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

# Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) Q1:2023

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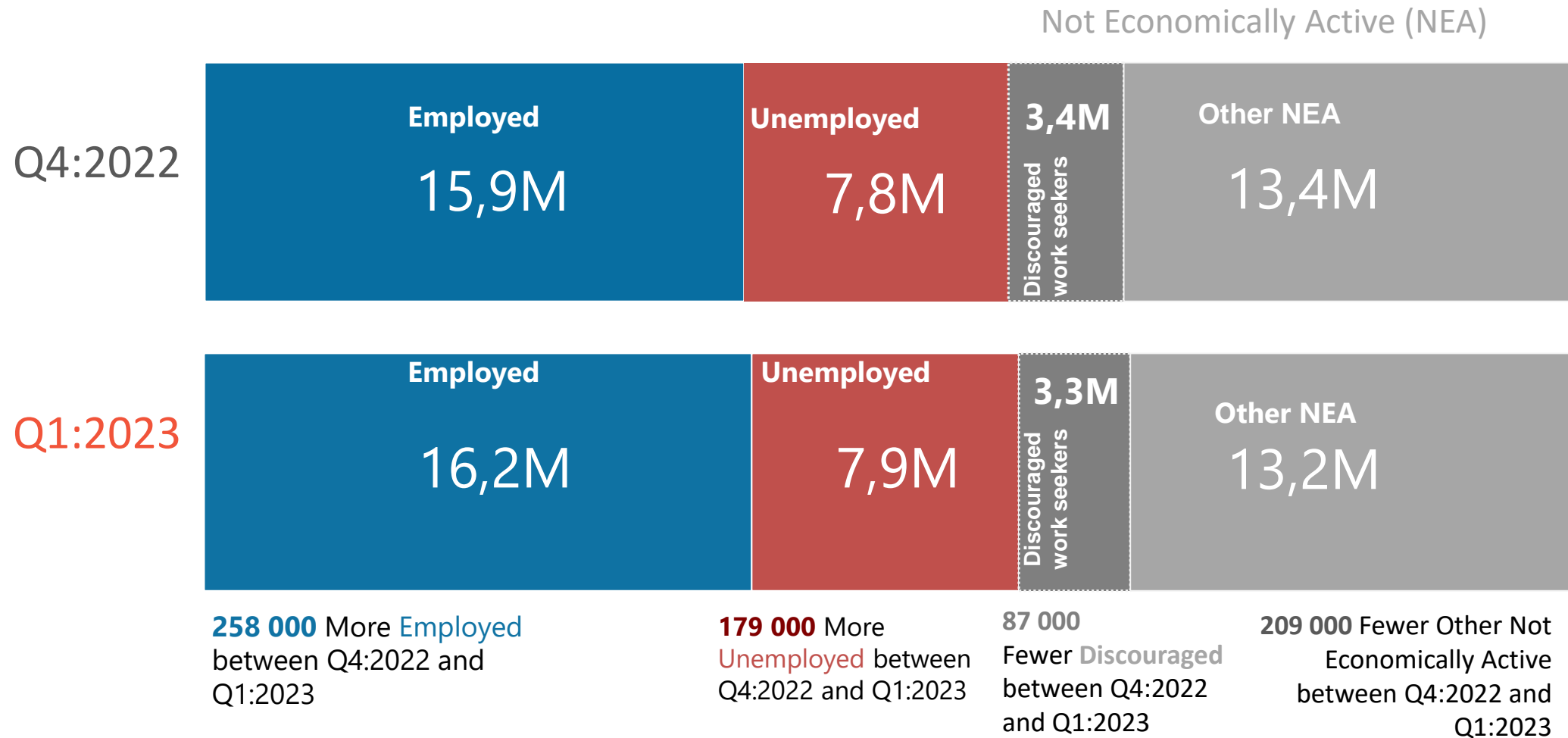


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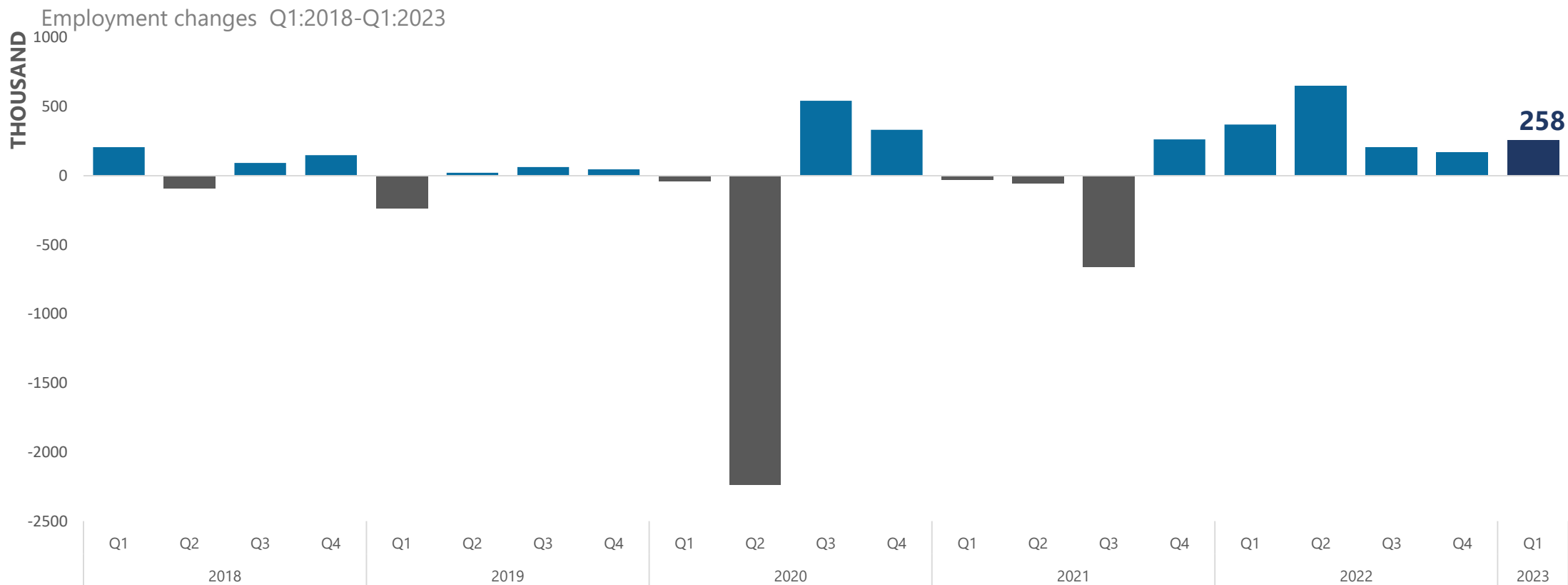


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There were **258 thousand** more people employed in Q1:2023 than in Q4:2022



**Employment increased in the first quarter** of 2023 by **258 000** to 16,2 million. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive increase since Q4:2021



There were **179 000** more people who were unemployed in Q1:2023 than in Q4:2022

**40,6 million**

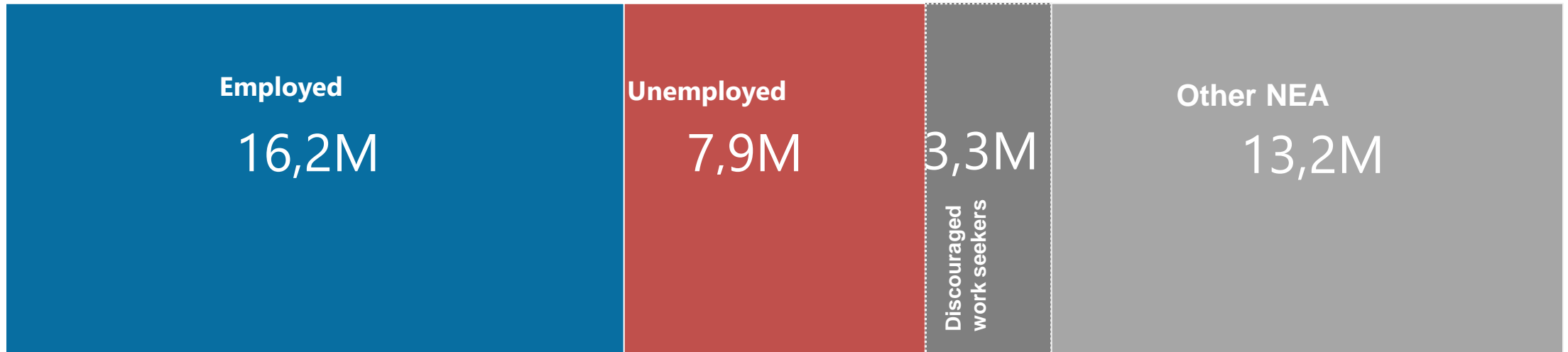
People of working age in South Africa (15 – 64-year-old)

