

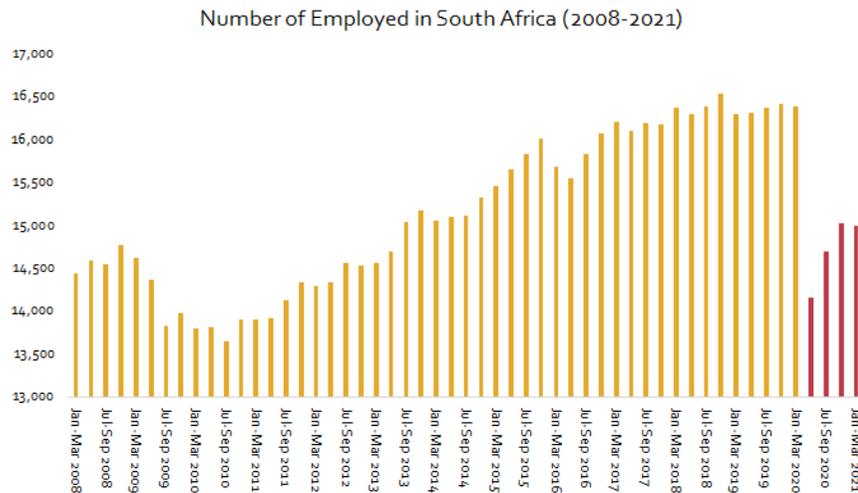
## Analysis of 2021 Q1 Labour Force Survey



### Persistent Impact of COVID19 Leaves Visible Scar in Labour Market

Data released by *StatisticsSA* during the week shows that in the first 90 days of 2021, 14.995 million in South Africa were gainfully employed. In retrospect, 16.4 million people were employed over the same period in 2020. This represents a decline of 1.38 million jobs in the 360 days. Although the number of people employed has improved increasingly since 2020Q2 there has been a very slow recovery in the labour market.

Figure 1: Number of People Employed in SA



### Employment by Formalisation

The formal sector remained the largest employer with 10.5 million people, followed by the informal sector with 2.5 million and an additional 1.3 million in



private households whilst the agriculture sector employed 792 000 in the Agriculture sector.

Figure 2: Employment by Formalisation



### Unemployment in South Africa

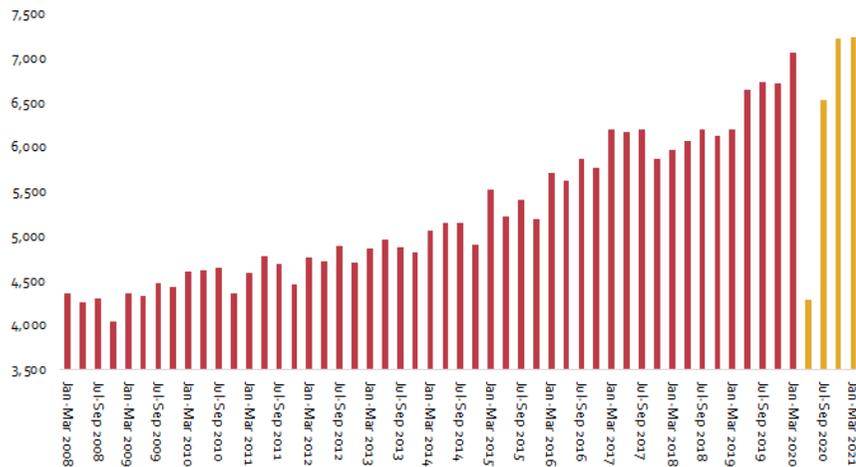
In contrast, the number of unemployment people in South Africa increased 7.24 million. This is the largest number recorded since the compilation of the *Labour Farce Survey*.



