



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 - October 2018*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- *Employment*



The unemployment rate further increased by 0.3 percentage points to 27.5% in the third quarter, compared to 27.2% in the second quarter of 2018. The increased unemployment during this quarter was driven by seven of the ten industries with the largest contributors including Private Households, Mining and Manufacturing with 30 000, 29 000 and 25 000 jobs, respectively. The number of employed persons increased by 92 000 to 16,4 million and the number of unemployed persons rose by 127 000 to 6,2 million in Q3: 2018. Total quarterly employment increased by 0.6% (92 000 jobs) during the third quarter of 2018 (July to September 2018), from 16 288 000 to 16 380 000, compared to the second quarter of 2018 (April to June 2018). Finance and other Business Services (102 000), Trade (86 000) and Construction (27 000) industries experienced increased employment resulting in a net employment increase of 92 000 jobs during the third quarter of 2018. Employment in Agriculture declined by 0.2% (1 000 jobs) between the second and third quarter of 2018 and reached 842 000 in the third quarter of 2018.

In terms of Agricultural employment by province, the largest contributions were recorded in Western Cape, Limpopo and KwaZulu Natal with shares of 21.8%, 17.5% and 14.3% respectively. Furthermore, during the same quarter of 2018, men actively involved in Agriculture were 565 000, while women were 277 000.

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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 a 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: Labour 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** shows that the total quarterly employment increased by 0.6% (92 000 jobs) during the third quarter of 2018 (July to September 2018), from 16 288 000 to 16 380 000, compared to the second quarter of 2018 (April to June 2018). Finance and other Business Services (102 000), Trade (86 000) and Construction (27 000) industries experienced increased employment resulting in a net employment increase of 92 000 jobs during the third quarter of 2018. The unemployment rate further increased by 0.3 percentage points to 27.5% in the third quarter, compared to 27.2% in the second quarter of 2018. The increased unemployment during this quarter was driven by seven of the ten industries with the largest contributors including Private Households, Mining and Manufacturing with 30 000, 29 000 and 25 000 jobs, respectively. Employment in Agriculture declined by 0.2% (1 000 jobs) between the second and third quarter of 2018 and reached 842 000 in the third quarter of 2018.

Compared to the same period last year, the employment gain of 188 000 jobs was largely driven by Construction (137 000), Community and social services (59 000) and Finance and other business services (38 000).

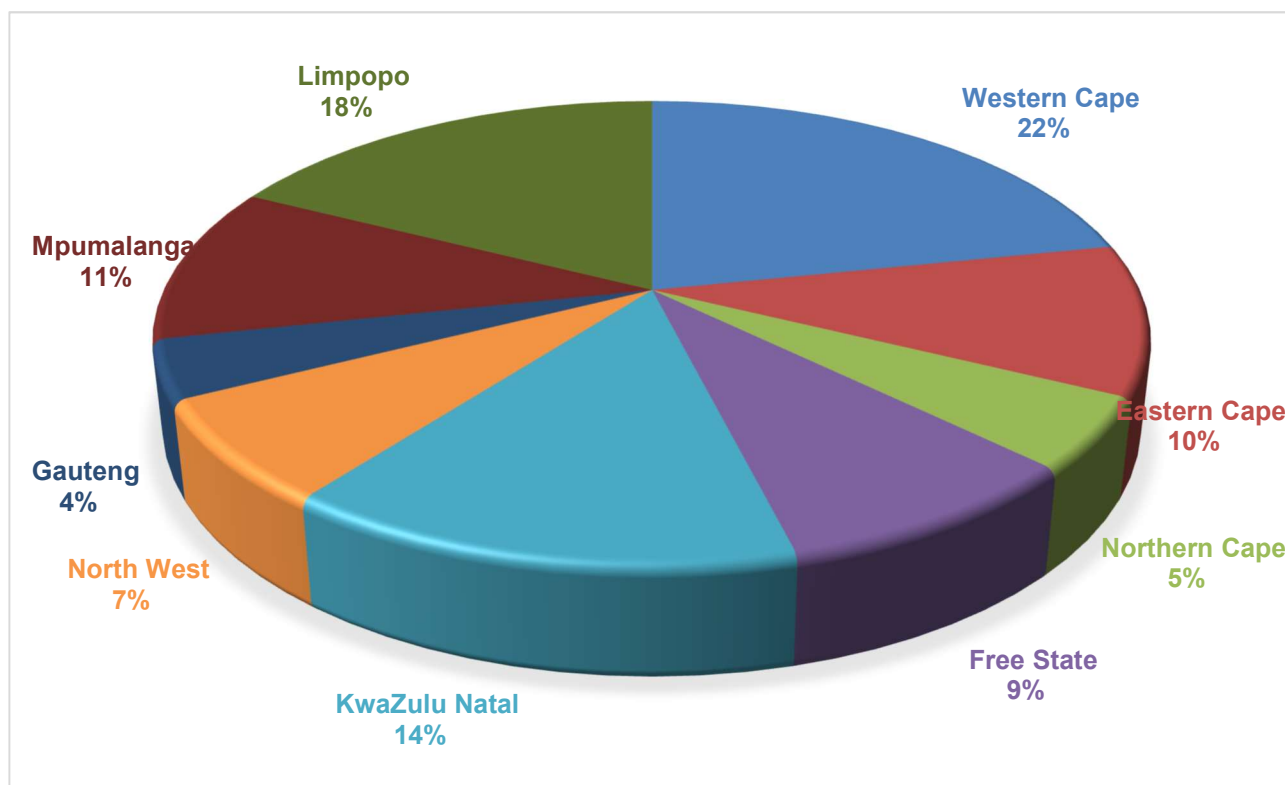
**Table 1: Quarterly and Annual Total Employment**