**Labour force**

**Not Economically Active**

**24,1 million**

**16,5 million**



SA's official unemployment rate stands at

**32,9%**

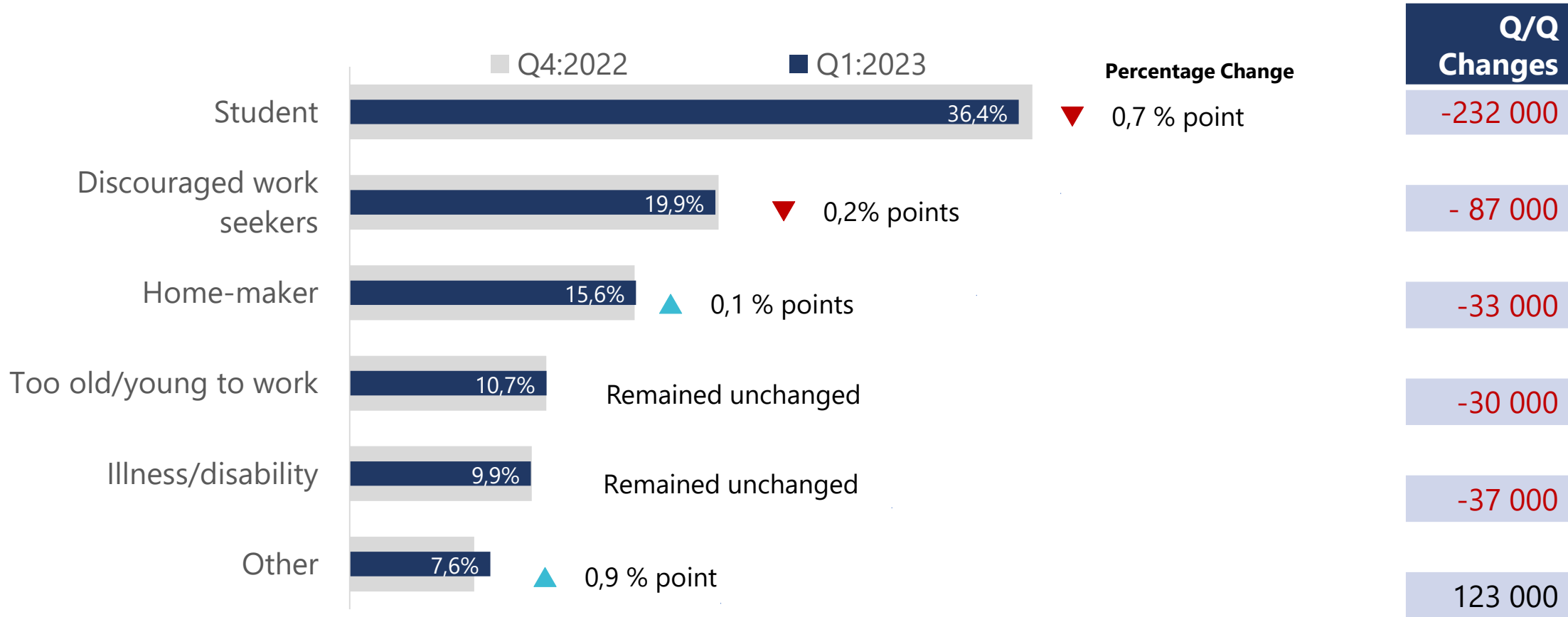
Increased by 0,2 of a percentage point between Q4:2022 and Q1:2023

*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 296 000** in Q1:2023 compared to Q4:2022

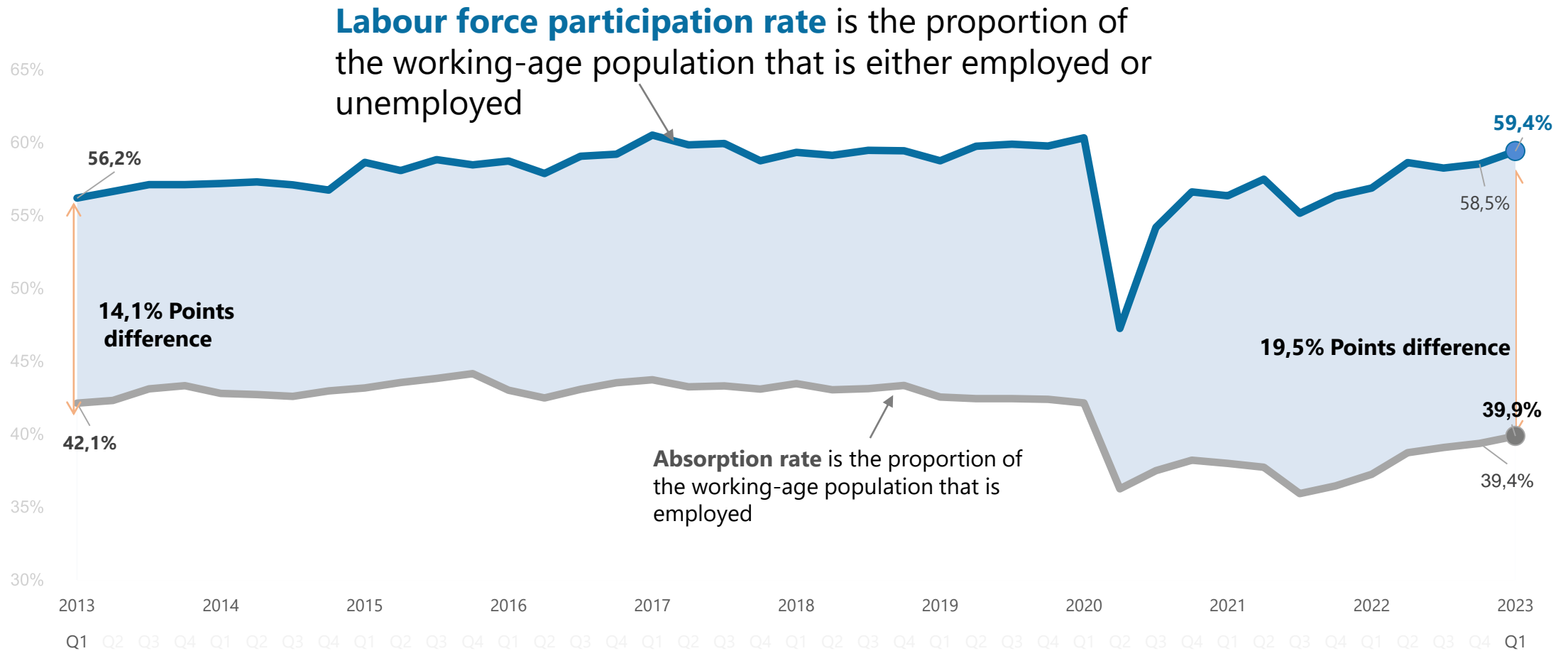
Characteristics of the not economically active, Q4:2022 vs Q1:2023



*Due to rounding numbers may not add up*

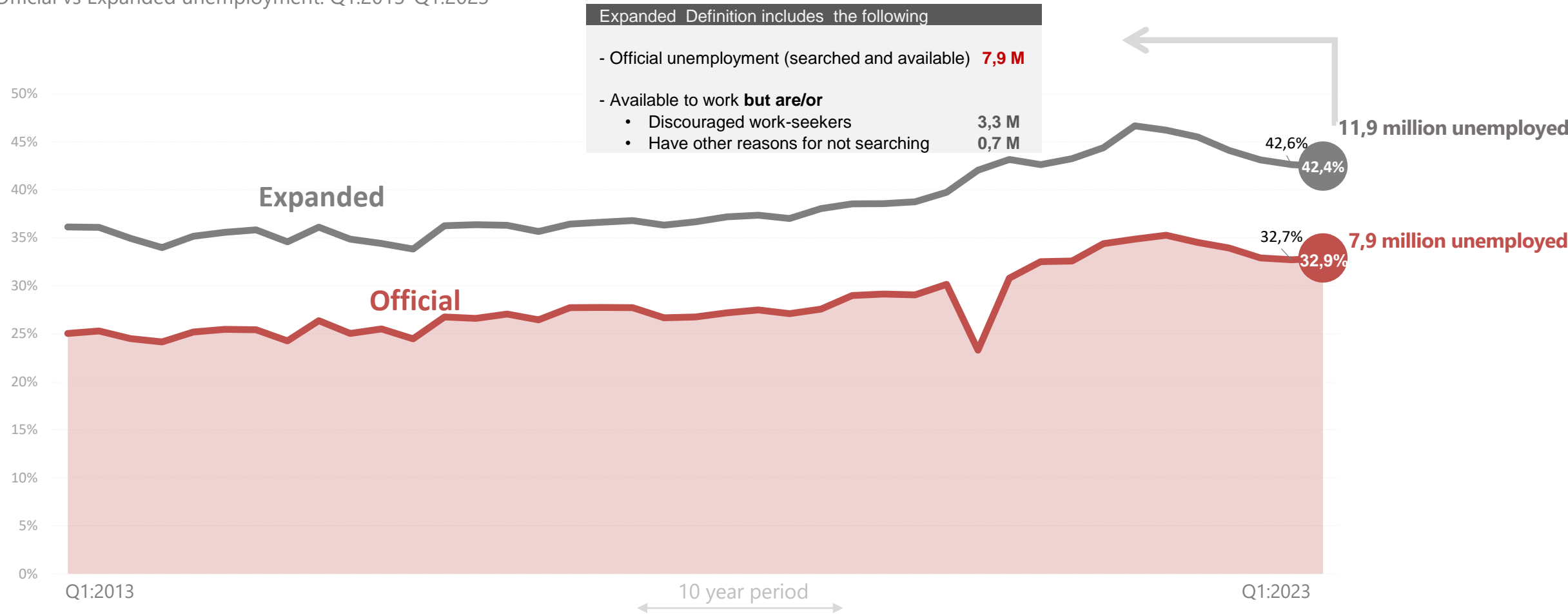
# The **Labour force participation rate** increased by 0,9 of a percentage point from 58,5% in Q4:2022 to 59,4% in Q1:2023