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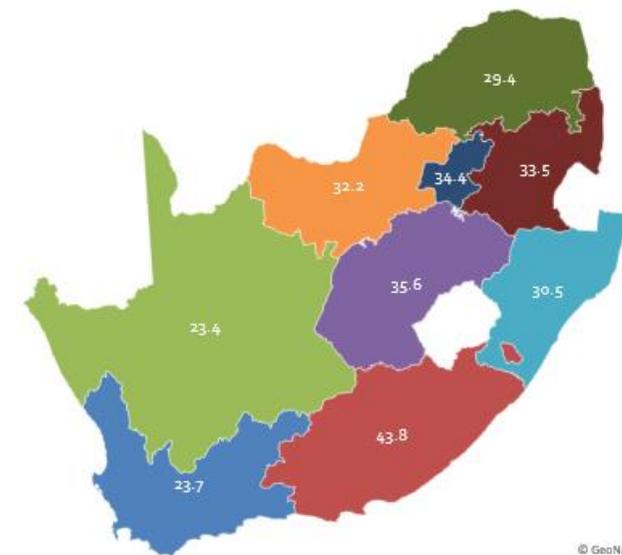
Figure 3: Number of Unemployed People in SA



Consequently, against a labour force of 22.4 million people, the unemployment rate increased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 32.6% in Q1 2021. However, Eastern Cape (43.8%), the Free State (35.6%) and Gauteng (34.4%) had higher than national levels of unemployment.



Figure 4: Unemployment Rate by Province



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This increase in unemployment was further spurred by the loss of 28 200 jobs in the labour market. The proportion of people employed against the working-age population (labour absorption rate) remained low at 38.0%. Historically this ratio has averaged 43% but dipped to 36% in 2020Q2 due to the Covid 19 restrictions and has struggled to return to pre covid levels.

### Employment by Province

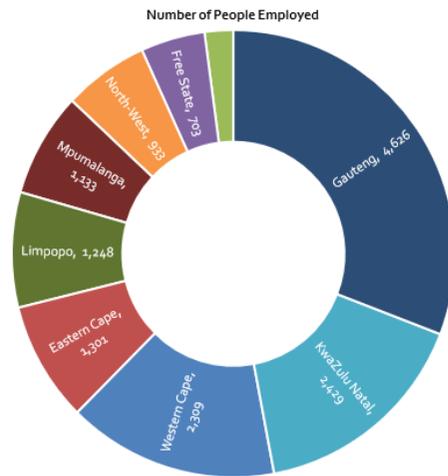
The Gauteng city-region accounted for 4.63 million jobs, KwaZulu Natal 2.43 million jobs and the Western Cape, 2.31 million Jobs.



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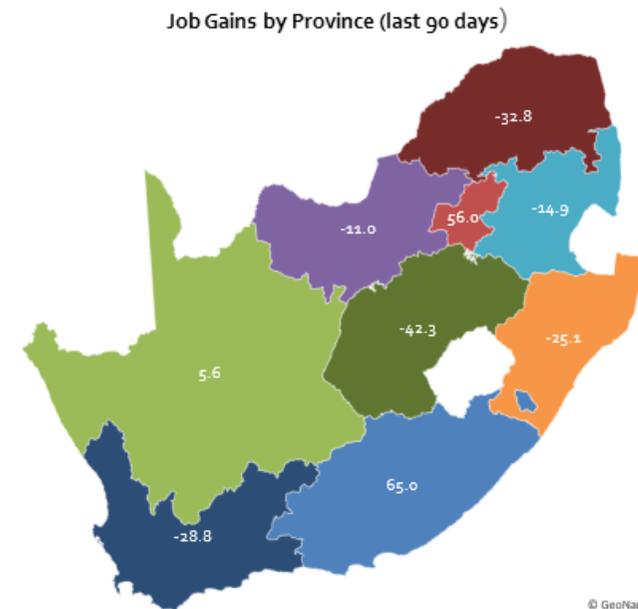
Figure 5: Employment by Province



From the 9 provinces, only 3 provinces experience growth in the number of people employed during the 90-day quarter, namely Eastern Cape (65 000), Gauteng (56 000) and Northern Cape (5 600). The graphic below spatially summarises job losses and gains by the province in the last 90 days.



