



"DURBAN CREATED AND SUSTAINED THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF JOBS AMONG ALL MAJOR SOUTH AFRICAN METROS IN 2024."

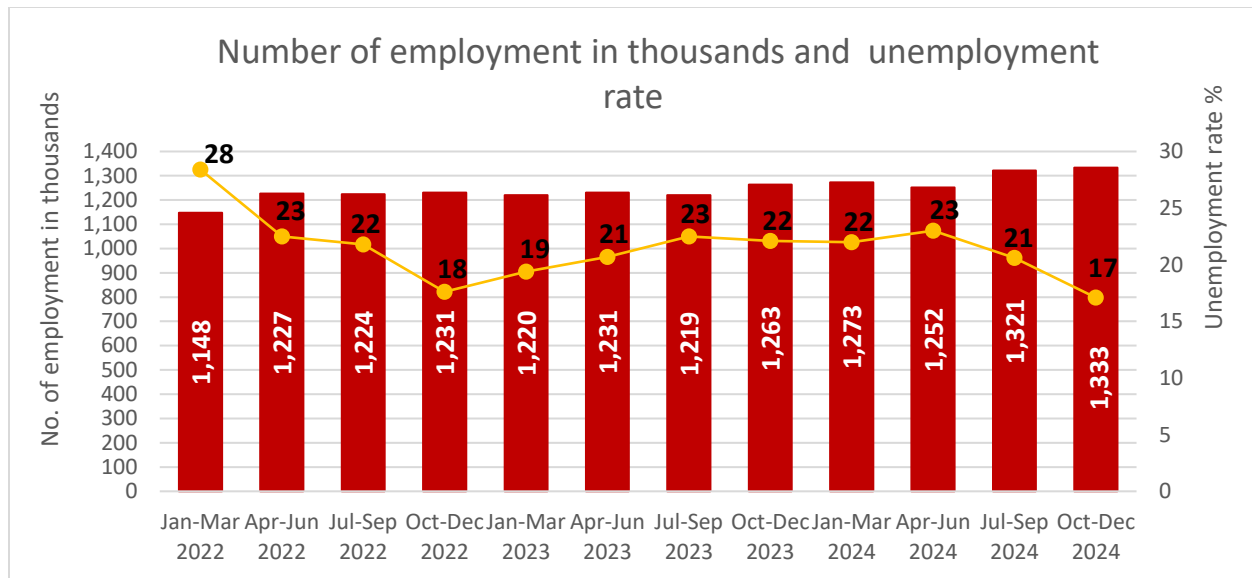
According to the latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) released by Statistics South Africa, Durban has emerged as the leading metro in job creation and retention for 2024, surpassing all other major metropolitan areas with 70,000 jobs created and sustained throughout the year.

A year-on-year comparison of employment figures highlights a notable increase from 1,263,000 in Q4 2023 to 1,333,000 in Q4 2024, reflecting a net gain of 70,000 jobs over the 12-month period. This upward trend underscores the city's resilience and economic recovery, driven by growth in key sectors.

Quarterly Changes in Employment Figures					
METROS	Jan-Mar 2024	Apr-Jun 2024	Jul-Sep 2024	Oct-Dec 2024	Net Job Change 2024
CPT	-46,076	8,296	6,447	25,804	-5,530
ETH	9,436	-20,647	69,122	11,940	69,851
EKU	2,709	17,834	-6,821	12,734	26,456
JHB	37,410	31,247	-115,930	73,318	26,045
TSH	638	-6,001	41,556	-21,612	14,581

Source: Statistics South Africa, Quarterly Labour Force Survey, 2025

Furthermore, between Q3 2024 and Q4 2024, employment in Durban increased from 1,321,000 to 1,333,000, marking a 0.91% growth within the quarter. Concurrently, the unemployment rate saw a significant decline, dropping from 21% in Q3 2024 to 17% in Q4 2024, the lowest level recorded in recent years. While this decline in unemployment may indicate improved labor market conditions, a deeper analysis reveals a concerning trend—the rise in the number of discouraged work-seekers.