Labour force participation and absorption rates Q1:2013-Q1:2023



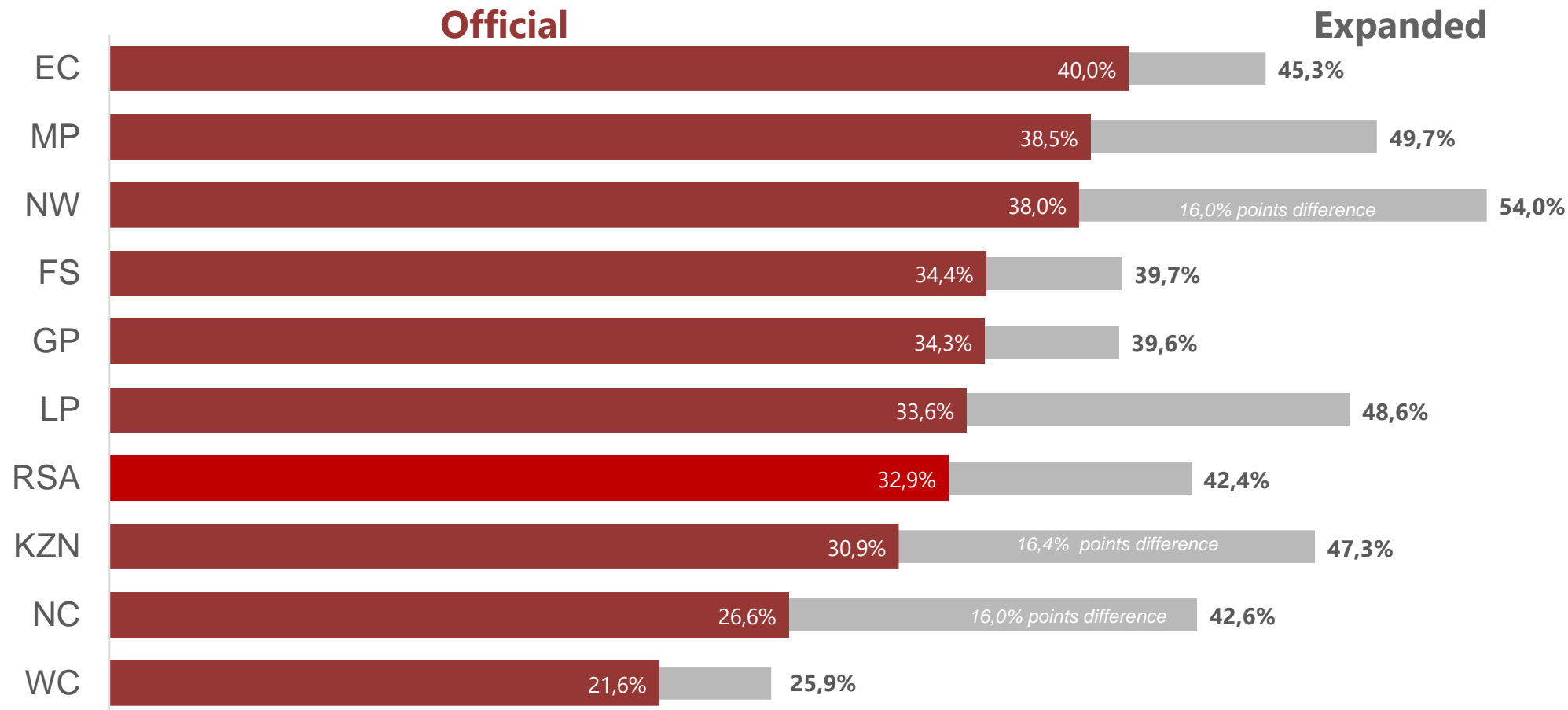
The expanded unemployment rate **decreased by 0,2** of a percentage point to **42,4%** in Q1:2023 compared to Q4:2022.

Official vs Expanded unemployment: Q1:2013-Q1:2023



**NW** (54,0%) recorded the **highest expanded unemployment rate** in Q1:2023, followed by MP (49,7%). **NW, KZN and NC** recorded more than 15 percentage points difference between expanded and official unemployment rates

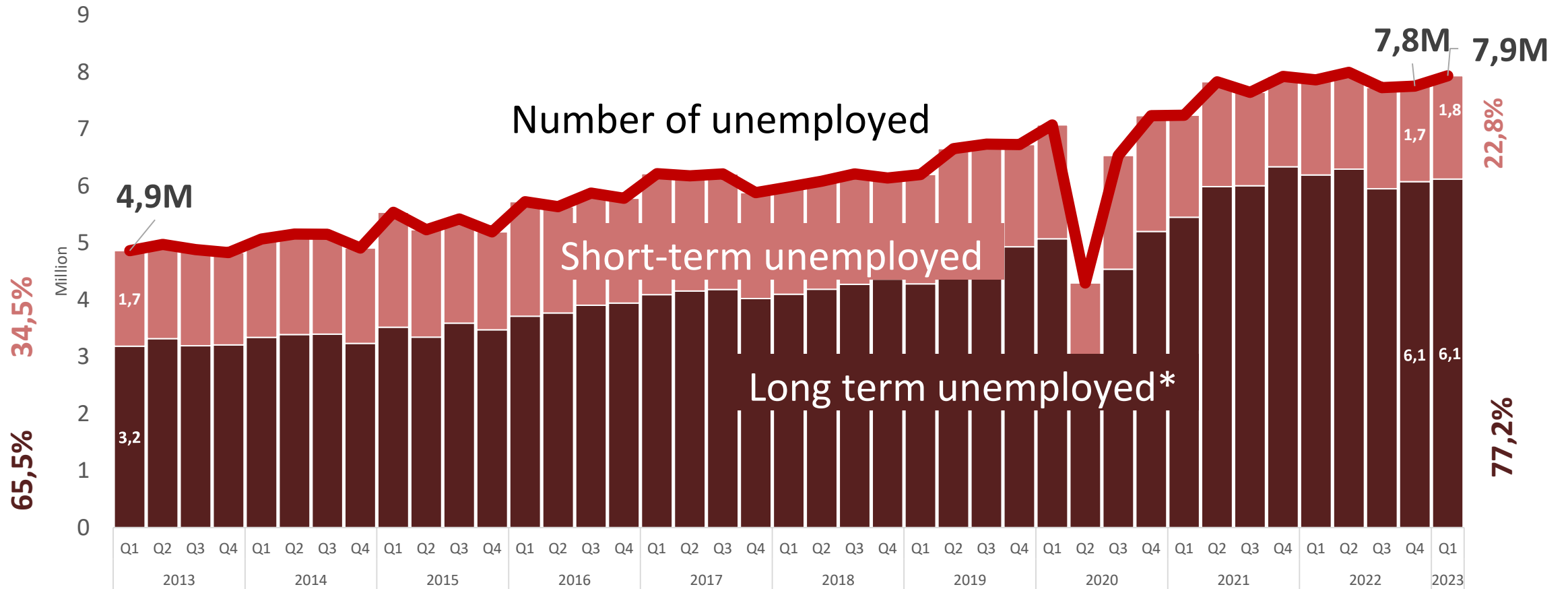
Provincial unemployment rate: Official vs Expanded Q1:2023