Industry	Jul-Sep 2017	Apr-Jun 2018	Jul-Sep 2018	Qtr.-to- qtr. change	Year-on- year change	Qtr.-to- qtr. % change	Year-on- year % change
	Thousands			Percentage			
<b>Total</b>	<b>16 192</b>	<b>16 288</b>	<b>16 380</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>1.2</b>
Agriculture	810	843	842	-1	32	-0.2	3.9
Mining	446	435	406	-29	-40	-6.7	-8.9
Manufacturing	1 749	1 744	1 719	-25	-30	-1.5	-1.7
Utilities	153	161	156	-5	3	-3.0	1.9
Constructing	1 395	1 476	1 502	27	137	1.8	10.1
Trade	3 286	3 219	3 305	86	20	2.7	0.6
Transport	988	1 014	996	-18	8	-1.8	0.8
Finance and other business services	2 463	2 399	2 502	102	38	4.3	1.6
Community and social services	3 616	3 692	3 675	-17	59	-0.5	1.6
Private households	1 313	1 296	1 296	-30	-46	-2.3	-3.5

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

Source: Stats SA, 2018

**Figure 1** shows the employment status in Agriculture in the third quarter by South African province. The largest employment contributions in Agriculture were recorded in Western Cape, Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal with shares of 21.8%, 17.5% and 14.3% respectively. Gauteng recorded the lowest contribution to Agriculture during this quarter (4.1%).



**Figure1: Employment by province in Agriculture (Third quarter of 2018, July – September 2018)**

Source: Stats SA, 2018

### 3. Gender Composition of Agricultural Employment

The gender dimension is crucial for assessing transformation in the economy. Gender inequality implies skewed access to and control over resources which undermines a sustainable and inclusive development of the agricultural sector. Gender plays a significant role in enhancing food security and household welfare. **Figure 2** provides an overview of employment status by gender within the agricultural sector in South Africa. In reviewing findings available from recent Stats SA release on Agriculture, it is evident that men were the main participants in Agriculture over the past years. In the third quarter of 2018 (July – September 2018), men actively involved in Agriculture were 565 000, while women were 277 000.