Figure 6: Job Gains/Losses in the Last 90 Days



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### Employment by Sector

During the last 90 days, a net of the number of people employed declined by 28 200. By sector job losses were experienced in *Construction* (87 300), *Trade* (83 900) and *Private households* (69 800) which experienced the largest number of job losses. Additionally, The *Transport & Logistics* sector lost 40 100 jobs whilst the *Agriculture* sector lost 17 900 jobs in summary a total of 323 000 jobs were lost in 2021 Q1. However, job losses were offset by significant jobs gained in *Financial Services* (215 200), *Community & Social Services* (16 300), *Utilities* (15 900), *Mining*

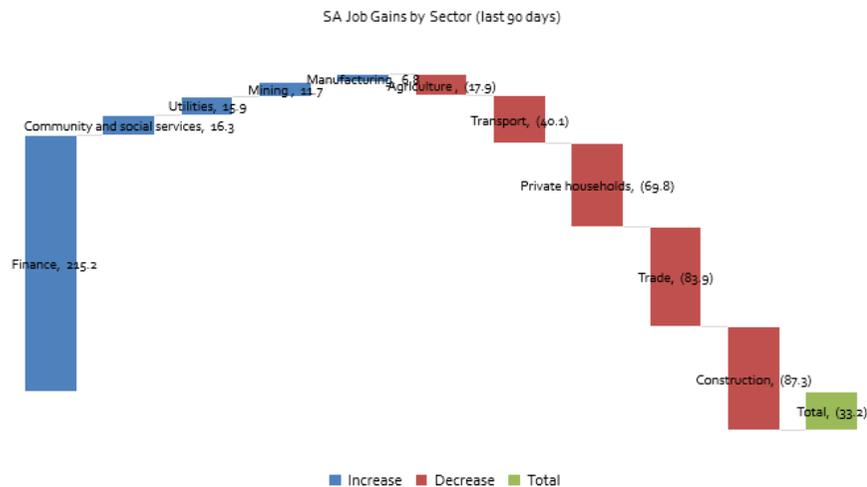


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(11 700) and manufacturing (6 800). These sectors added 265 900 new jobs into the economy of South Africa.

Figure 7: Job Gains/Losses by Sector

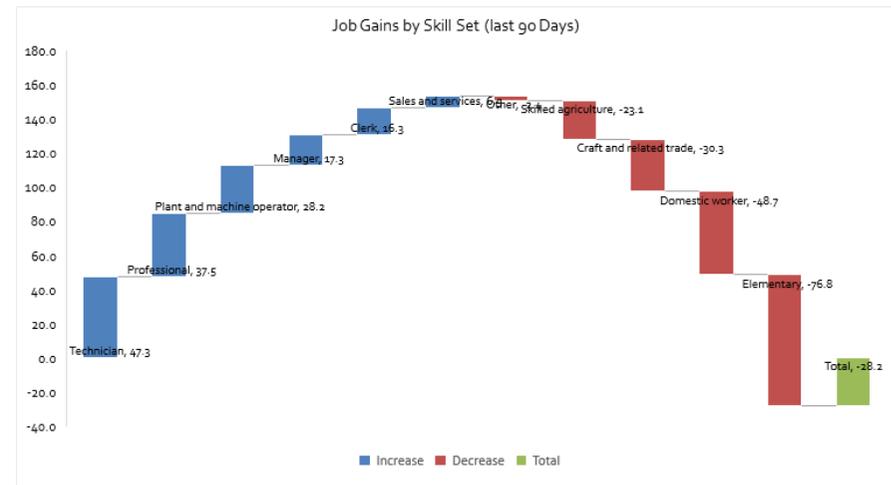


### Employment by Job Category

Gains and losses by job category were highly correlated to employment changes by sector. Technicians added an addition 47 300 jobs, professionals 37 500, Plant & 2 Machine operators 28 200, Managers 17 300 and Clerks 16 300. All these can be linked with job gains in Financial Services, Manufacturing, Utilities and Mining. However significant job losses were experienced in low-skill job categories such as Craft related jobs (30 300), Domestic Workers (48 700) Elementary jobs (76 800).