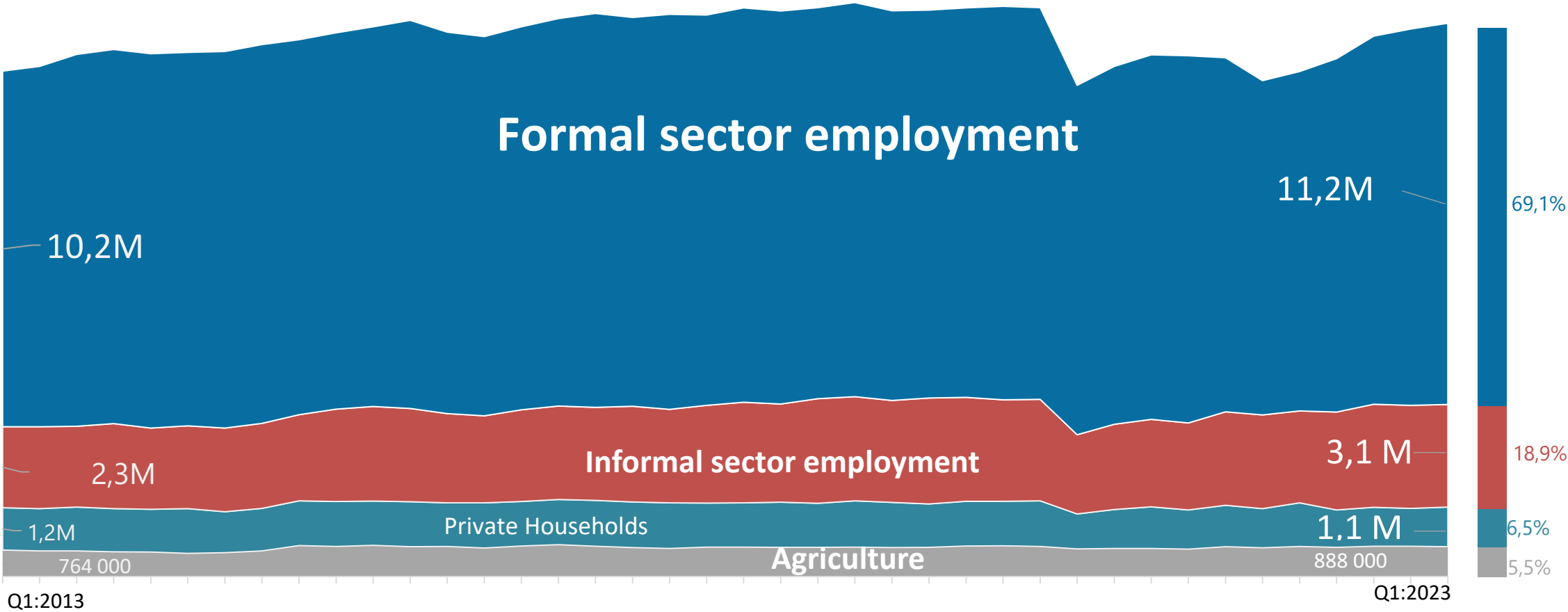
The number of unemployed people in South Africa increased from 4,9 million in Q1:2013 to 7,9 million in Q1:2023. The proportion of those in long-term unemployment increased from 65,5% in Q1:2013 to 77,2% in Q1:2023

\*Long term unemployment –unemployed for a year or longer



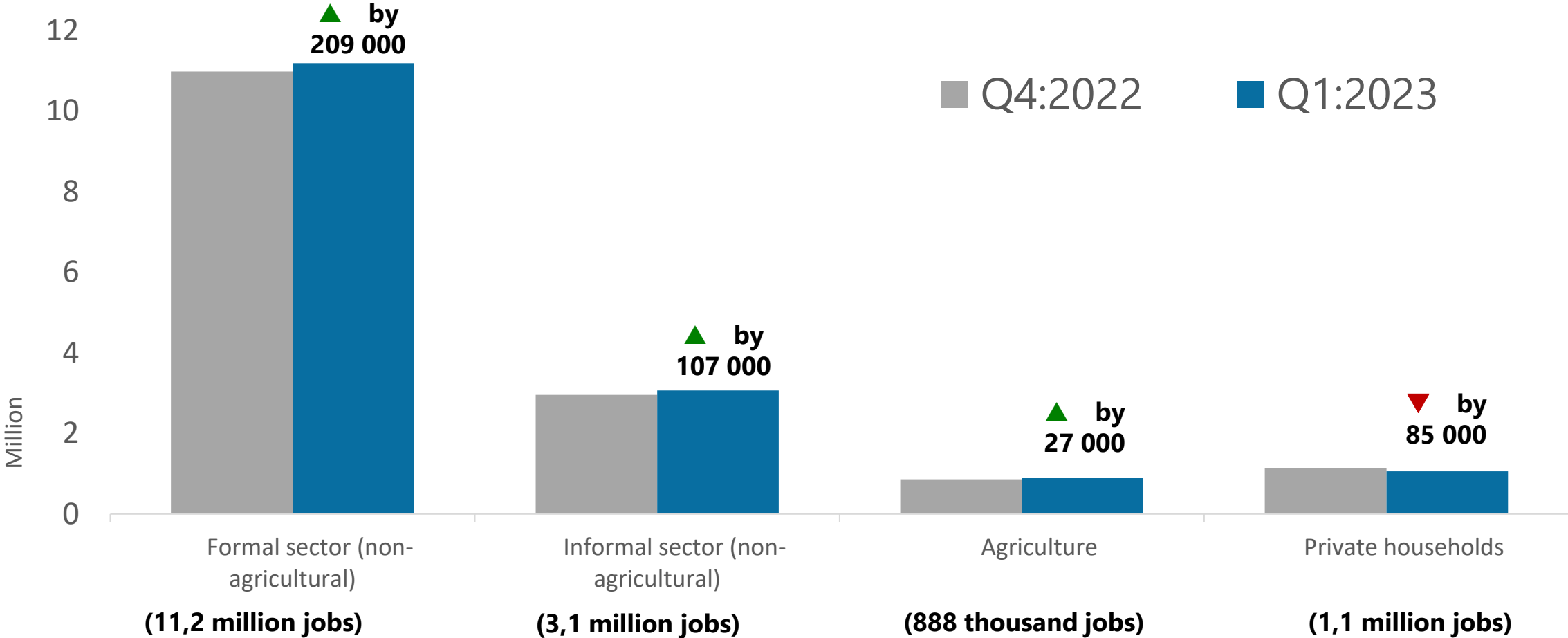
# The **formal sector** in South Africa accounts for **69,1%** of total employment.

Employment share by sector, Q1:2013 to Q1:2023



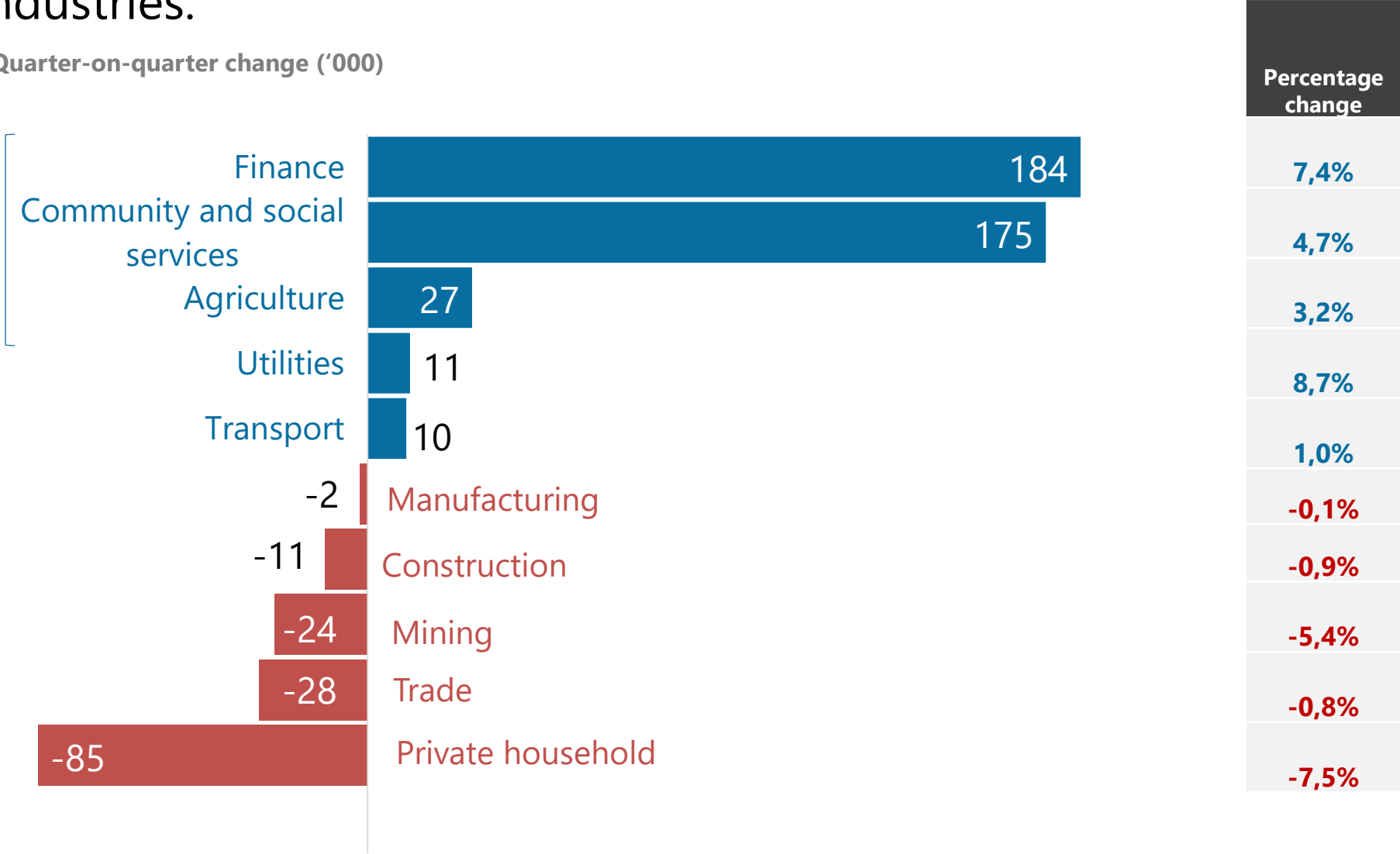
# Formal sector employment increased by **209 thousand jobs** between Q4:2022 and Q1:2023.

