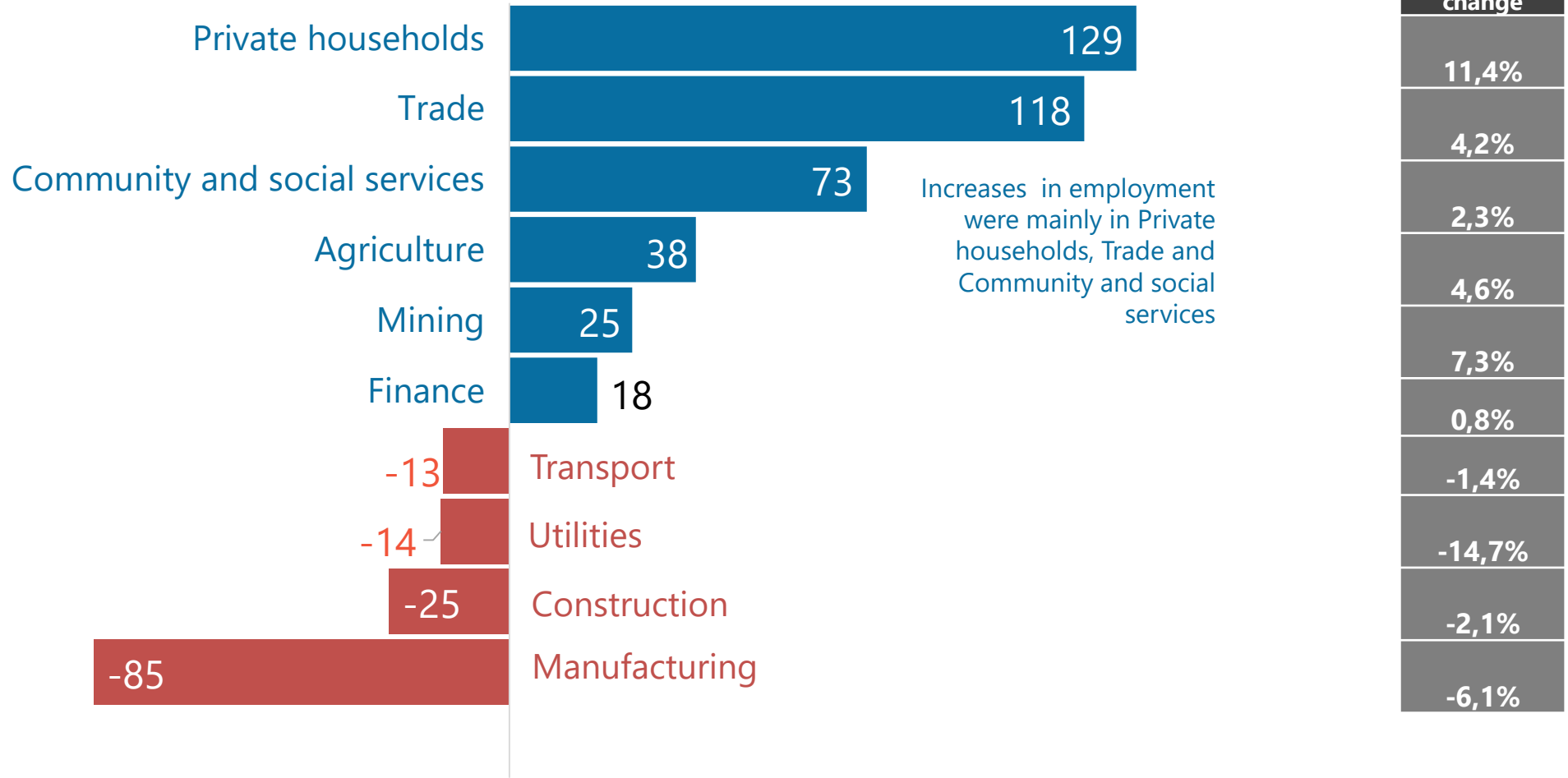
Formal sector employment increased by 143 thousand jobs between Q3:2021 and Q4:2021

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



Employment **increased by 262 000** in Q4:2021 compared to Q3:2021.

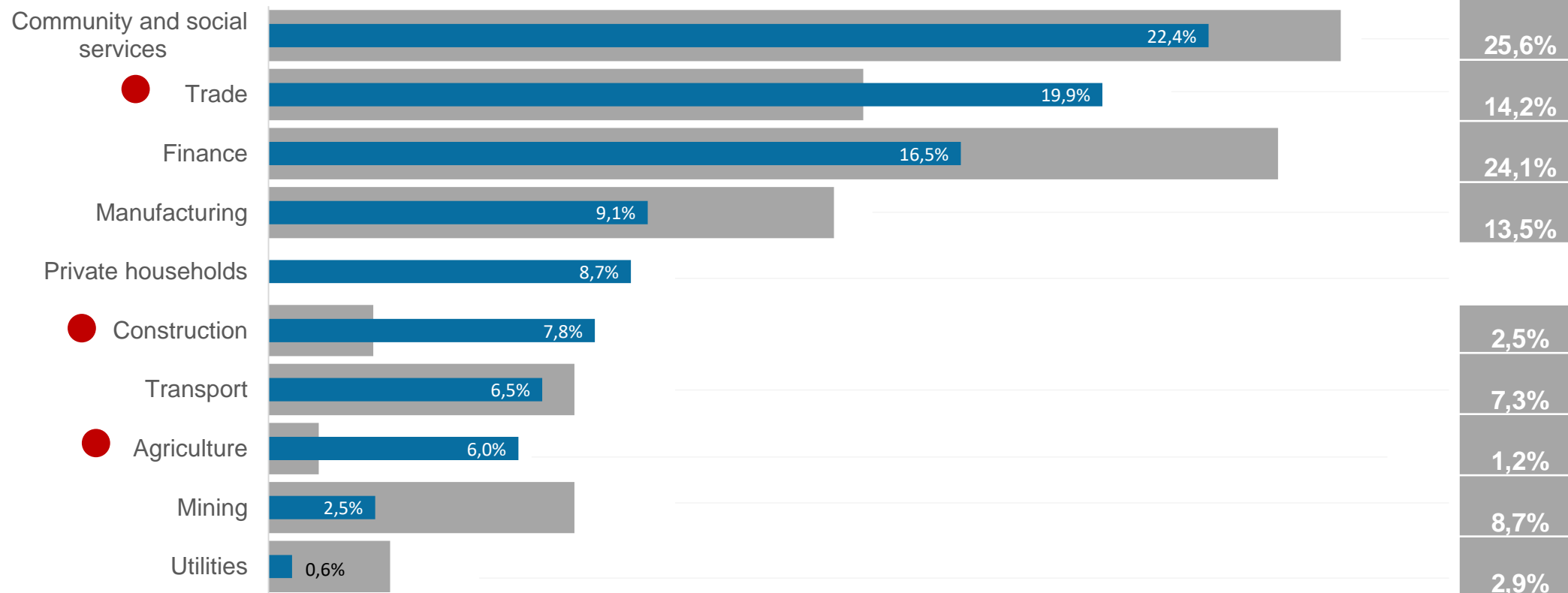
Employment changes by industry, **Quarter-on-quarter change ('000)**