Figure 8: Job Gains/Losses by Job Category



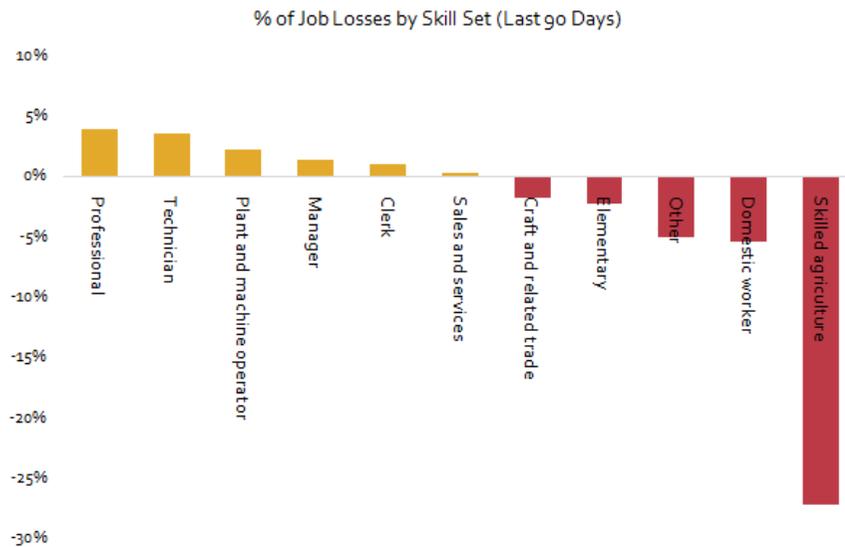
Additionally, Professional, technician and Plant Machine operator jobs increased by 4% whilst the skilled agriculture jobs fell by 27%,



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Figure 9: Proportion of Job Losses per Job category

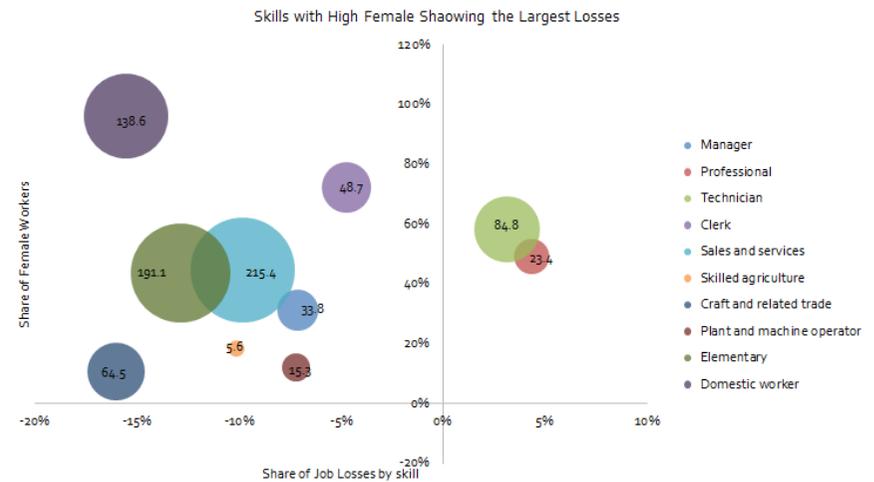


### Employment by Gender

During the quarter under review 27,700 males lost their jobs whilst only 5000 females lost their jobs. However, it should be understood that female employees and female-dominated sectors lost significantly more jobs in the last 360 days (during Covid 19). The graphs below show job losses for female-dominated sectors as well as female-dominated job categories.