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



# Employment increases were mainly in finance, community and social services and agricultural industries.

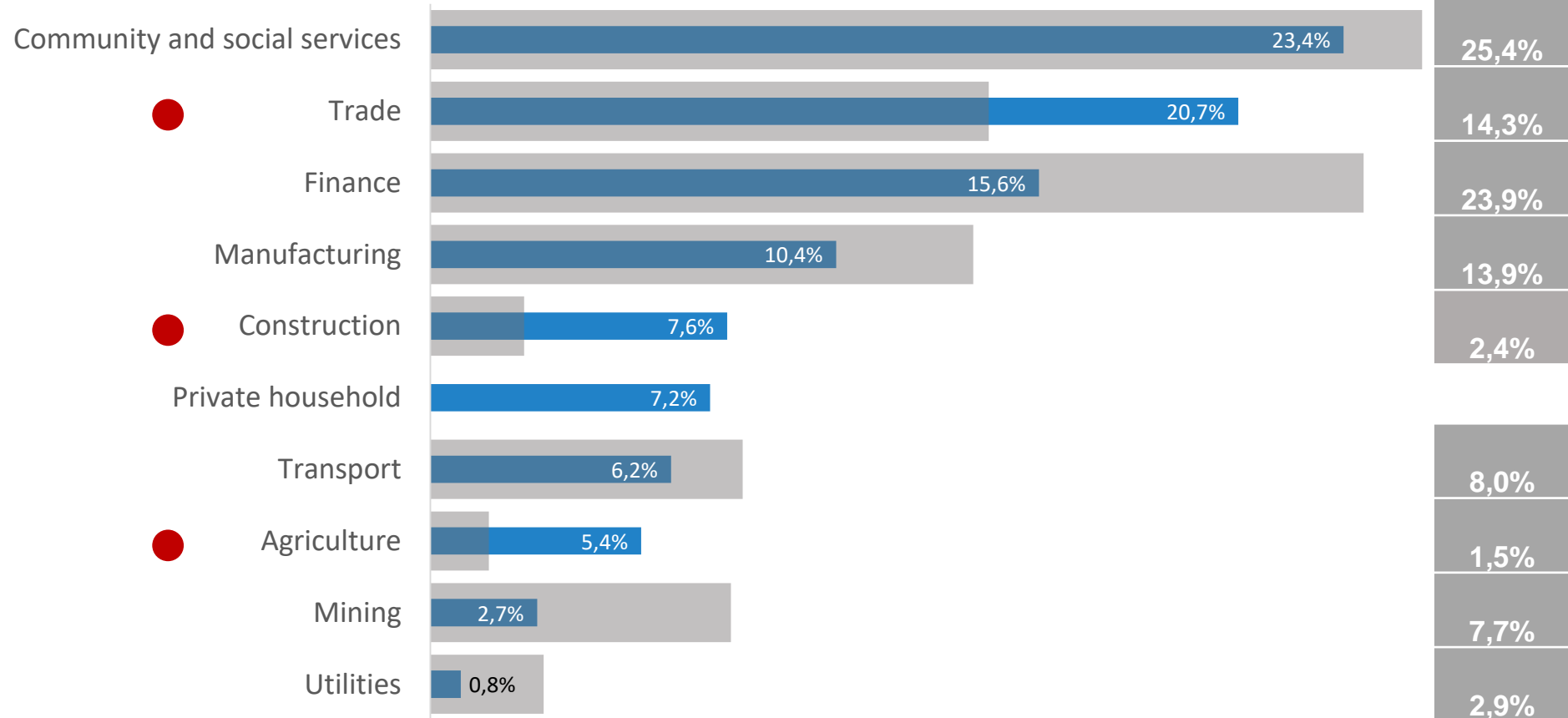
Employment changes by industry, Quarter-on-quarter change ('000)



