



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 - February 2019

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- *Employment*



The unemployment rate decreased by 0.4 of a percentage point to 27.1% in the fourth quarter of 2018 (October to December 2018), compared to 27.5% reported during the third quarter of 2018 (July to September 2018). Total employment increased by 0.9% (149 000 jobs) during the fourth quarter of 2018 (from 16 380 000 to 16 529 000), compared to the third quarter of 2018. Finance and other Business Services (109 000 jobs), Private Households (65 000 jobs), Manufacturing (48 000 jobs), Mining (31 000 jobs) and Trade (14 000 jobs) were the main drivers of employment growth between the third and fourth quarter of 2018. However, employment declines were recorded in Community and Social Services (51 000 jobs), Transport (30 000 jobs), Utilities (22 000 jobs) and Construction (21 000 jobs), during the same period. Employment in Agriculture increased by 0.9% (7 000 jobs) between the third and fourth quarter of 2018 and reached 849 000 jobs during the fourth quarter of 2018.

Considering Agricultural employment, per province, Western Cape province was the main contributor to the sector, representing 25%. While the Gauteng province was the least contributor to Agriculture employment during this quarter (4%).

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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 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 illustrates that the total quarterly employment increased by 0.9% (149 000 jobs) during the fourth quarter of 2018 (October to December 2018) (from 16 380 000 to 16 529 000), compared to the third quarter of 2018 (July to September 2018). Finance and other business services (109 000 jobs), Private Households (65 000 jobs), Manufacturing (48 000 jobs), Mining (31 000 jobs) and Trade (14 000 jobs) were the main drivers of employment growth between the third and fourth quarter of 2018. However, employment declines were recorded in Community and Social Services (51 000 jobs), Transport (30 000 jobs), Utilities (22 000 jobs) and Construction (21 000 jobs), during the same period. Employment in Agriculture increased by 0.9% (7 000 jobs) between the third and fourth quarter of 2018 and reached 849 000 jobs during the fourth quarter of 2018.

Compared to the same period last year (October to December 2017), total industry employment increased by 358 000 persons, largely driven by Finance and other Business Services (238 000), Construction (91 000) and Trade (79 000). Employment in Agriculture remained unchanged at 849 000 persons.

Table 1: Total Industry Employment

Industry	Oct-Dec 2017	Jul-Sep 2018	Oct-Dec 2018	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year-on- year change	Qtr-to-qtr % change	Year-on- year % change
Thousands				Percentage			
Total	16 171	16 380	16 529	149	358	0.9	2.2
Agriculture	849	842	849	7	0	0.9	0.0
Mining	411	406	438	31	27	7.7	6.5
Manufacturing	1 791	1 719	1 766	48	-24	2.8	-1.4
Utilities	149	156	134	-22	-16	-14.2	-10.5
Constructing	1 390	1 502	1 481	-21	91	-1.4	6.5
Trade	3 240	3 305	3 320	14	79	0.4	2.4
Transport	1 001	996	965	-30	-36	-3.1	-3.6
Finance and other business services	2 373	2 502	2 611	109	238	4.4	10.0
Community and social services	3 691	3 675	3 624	-51	-67	-1.4	-1.8
Private households	1 270	1 267	1 332	65	62	5.1	4.9

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

Source: Stats SA, 2019

The largest Agricultural employment increase was recorded in Western Cape with 29 000 jobs (16%). The Free State Province experienced the largest decline in Agriculture employment during the fourth quarter (-23.5%).

Figure 1 demonstrates the employment status in Agriculture in the fourth quarter 2018 in South African provinces. Western Cape province was the main contributor to Agriculture employment, representing 25%, while Gauteng province was the least contributor to Agriculture employment during this quarter (4%).

