



## THE QLFS AND US: Quarterly Labour Force Survey 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2012



### ‘The wave of unemployment rolls on’

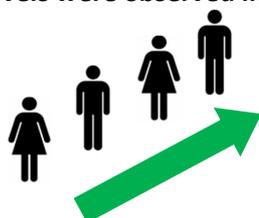
Despite efforts in government, business and civil society, unemployment persists and shows very little sign of retreating. Critically, it is the first time since the inception of the QLFS that there has been a **decrease in employment in the 4th quarter of a year** – this is not a good sign for the 2013 year ahead.

#### Key National Points:

- A **decrease in employment** was attributable to job losses of 139 000, 59 000 and 42 000 in Trade, Manufacturing and Private Households industries respectively when compared to the same period in 2011.



- **HOWEVER, some recovery from the recession** is evident in that since Q3:2010, employment levels have steadily risen from 12,9 million to 13,5 million in Q4:2012. The highest employment levels were observed in Q3:2012 and Q4:2012 since Q2:2009.



- With regards to skills, it is important to note that **elementary occupations account for the largest share of total employment** at 22,3%, and this is rising (52 000 from last quarter and 101 000 from last year).



- **Informal sector employment increased** by 8 000 (0,4%) jobs between Q3:2012 and Q4:2012, and 71 000 more jobs (3.3%) were created in this sector between 2011 and 2012.



## Situation in KZN:

- Unfortunately, the **biggest increase in unemployment rate** from the previous quarter was recorded in KwaZulu-Natal (1,2%) and Free State (1,2%). The strict unemployment rate for KZN currently stands at 22.5% and the expanded rate is 39.1%.



- **The labour trends for KZN this quarter are bleak:**

- Decreases were experienced in the labour force and the employed;



- While increases were reported in the 15 – 64 year old population, the unemployed, and discouraged work seekers.



- **Manufacturing** is a crucial sector in KZN and the province has 428 000 people employed in this industry, which is second only to Gauteng where 608 000 are employed in manufacturing. From December 2011 to 2012, this sector lost 15.7% (67 000) of its labour. Gauteng over the same period remained unchanged.



## *A closer look at NEETs:*



Youth not in employment, education, or training (NEETs), are **disengaged from work and education** and are a critical group to target in terms of unemployment interventions. Stats SA began asking questions to identify this group in the third quarter of 2012.

In South Africa, a **third of the youth aged 15 – 24 years old (3.3 million young people) are NEETs**, demonstrating the scale of youth vulnerability in terms of access to skill and work opportunities. A further 4 million young people aged 25 – 34 years of age are neither in education nor employment. The NEET rate for women (34.9%) is 6.5% higher than for men.

**KZN is home to just over 2.9 million NEETs** of all ages (21.9% of the national total) which is the highest of all the provinces. This rose by 71 000 (2.5%) from Q3:2012 to Q4:2012. The NEETs in KZN represent a staggering 42.9% of the working age population within the province.

## *Sources:*

Stats SA. (2012). QLFS 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter. Downloaded from:

<http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/statsabout.asp?PPN=P0211&SCH=4701>

<http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2013-02-06-the-meaning-of-numbers-labour-force-survey-q4/>

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