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

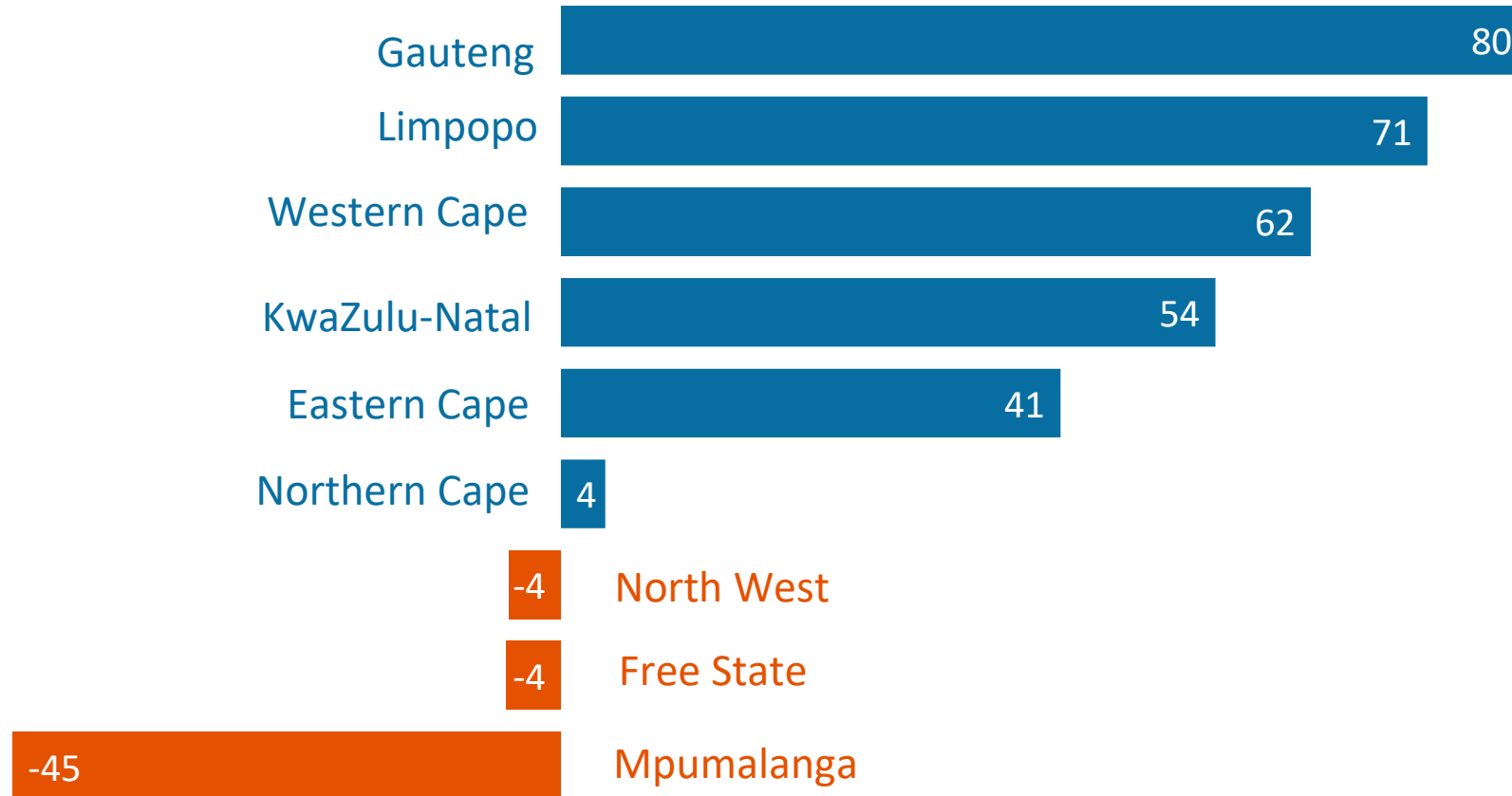
Employment and GDP share per industry

## Employment shares, Q4:2022



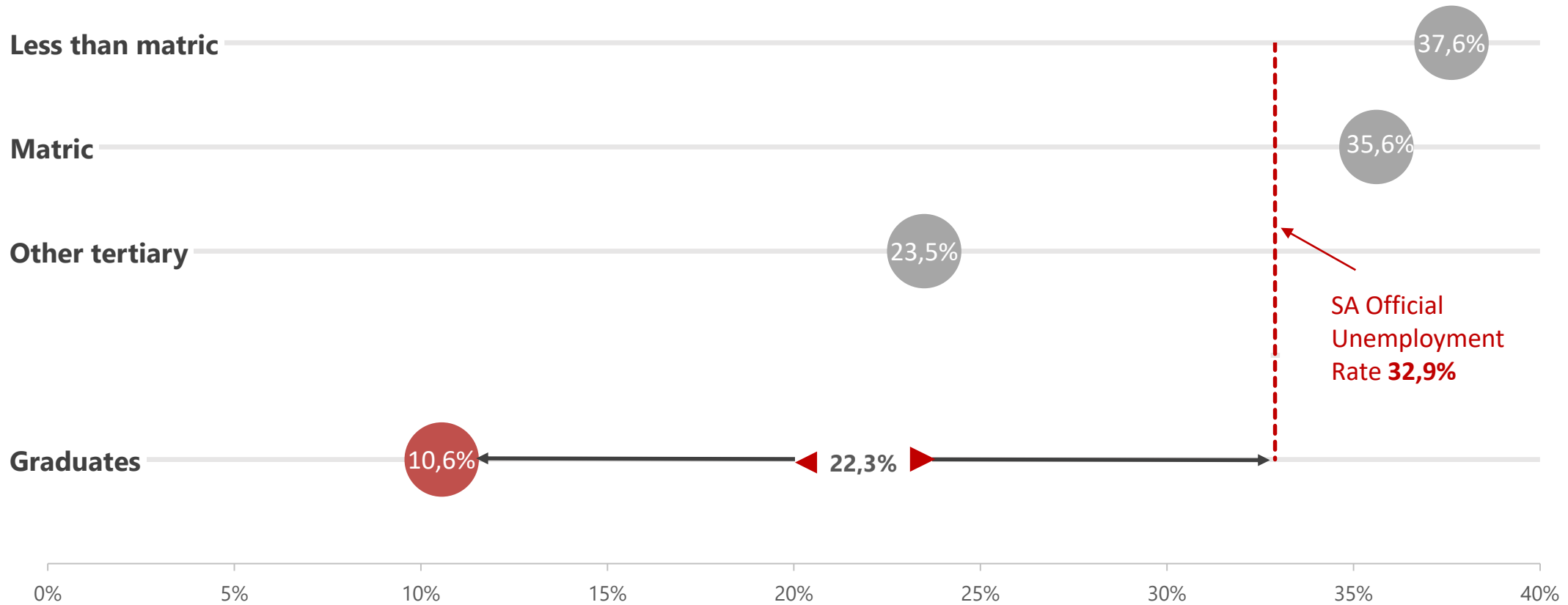
# GP, LP and WC recorded the largest employment increases in Q1: 2023

Quarter-to-quarter change in employment by province ('000)  
(Q1:2023 and Q4:2022)



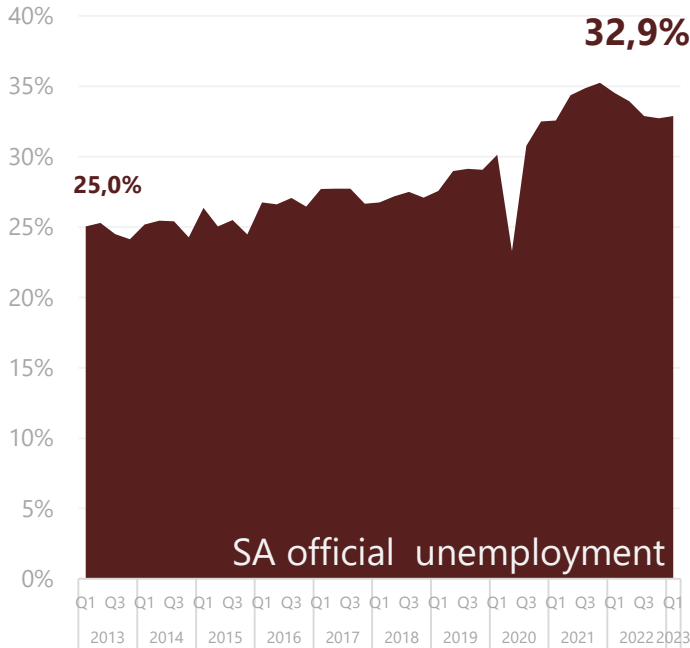
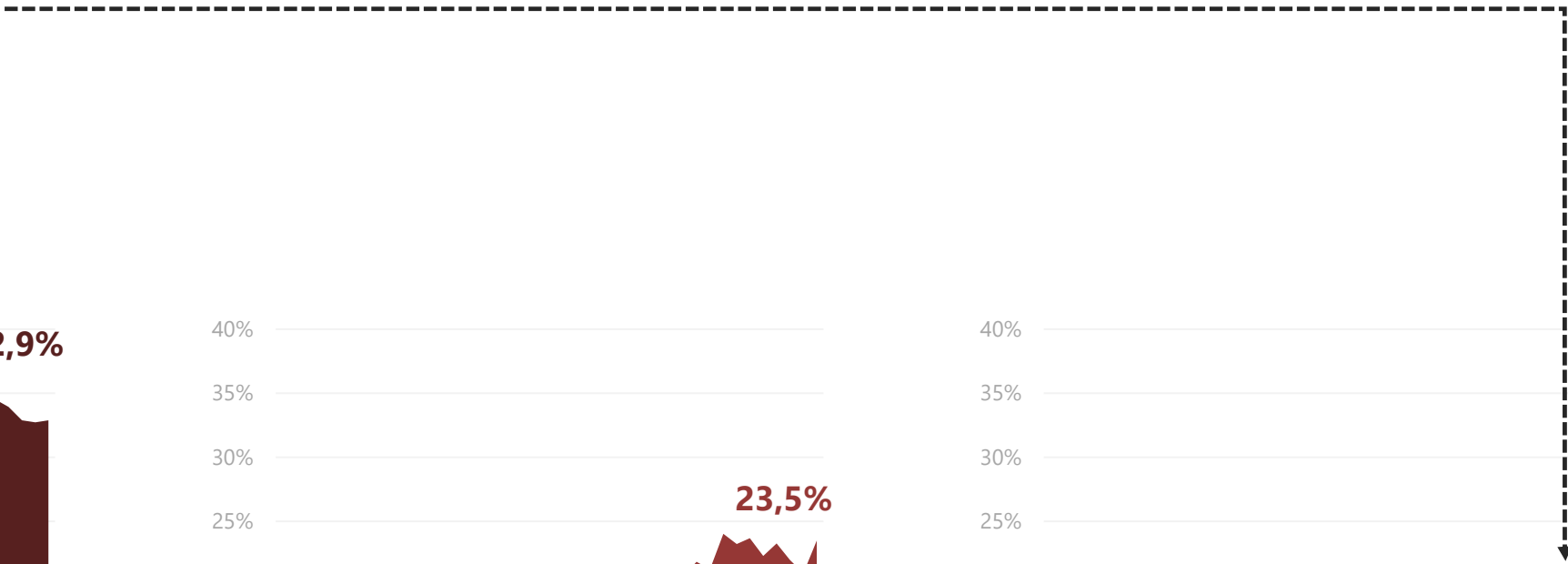
**Graduate unemployment rate (10,6%)** is 22,3 percentage points lower than the national official unemployment rate.