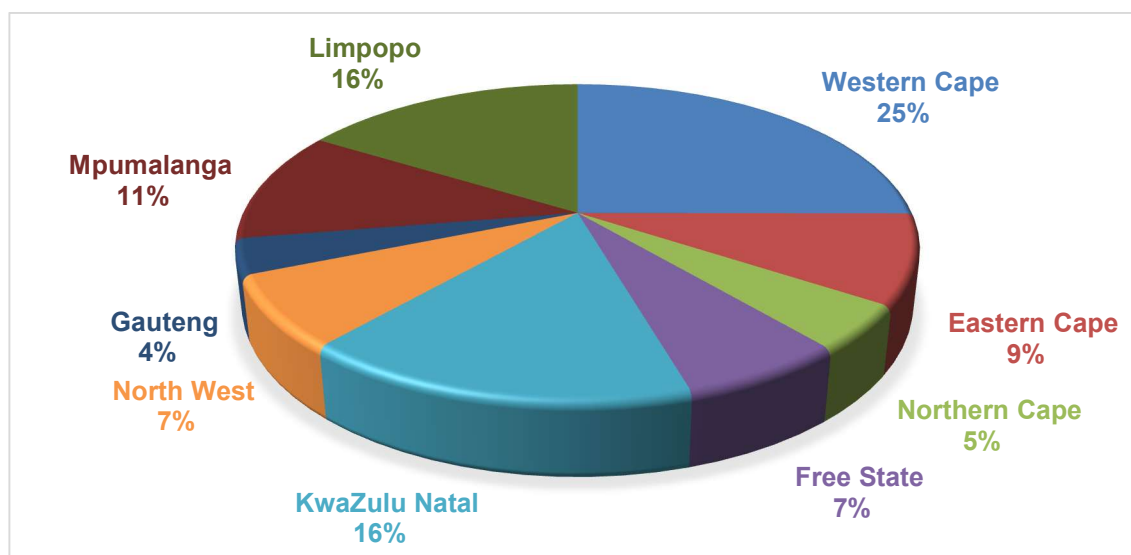


Figure1: Agricultural employment at the provincial level (fourth quarter of 2018, October –December 2018)

Source: Stats SA, 2019

3. Gender Composition of Agricultural Employment

The gender dimension is crucial from an economic and transformation point of view. The gender inequality affects access to- and control over resources, which could undermine sustainability 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 industry in South Africa. According to Stats SA, men were the main participants in agriculture during the period under review (2010 – 2018). In the fourth quarter of 2018 (October – December 2018), men actively involved in Agriculture were 564 000, while women amounted to 285 000. Although men dominated the sector, women employment increased by 2.9% during this quarter, while men declined by 0.1% compared to the previous quarter.