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

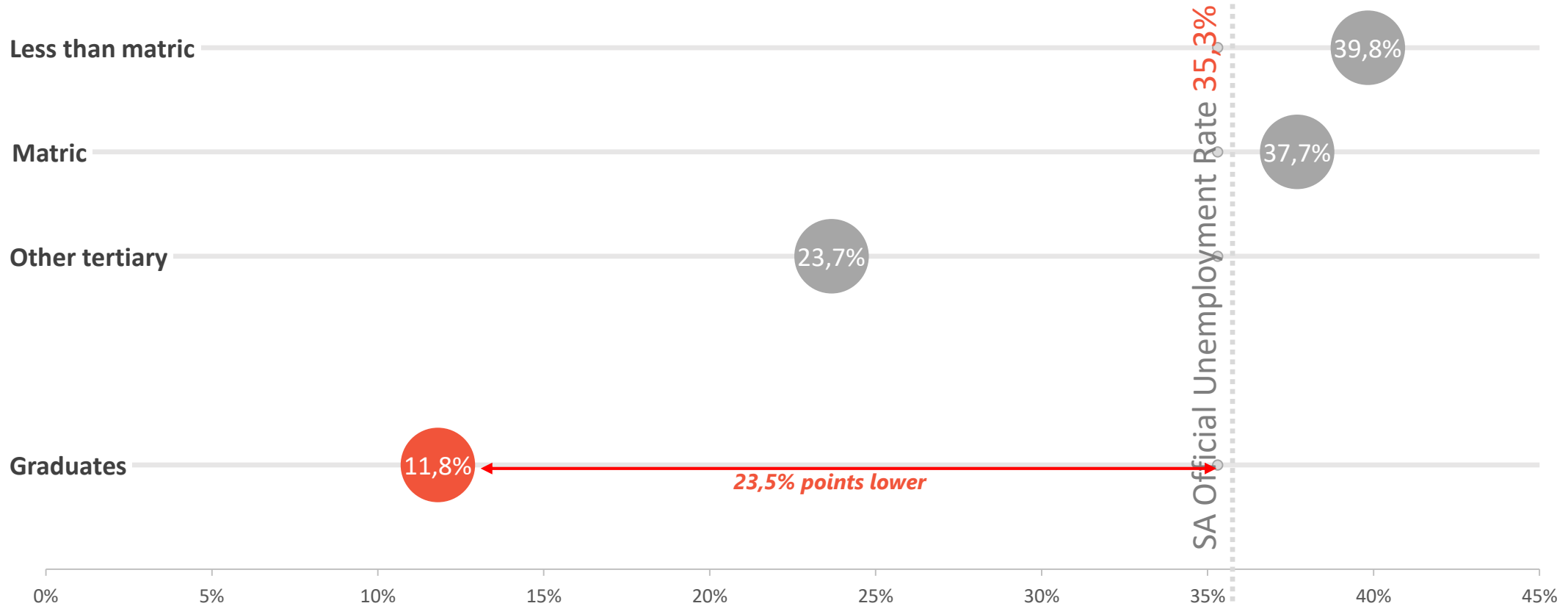
Employment and GDP share per industry

Employment shares, Q4:2021



Graduates unemployment rate (11.8%) is 23,5% points lower than the national official unemployment rate

