



National Agricultural  
Marketing Council  
Promoting market access for South African agriculture

# Markets and Economic Research Centre

## Macroeconomic Digest



*An Update on Selected  
Macroeconomic Indicators*

*Labour - August 2018*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- *Employment*



Total quarterly employment decreased by 0.5% (90 000 jobs) during the second quarter of 2018 (April to June 2018), from 16 378 000 to 16 288 000, compared to the first quarter of 2018 (January to March 2018). The unemployment rate increased to 27.2% in the second quarter, from 26.7% reported during the first quarter of 2018. The increase in the unemployment rate resulting from job losses in Manufacturing, Community, Social and Personal Services and Trade by 105 000, 93 000 and 57 000 jobs, respectively. Agriculture (3 000 jobs) recorded employment losses between the first and second quarter of 2018. However, employment increases were recorded in Transport (54 000), Construction (45 000), Mining (38 000), Private households (22 000) and the Utilities (18 000) industries.

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### 1. Introduction

Macroeconomic indicators are statistics that present the current status of the economy of a country depending on a particular industry of the economy (industry, labour market, trade, etc). Indicators are pertinent to a broader economy, at national level. Macroeconomic indicators are key statistics that influence the direction of a particular large-scale market.

The purpose of this publication, the Macroeconomic Digest Report Vol (1) is to provide valuable factual and analytical information on employment that can empower stakeholders and the public at large, to engage in discussions and analysis of policies and strategies.

The data for this publication is obtained from official releases of Statistics South Africa (Stats SA).

### 2. Employment by industry

**Table 1** depicts that the total quarterly employment decreased by 0.5% (90 000 jobs) during the second quarter of 2018 (April to June 2018), from 16 378 000 to 16 288 t000, compared to the first quarter of 2018 (January to March 2018). The unemployment rate increased to 27.2% in the second quarter, from 26.7% reported during the first quarter of 2018. The increase in the unemployment rate resulting from job losses in Manufacturing, Community, Social and Personal Services and Trade by 105 000, 93 000 and 57 000 jobs, respectively. Agriculture (3 000 jobs) recorded employment losses between the first and second quarter of 2018. However, employment increases were recorded in Transport (54 000), Construction (45 000), Mining (38 000), Private households (22 000) and the Utilities (18 000) industries.

**Table 1: Quarterly and annual Total Employment**

Industry	Apr-Jun 2017	Jan-Mar 2018	Apr-Jun 2018	Qtr.-to- qtr. change	Year-on- year change	Qtr.-to- qtr. % change	Year-on- year % change
	Thousands			Percentage			
<b>Total</b>	<b>16 100</b>	<b>16 378</b>	<b>16 288</b>	<b>-90</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>1.2</b>
Agriculture	835	847	843	-3	8	-0.4	1.0
Mining	434	397	435	38	1	9.6	0.3
Manufacturing	1 799	1 849	1 744	-105	-55	-5.7	-3.1
Utilities	148	143	161	18	13	12.2	8.8
Constructing	1 395	1 431	1 476	45	80	3.1	5.8
Trade	3 265	3 276	3 219	-57	-46	-1.7	-1.4
Transport	954	960	1 014	54	60	5.6	6.3

Industry	Apr-Jun 2017	Jan-Mar 2018	Apr-Jun 2018	Qtr.-to- qtr. change	Year-on- year change	Qtr.-to- qtr. % change	Year-on- year % change
	Thousands			Percentage			
Finance and other business services	2 395	2 402	2 399	-3	4	-0.1	0.2
Community and social services	3 560	3 785	3 692	-93	132	-2.5	3.7
Private households	1 311	1 275	1 296	22	-15	1.7	-1.2

*\*Note: Total includes "other" industry. Due to rounding, numbers do not necessarily add up to totals.*

Source: Stats SA, 2018

**Figure 1** shows the current state of agricultural sectoral employment on a quarterly basis. The employment increased by 33.81% between the second quarter of 2010 to the second quarter of 2018. Compared to the same period last year (April to June 2017), y-o-y, total employment improve by 188 000 jobs and largely driven by Community and Social Services (+132 000 jobs), Construction (+80 000), and Transport (+60 000). Manufacturing, Trade and Private Households recorded lossed of 55 000, 46 000 and 15 000 jobs, respectively.

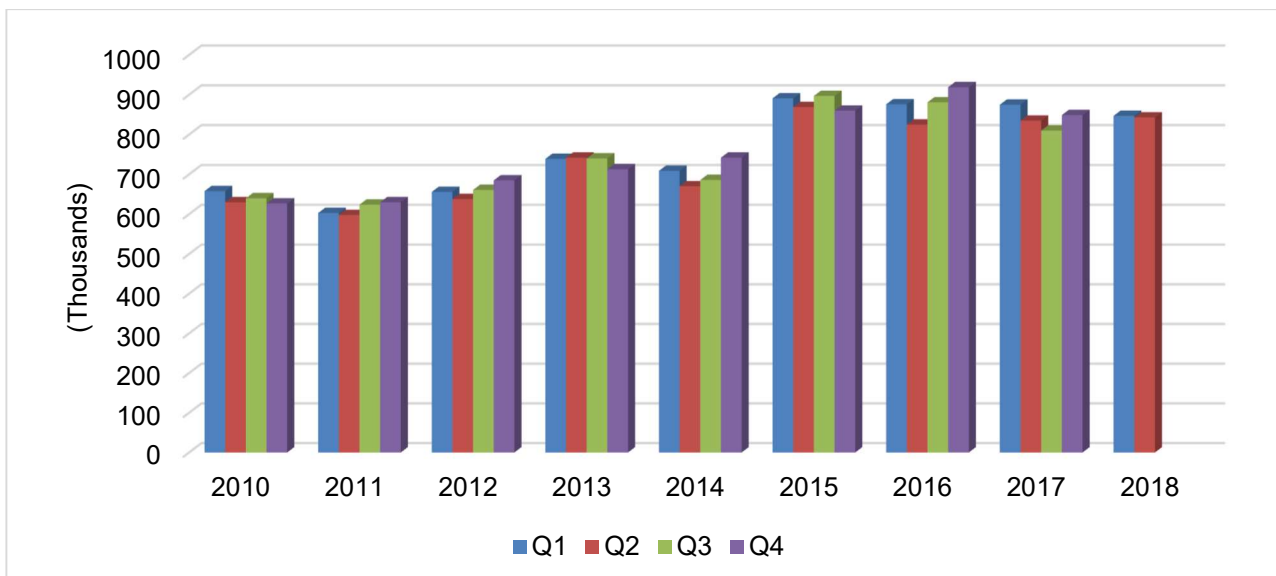


Figure 1: Agricultural employment trends

Source: Stats SA, 2018

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