Official Unemployment rate Q1:2023



# In the past 10 years graduate unemployment increased from 5,5% in Q1:2013 to 10,6% in Q1:2023

Graduate unemployment 2013-2023

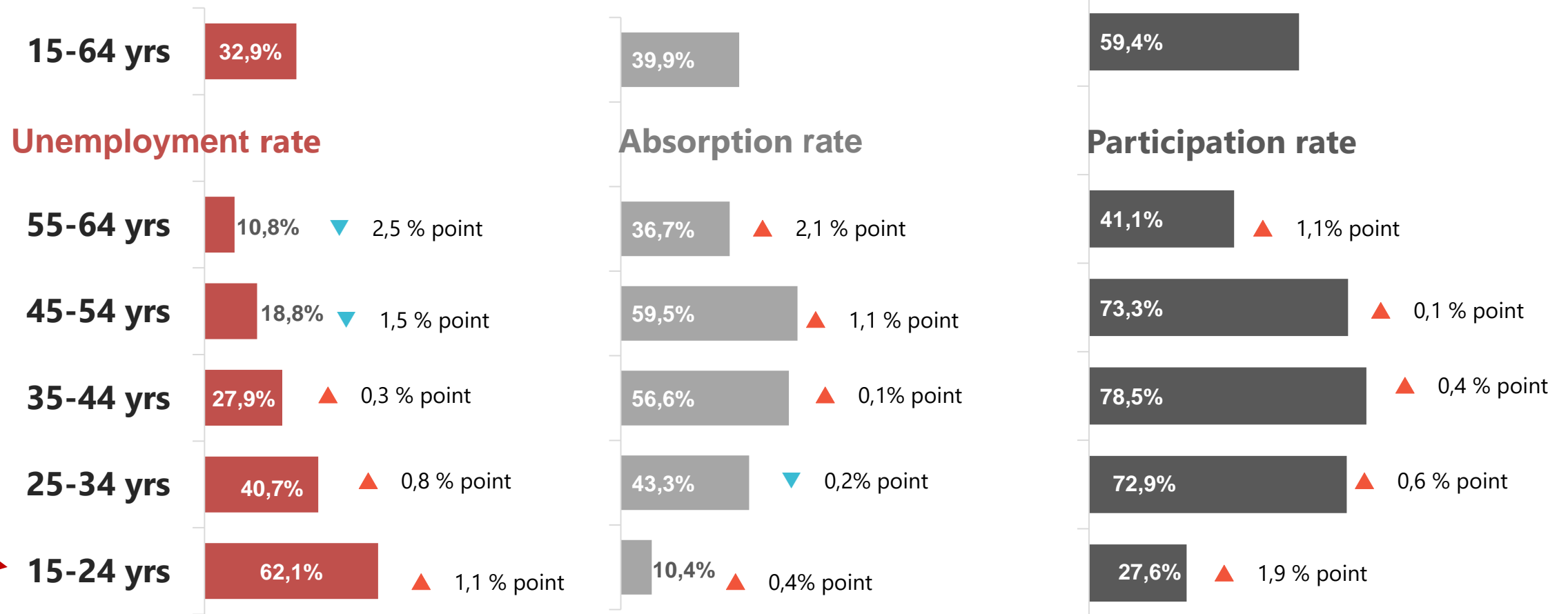




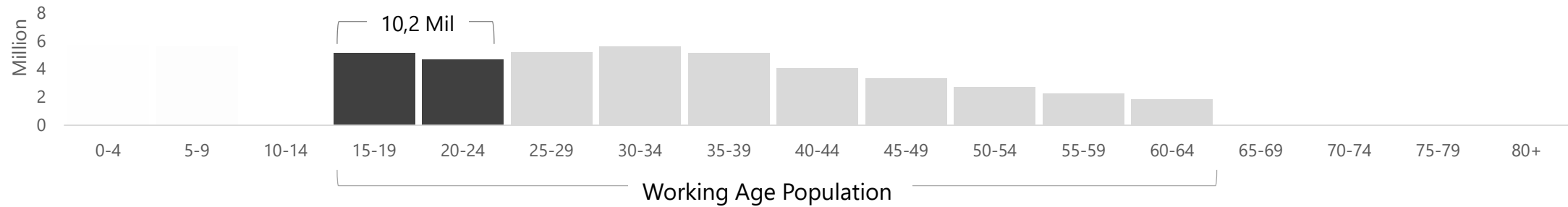
Youth aged 15-24 years and 25-34 years recorded the highest unemployment rates of 62,1% and 40,7% respectively.

Labour market rates by age group, Q1:2023

▲▼ Change: Percentage points Q4:2022 to Q1:2023



Approximately **3,7 million (36,1%)** out of **10,2 million** young people aged 15-24 years were not in employment, education or training (NEET).



Number of NEET for ages 15-24  
Q1:2023

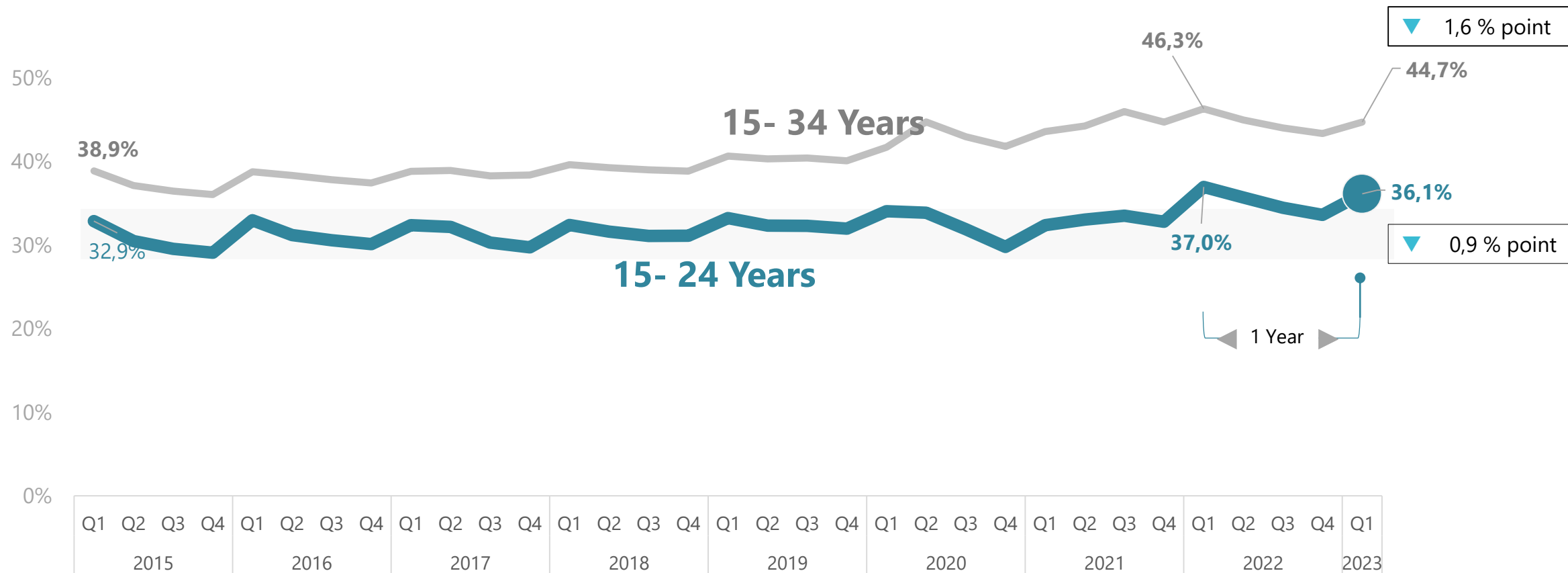
**3,7 Mil NEET**

**6,5 Mil**

**Employed or in  
Education or Training**

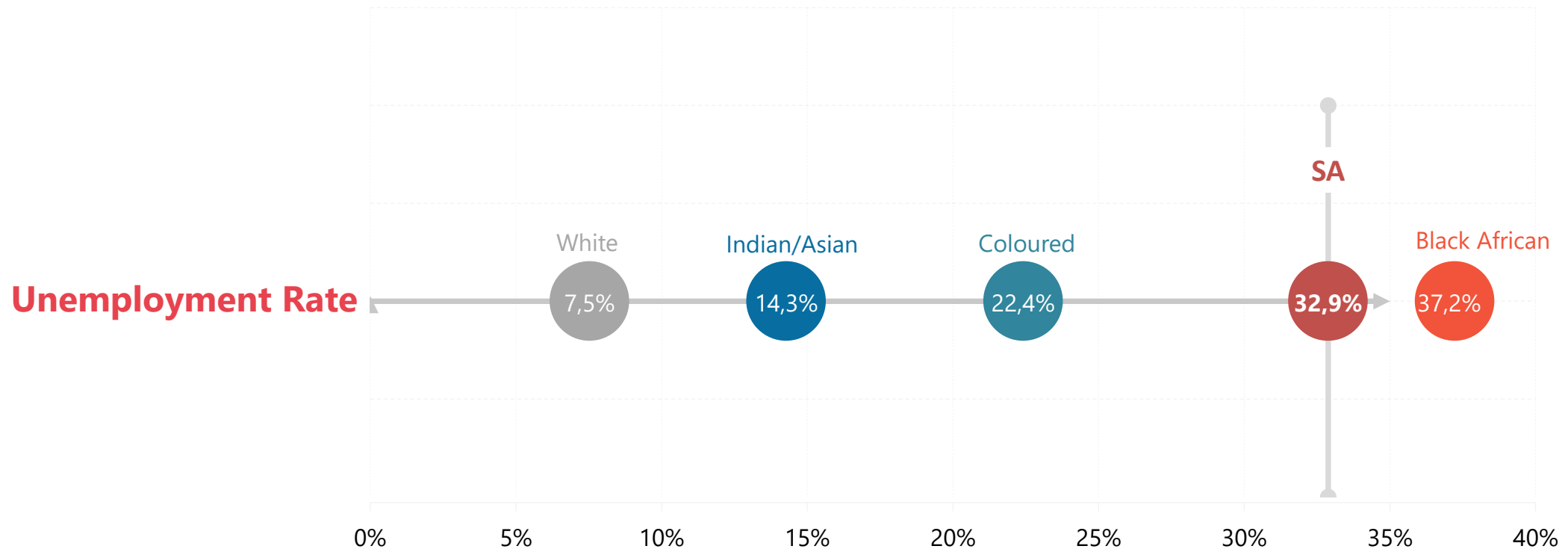
# The overall NEET rate (15 – 24yrs) decreased by 0,9 of a percentage point in Q1:2023 compared to Q1:2022.