Official Unemployment rate Q4:2021

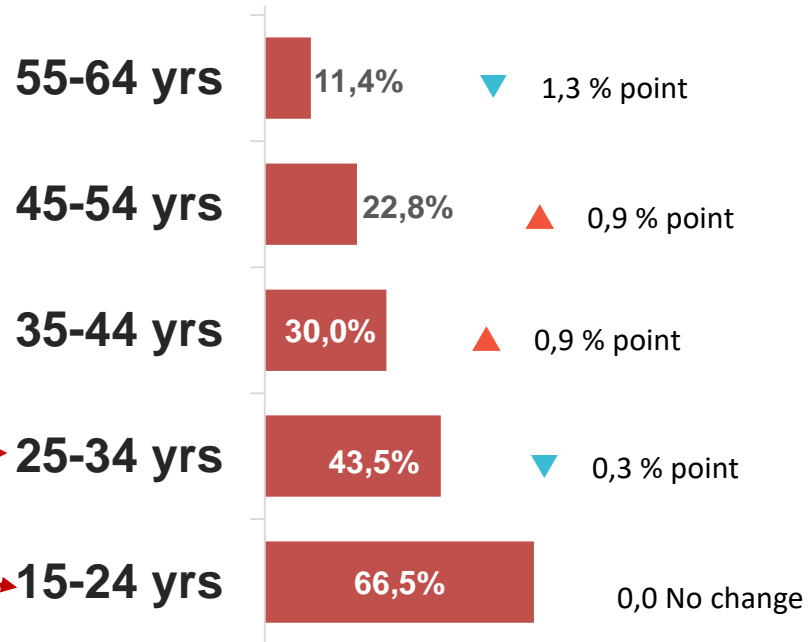


• Youth aged 15-24 years and 25-34 years recorded the highest unemployment rates of 66,5% and 43,5% respectively

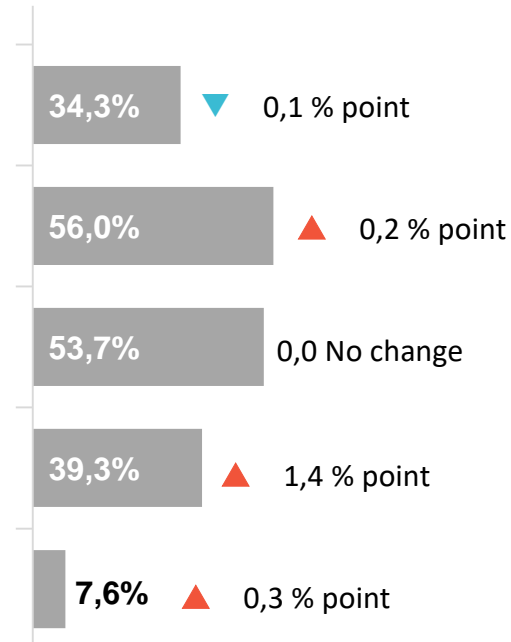
Labour market rates by age group, Q4:2021