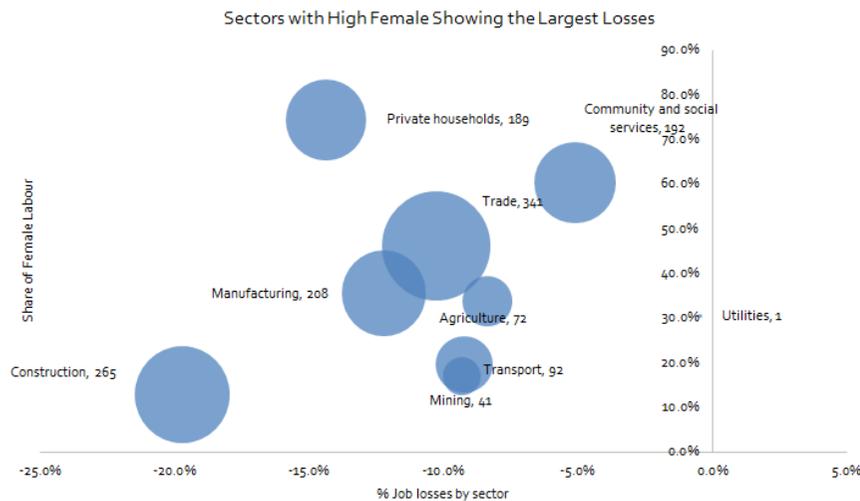
Figure 10: Impact of COVID 19 of Female Dominated Sectors



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Figure 11: Impact of COVID 19 of Female Dominated Job Categories

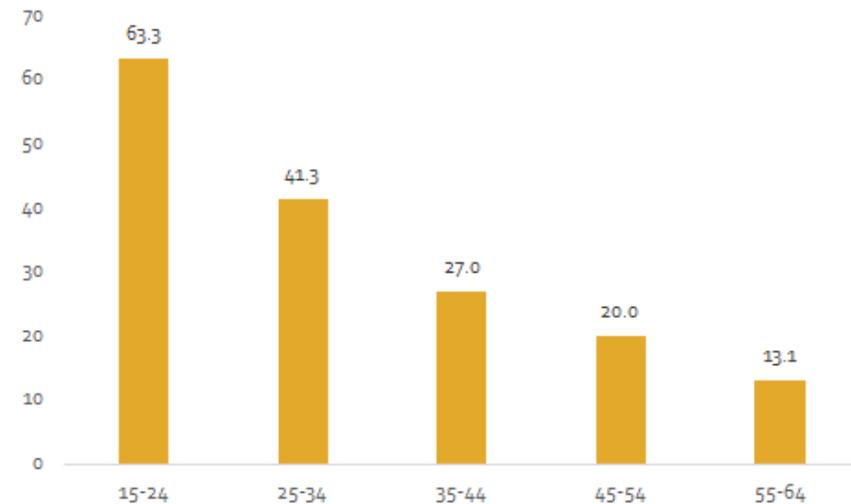


### Employment by Age Group

The unemployment rate remains inversely correlated to the age group with the most productive members of the community being the least employed. Unemployment between 15 and 24 years stands at 63.4 %t, the highest among age brackets, followed by a 41.3% unemployment rate of people aged between 25 to 34 years. Youth unemployment in the country (ages between 15 and 34) is currently at crisis levels. Approximately 3.3 million (32.4%) out of 10.2 million young people aged 15-34 years were not in employment, education, or training. Youth unemployment is one of South Africa's most intractable challenges, further exacerbated by COVID-19.