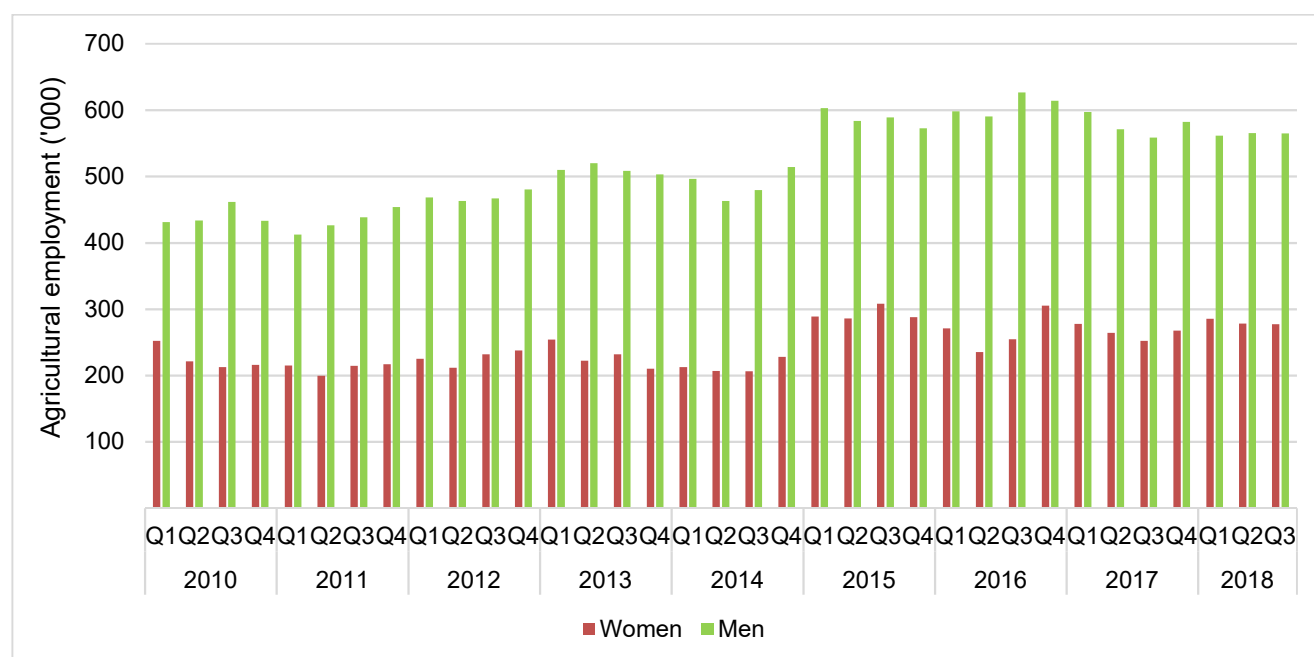


Figure 2: Gender distribution in Agriculture  
Source: Stats SA, 2018

**Figure 3** shows quarterly trends in agricultural sectoral employment between Quarter 1 of 2010 and Quarter 3 of 2018. Employment increased by 31.6% during this period.

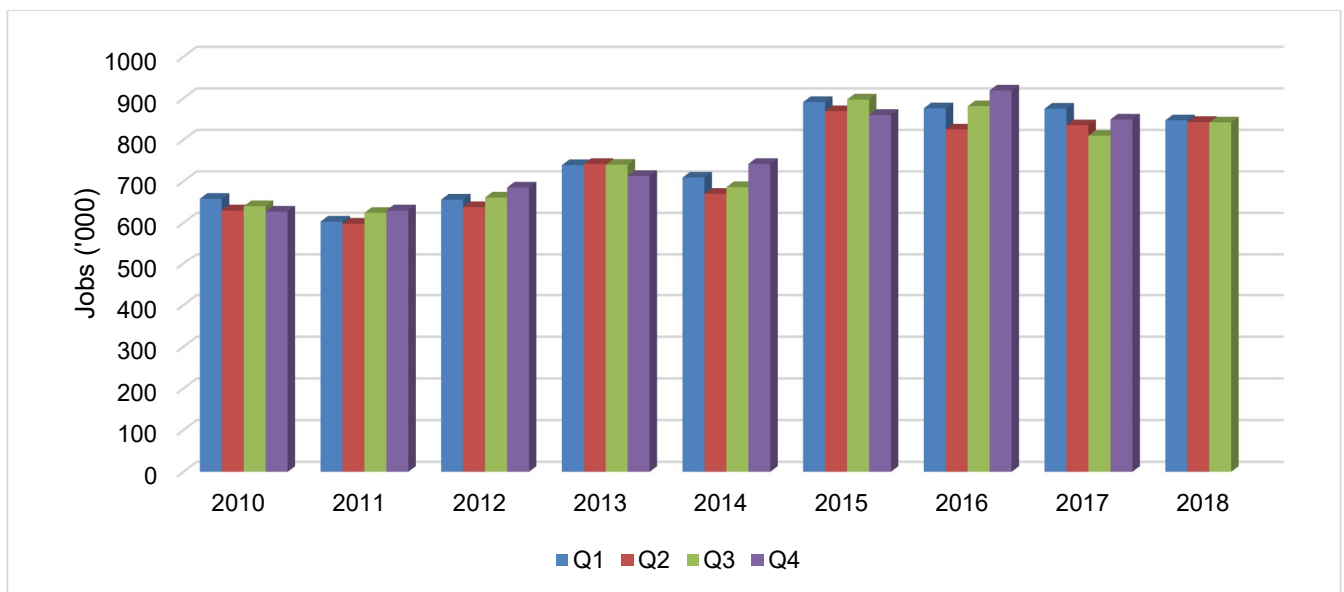


Figure 3: Agricultural employment trends  
Source: Stats SA, 2018



Compiled by:

Fezeka Matebeni  
Corné Dempers  
Rika Verwey  
Simphele Ngqangweni

Enquiries: Dr Christo Joubert: +27 12 341 1115 or [christo@namc.co.za](mailto:christo@namc.co.za)

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**Contact us**

**Tel:** +27 341 1115 | **Fax:** +27 12 341 1811  
Block A | 4th Floor | Meintjiesplein Building | 536 Francis  
baard Street  
Arcadia | Pretoria | 0002  
**Email:** [info@namc.co.za](mailto:info@namc.co.za)  
[www.namc.co.za](http://www.namc.co.za)