▲ ▼ Change: Percentage points
Q3:2021 to Q4:2021

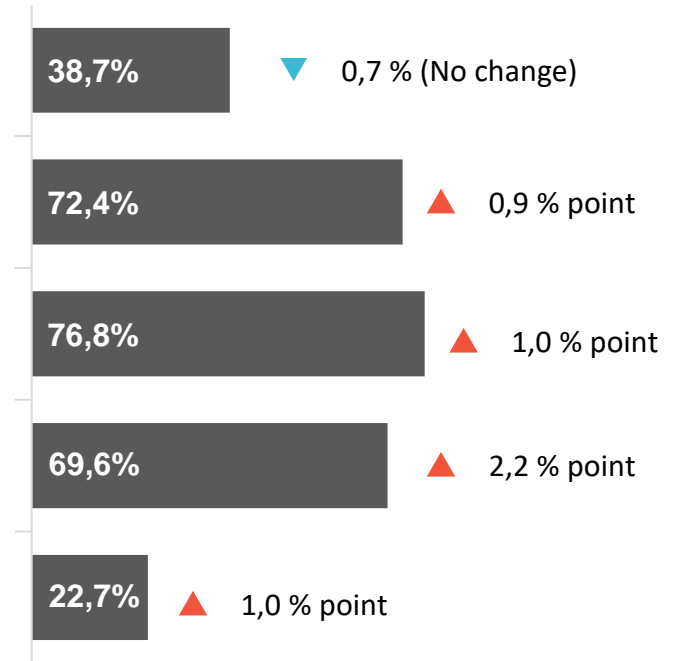
Unemployment rate



Absorption rate

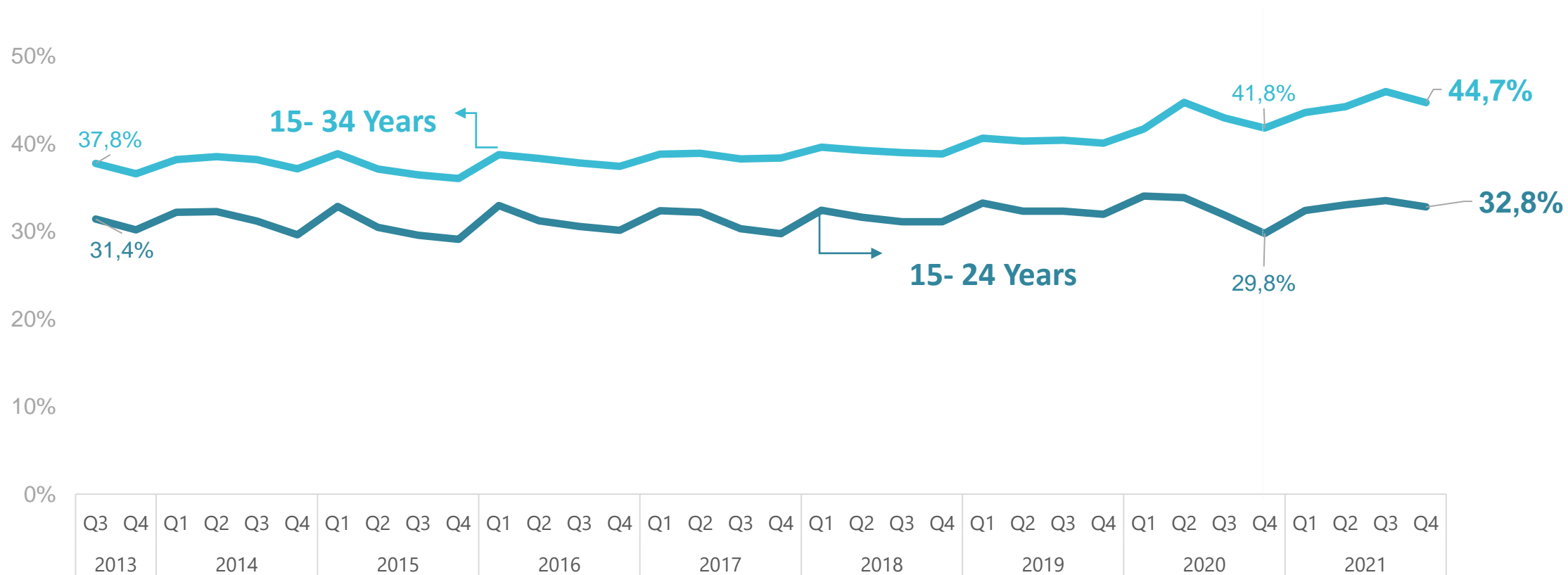


Participation rate



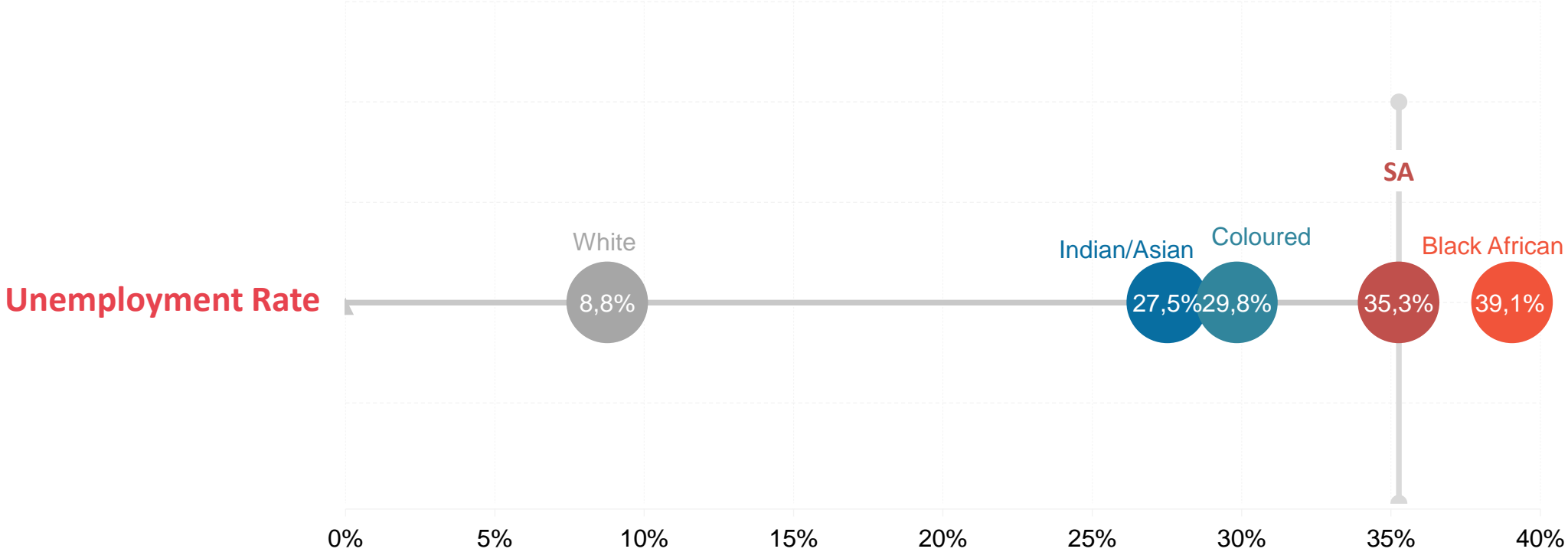
Approximately **3,4 million** (32,8%) out of 10,2 million young people **aged 15-24** years were not in employment, education or training (NEET). *The overall NEET rate increased by 3,0 percentage points in Q4:2021 compared to Q4:2020.*