Figure 12: Unemployment Rate by Age Group



### Focus on Gauteng Employment

#### Gauteng Employment by Formalisation

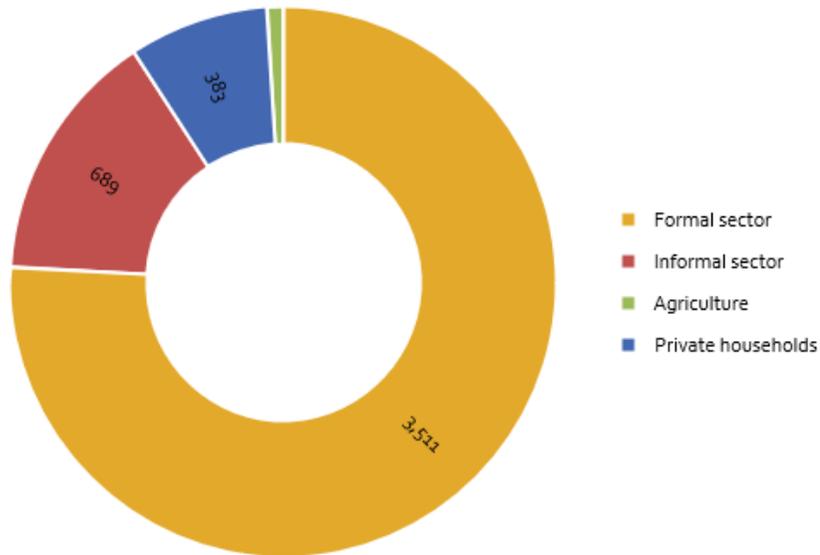
In the last 90 days, there were 4.63 million people employed in the Gauteng city region. 3.5 million were employed in the formal sector, 689 000 in the informal sector, 383 000 in private households and 43 000 in Agriculture. A total of 56 000 jobs were gained in the last 90 days. By formalisation, the formal sector of Gauteng added 42 000 jobs, Whilst the informal sector added 19 000 jobs and private households added 10 000 jobs. The agriculture sector lost 15 000 jobs to the Gauteng labour market.



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Figure 13: Gauteng Employment by Formalisation

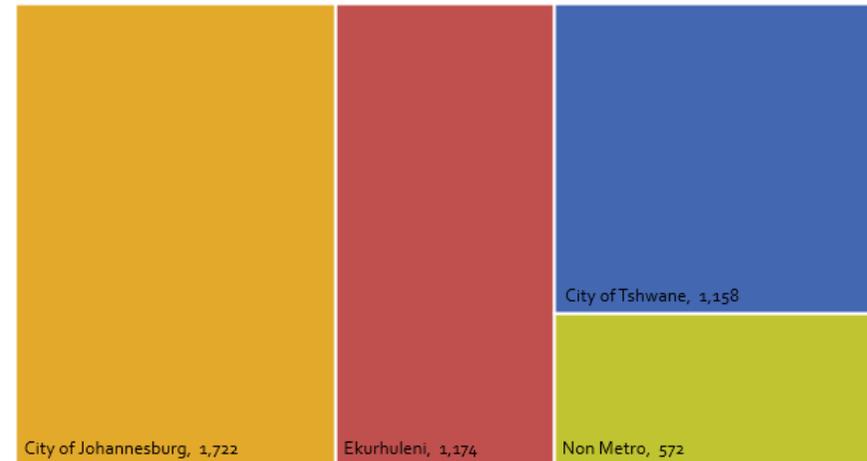


### Gauteng Employment by 5 Corridors

Spatially, the City of Johannesburg was the largest employer with 1.72 million jobs, followed by Ekurhuleni with 1.17 million jobs City of Tshwane with 1.16 million jobs. The Non-metro regions of the Southern Corridor and the Western Corridor accounted for 572 000 jobs in the Gauteng city region.



Figure 14: Gauteng Employment by Corridor



Non-metros however experienced the largest increase in absolute job numbers adding 31 000 new jobs to the economy of Gauteng. The northern corridor added 22 000 jobs. The central corridor and the Eastern corridor respectively added 3 000 and 1 100 jobs.

### Unemployment Across the 5 Corridors.

Unfortunately, the Gauteng city-region has higher than national levels of unemployment owing to large inward migration into the province. During the period under review, Gauteng registered an unemployment rate of 34.4% whilst the rest of the country registered 32.6%. Across the 5 corridors, all metros had unemployment rates higher than the national average. Ekurhuleni had 34.4%, Johannesburg 34.1% and Tshwane 36.7%. Nationally, only Eastern Cape and the Free State have higher levels of unemployment.



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Figure 15: Unemployment Rates by Corridor