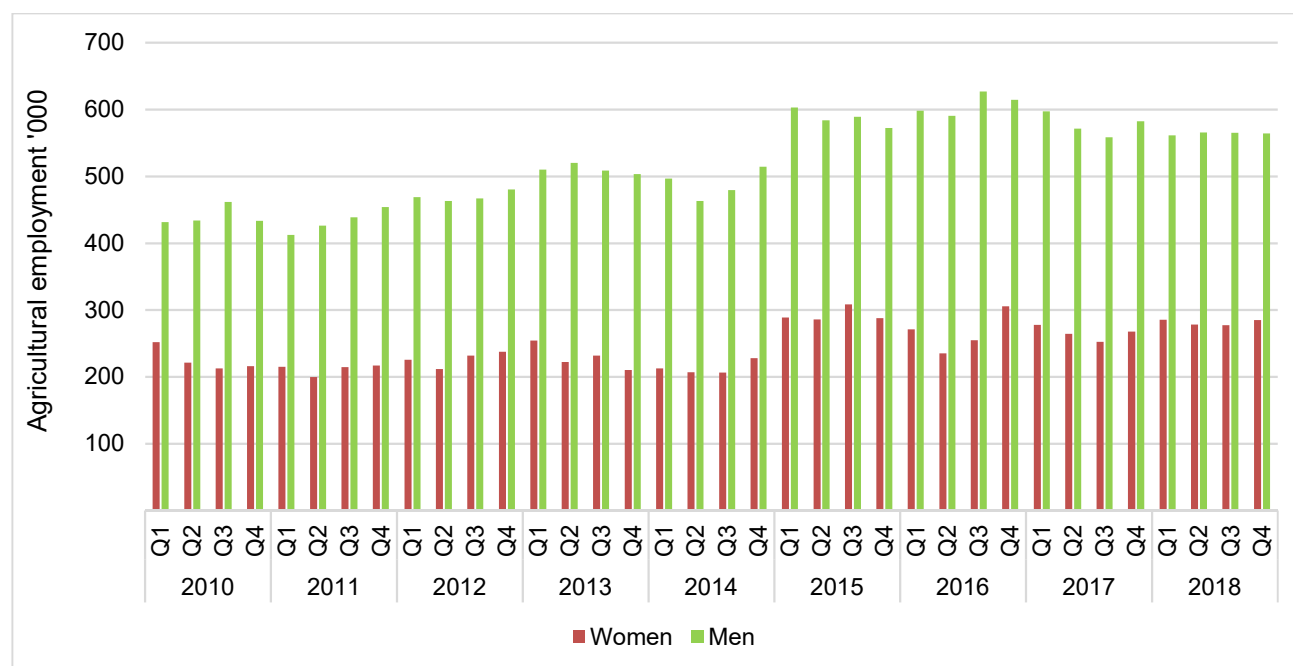


Figure 2: Employment by gender in Agriculture

Source: Stats SA, 2019

Figure 3 shows the current state of Agricultural sectoral employment on a quarterly basis since 2010. It shows that employment increased by 35.4% between the fourth quarter of 2010 and the fourth quarter of 2018.

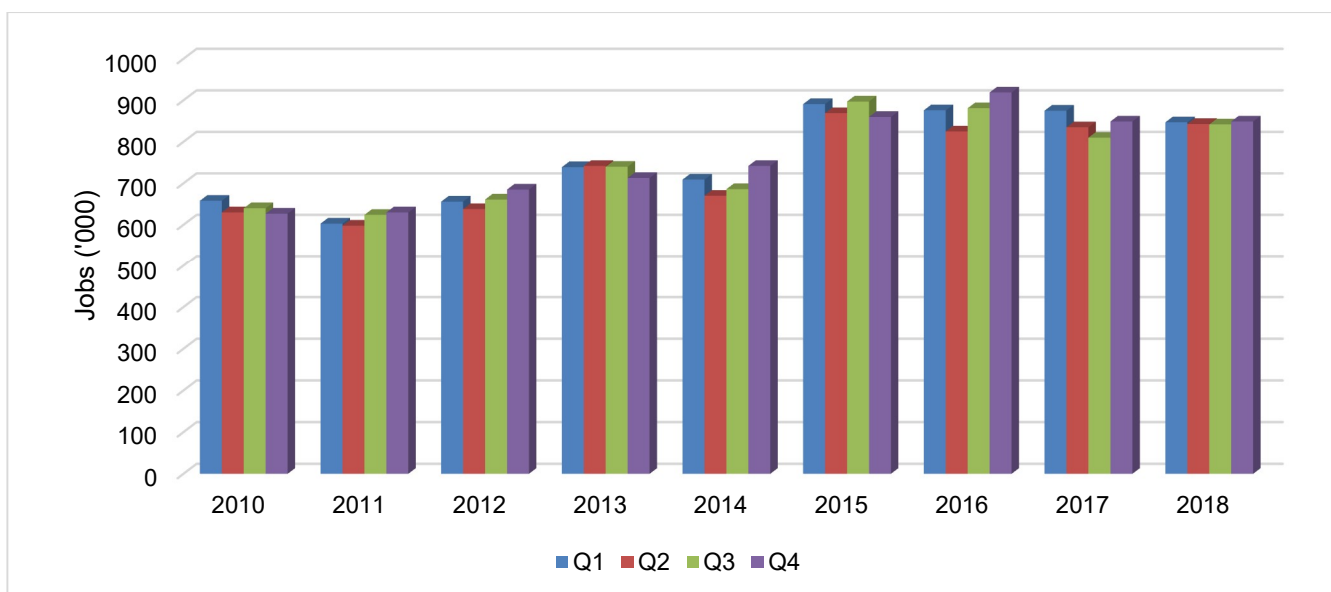


Figure 3: Agricultural employment trends

Source: Stats SA, 2019

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