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



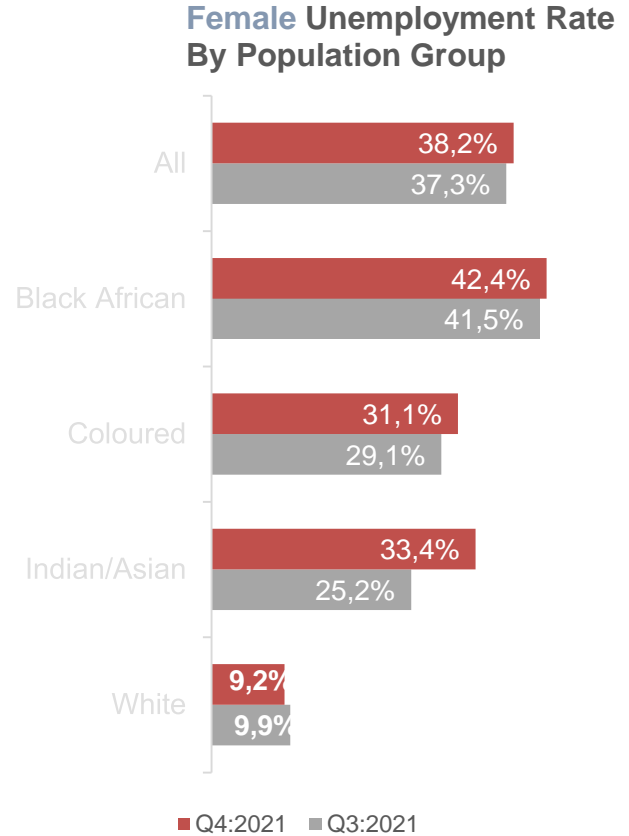
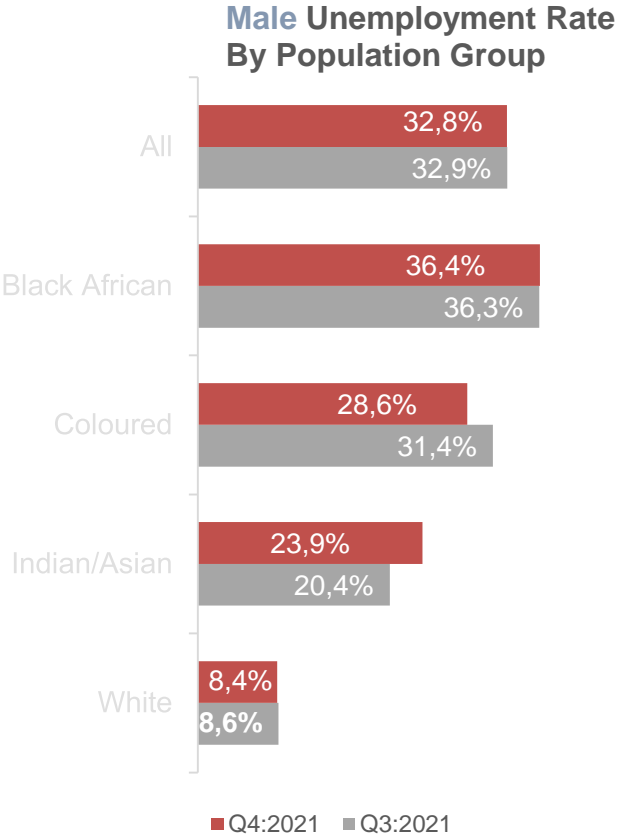
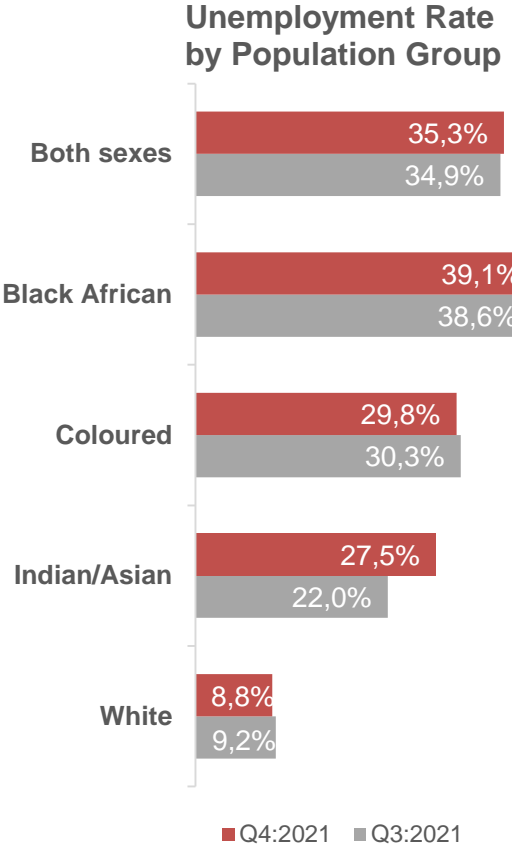
The unemployment rate among the **Black African (39,1%)** population group remains higher than the national average and other population groups. (From 38,6% in Q3:2021)

OFFICIAL unemployment rate by population group, Q4:2021



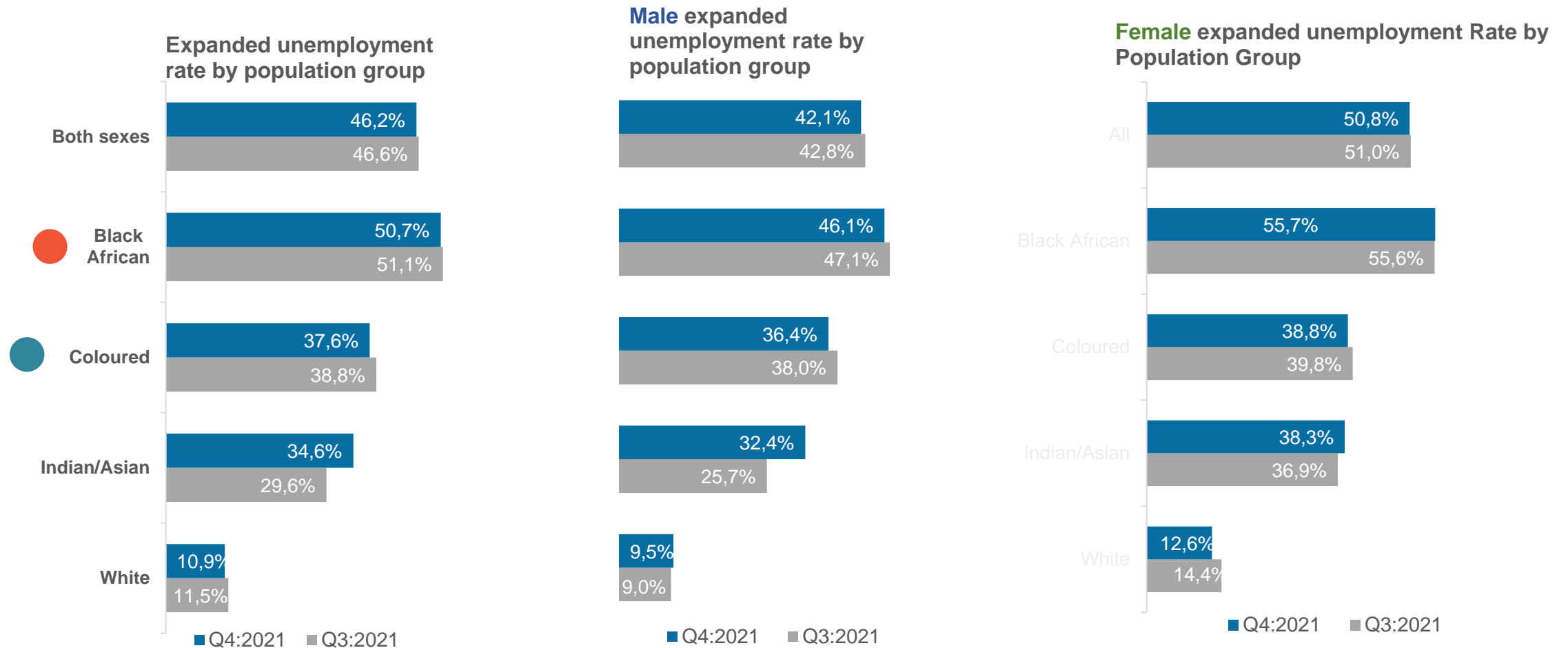
Black African women are the most vulnerable with an **unemployment rate of 42,4%** in Q4:2021. *This is 4,2 percentage points higher than the national average.*