2015-2023 NEET rate for ages 15-24 & 15-34 year old



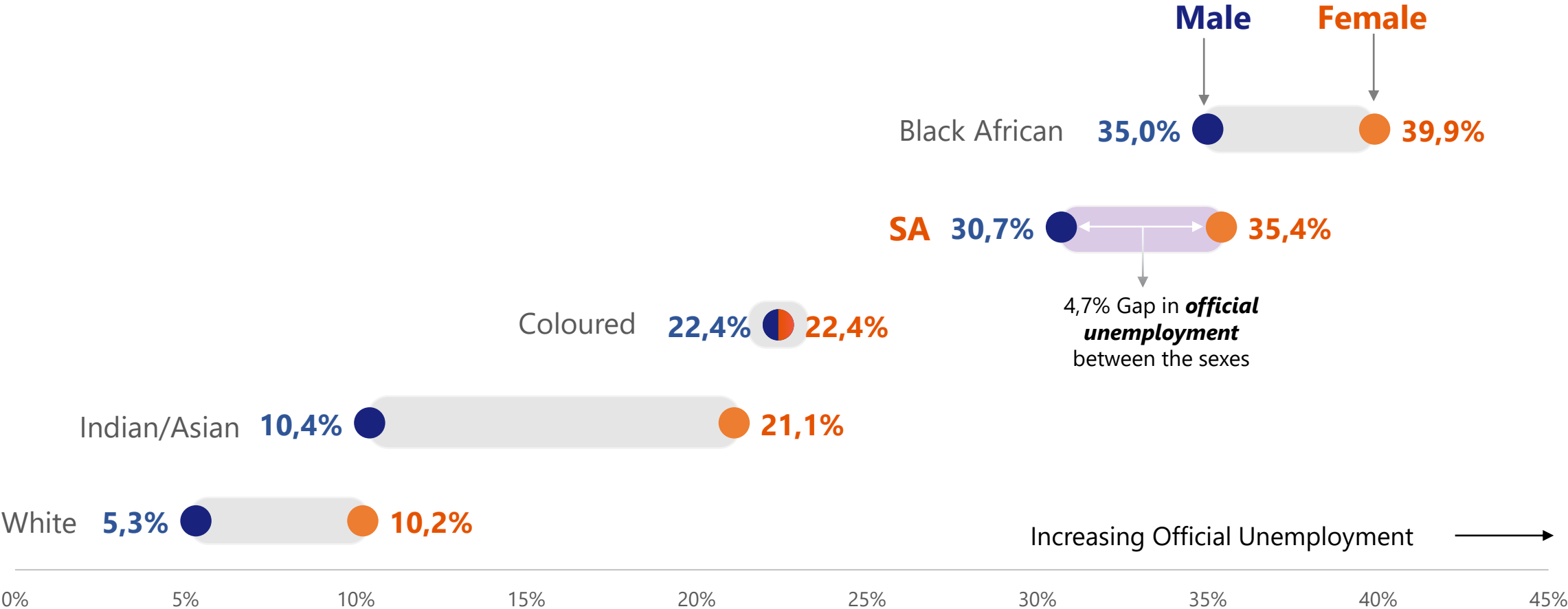
The unemployment rate among the **Black African (37,2%)** population group remains higher than the national average and other population groups.

**OFFICIAL** unemployment rate by population group, Q1:2023



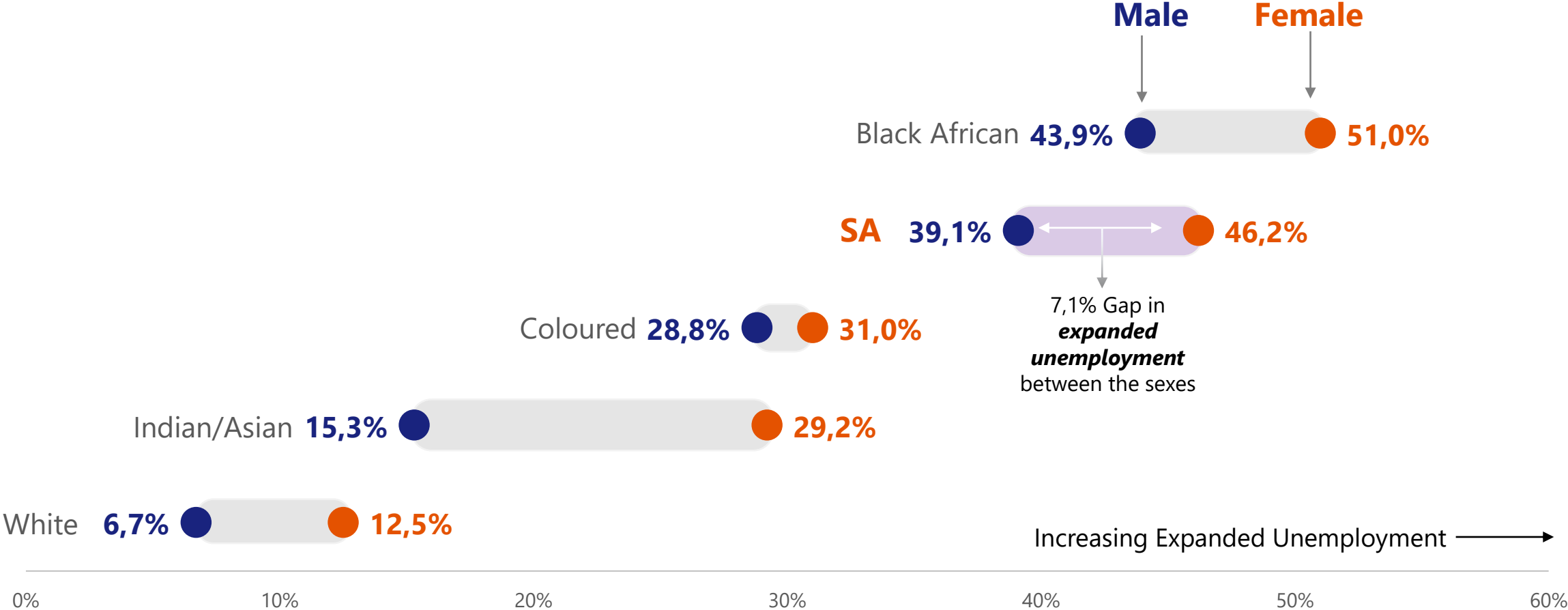
# Black African women continue to be the most vulnerable with an unemployment rate of 39,9% in Q1:2023. This is 4,5 percentage points higher than the national average for women at 35,4%.

Official unemployment rate by population group and sex, Q1:2023



# Using the expanded unemployment definition, **Gender disparity** persist throughout all population groups.

**EXPANDED** unemployment rate by population group and sex, Q1:2023





# RECAP (QLFS, Q1:2023)

- ❖ Unemployment rate **increased** by 0,2 of a percentage point to 32,9%. The Absorption rate increased by 0,5 of a percentage point to 39,9% and the labour force participation rate increased by 0,9 of a percentage point to 59,4%.
- ❖ The number of unemployed **increased** by 179 000 in Q1:2023 compared to Q4:2022. While the number of those who are employed **increased** by 258 000 in the same quarter.
- ❖ The largest **industry employment gains** were recorded in Finance (184 000) ,Community and social services(175 000) and Agriculture(27 000).



# NOW IN THE FIELD

THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
PARTICIPATION IN

**CENSUS 2022**

- Geospatial Information Frame
- Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (April 2023-March 2024)
- Quarterly Labour Force Survey (Collected quarterly)
- General Household Survey (January-December)
- Domestic Tourism Survey (January-December)
- Consumer Price Index (Collected monthly)
- Income and Expenditure Survey 2022/23 (Nov 2022-Nov 2023)





QLFS

Q1:2023

Ndzi hela kwala!



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