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



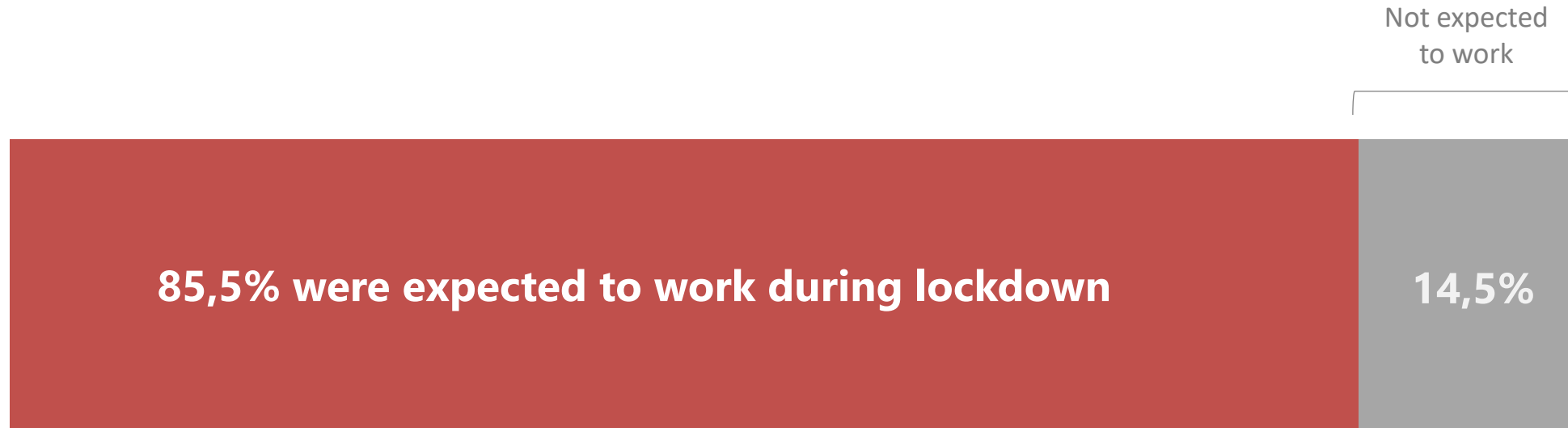


Additional
analysis on
employment
in relation to
COVID-19

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

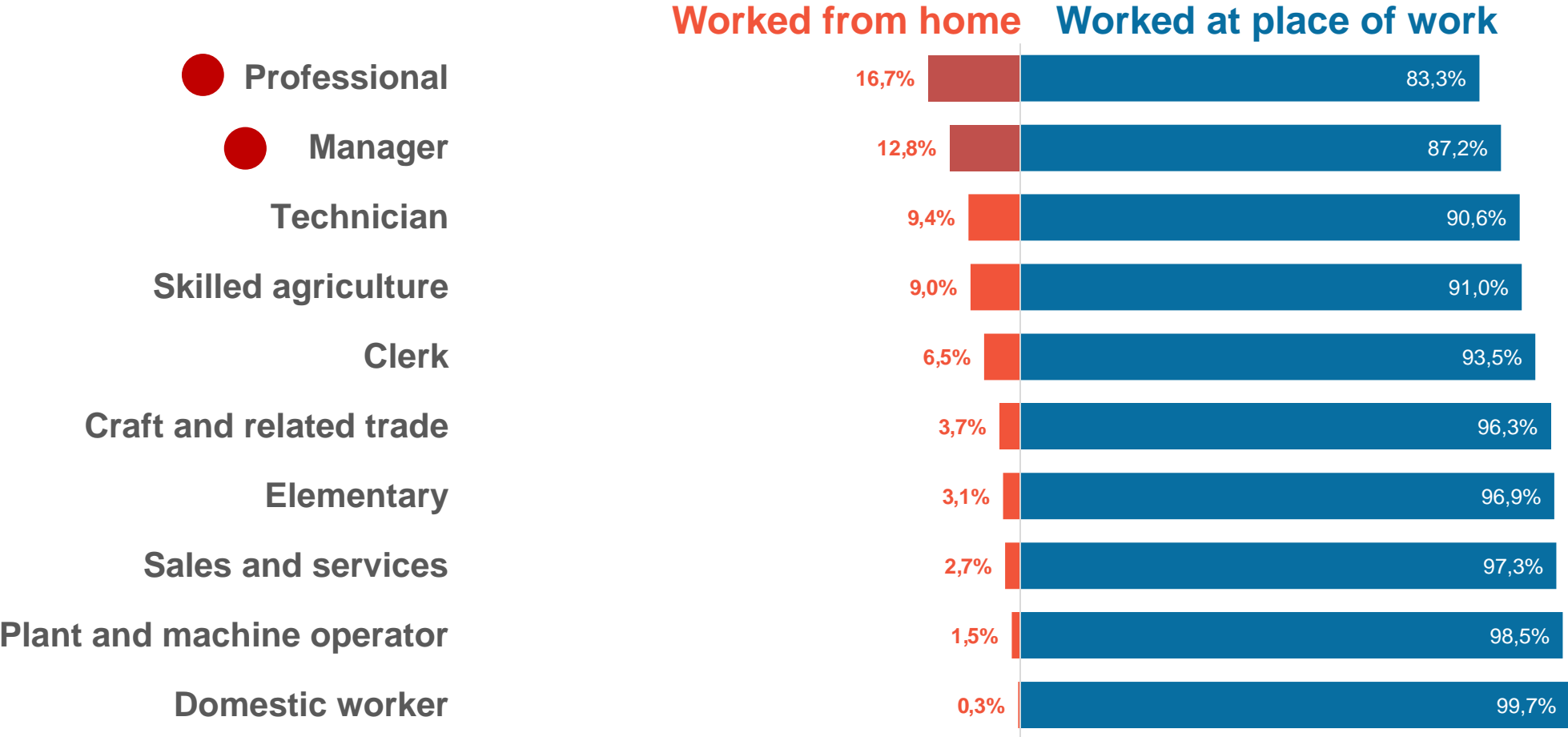
Of the 14,5 million persons who were employed in Q4:2021, at least **8 in every ten** (85,5%) were expected to **work during the national lockdown** by the companies/organisations they work for.

Percentage distribution of those who worked during lockdown

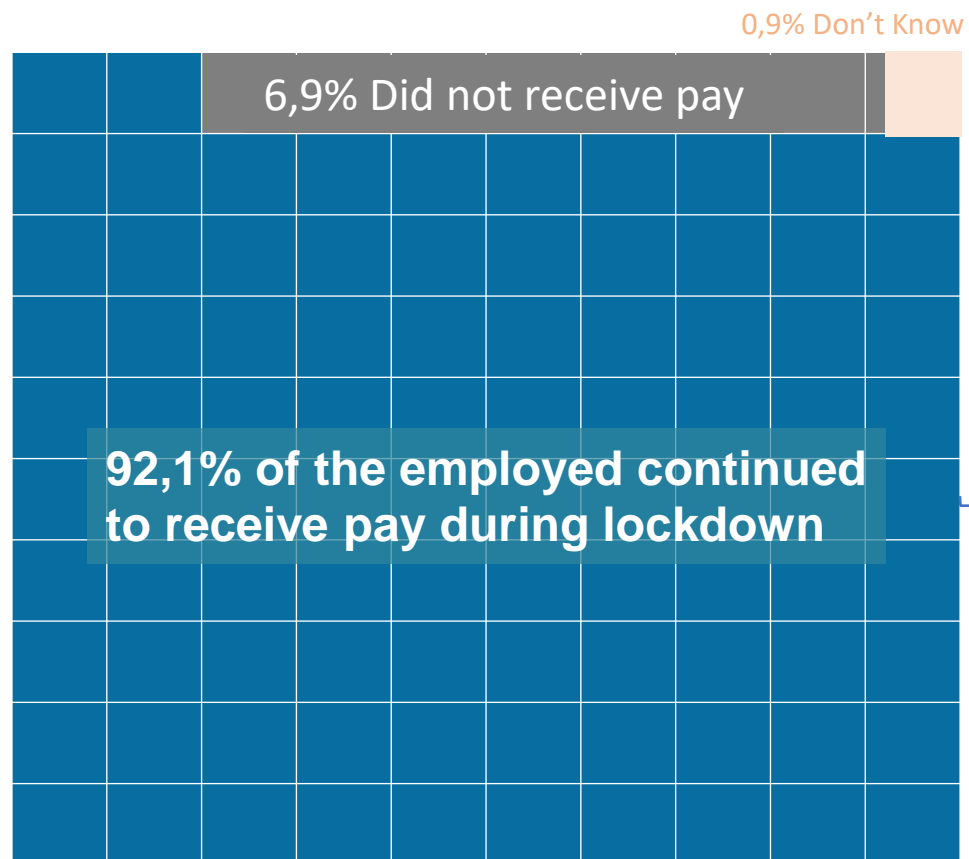


Professionals and Managers were more likely to work from home than all other occupations.

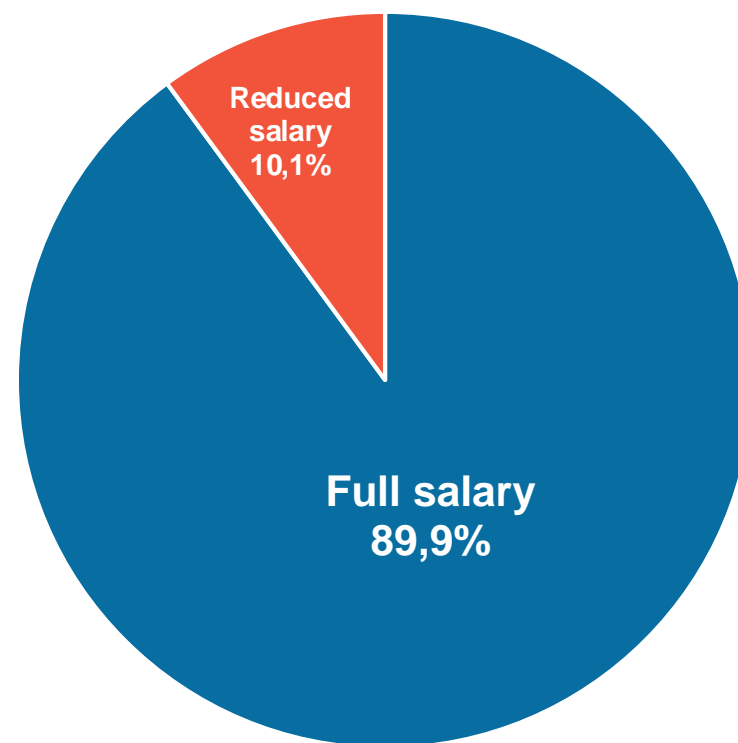
Place of work for persons who did any work by occupation, Q4: 2021



92,1% of the employed continued to receive pay during lockdown compared to those in Q3:2021 (92,2%).

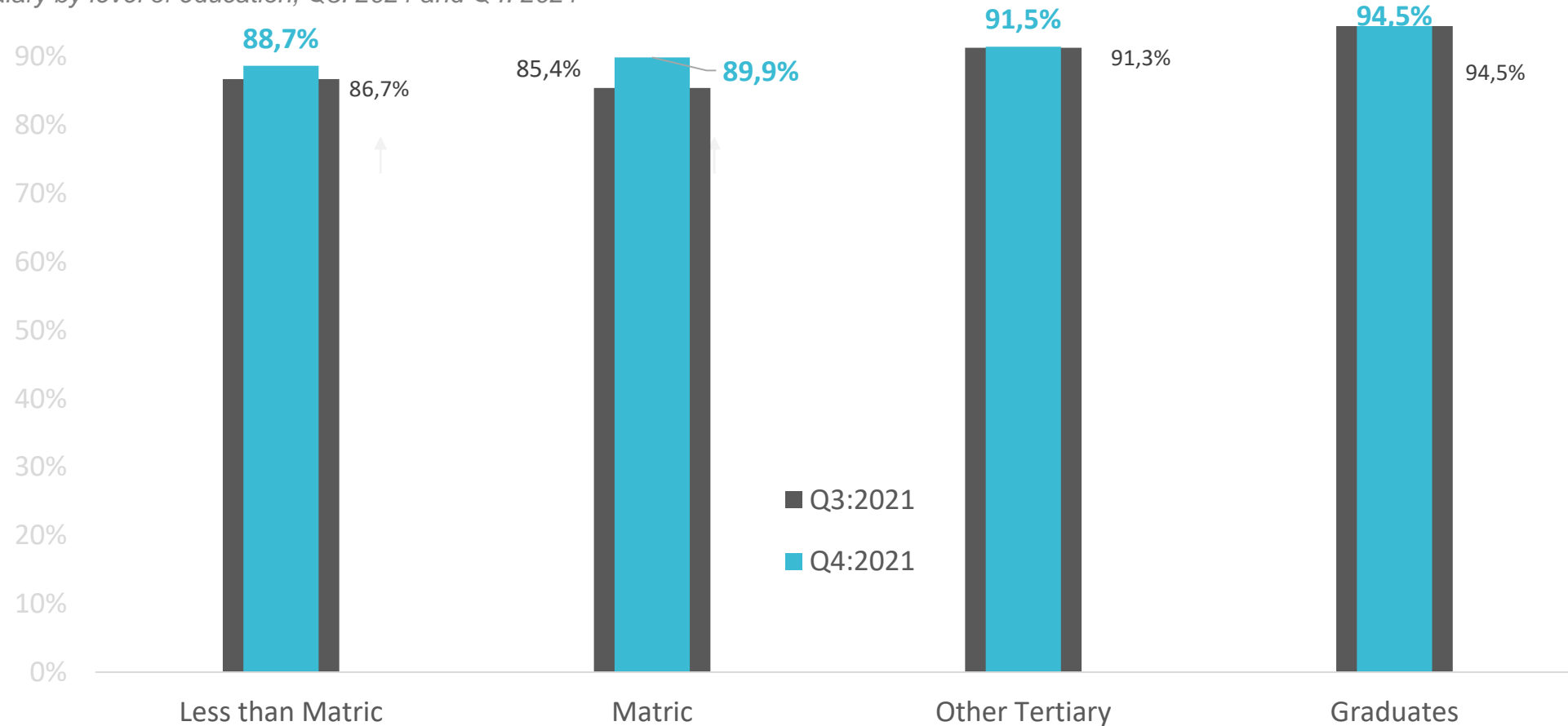



10,1% of those who received pay during lockdown were paid reduced salaries



About 9 in 10 graduates received their full salary in both Q3:2021 and Q4:2021. The share of graduates receiving full salary **remained unchanged** between Q3:2021 and Q4:2021.

Full salary by level of education, Q3: 2021 and Q4: 2021



A man wearing a blue work uniform with reflective yellow stripes and a black cap is sitting on a wooden fence. He is looking towards the camera. The background shows a white wall, trees, and a fence, suggesting a rural or farm setting.

RECAP (QLFS, Q4:2021)

- ❖ Unemployment rate **(35,3%) increased** by 0,4 of a percentage point. Absorption rate (36,5%) and labour force participation rate (56,3%) increased by 0,6 and 1,1 percentage points respectively.
- ❖ Private households (129 000), Trade (118 000) and Community and social services (73 000) recorded the largest **employment gains**.
- ❖ The number of **not economically active decreased** by 397 000 in Q4:2021 compared to Q3:2021.

QLFS

Q4:2021

Ndzi hela kwala!



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