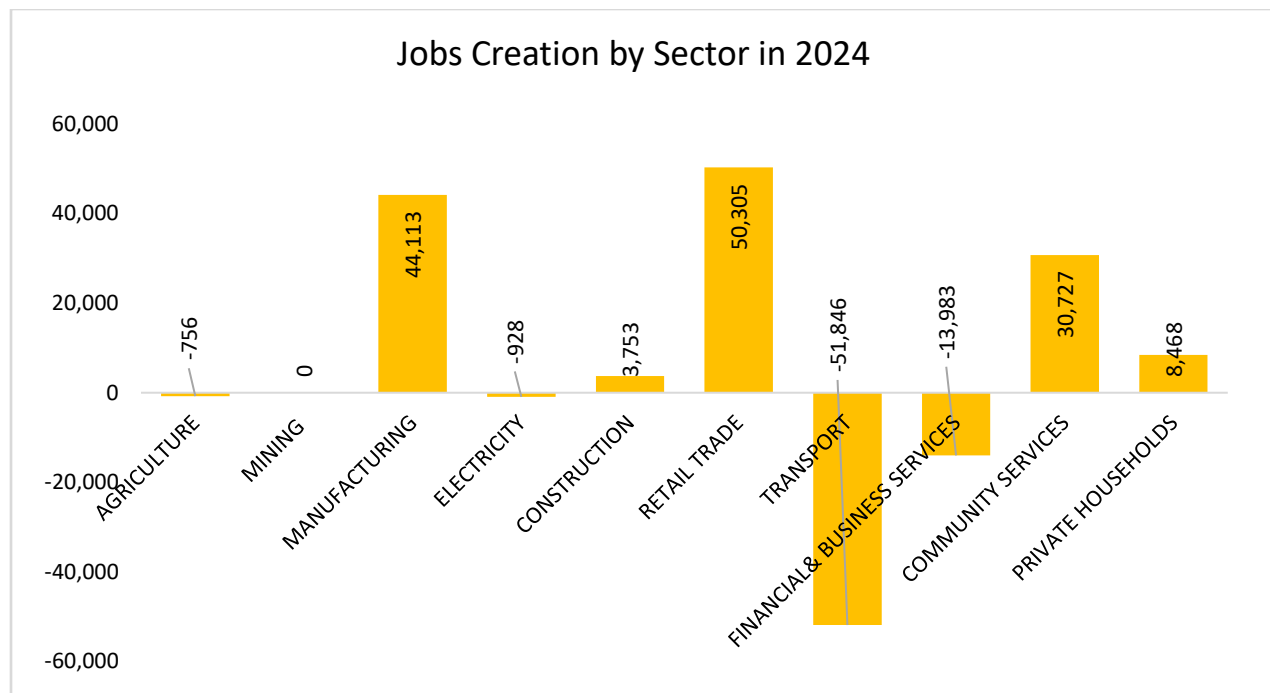


Source: Statistics South Africa, Quarterly Labour Force Survey, 2025

Discouraged work-seekers are individuals who are willing and available to work but have stopped actively searching for employment, often due to a lack of available opportunities or persistent barriers to entry into the workforce. In Durban, this group increased from 320,000 in Q3 2024 to 350,000 in Q4 2024, suggesting that while the official unemployment rate has decreased, part of this decline could be attributed to a shrinking labor force.

JOBS CREATION BY SECTOR IN 2024

In 2024, the sector that created the most jobs in Durban was Retail Trade, with a significant gain of 50,305 jobs, followed closely by Manufacturing, which contributed 44,113 new jobs. Community Services also performed notably, adding 30,727 positions. However, not all sectors experienced positive growth. Transport faced the largest decline, losing 51,846 jobs, while Financial & Business Services and Agriculture saw reductions of 13,983 and 756 jobs, respectively.



Source: Statistics South Africa, Quarterly Labour Force Survey, 2025

Retail Trade and Manufacturing, the top-performing sectors annually, experienced much lower job growth in Q4, recording just 3,663 and 11,642 additional jobs, respectively. The Construction sector, which had created 3,753 jobs annually, lost momentum significantly, facing a loss of 12,229 jobs in Q4. Moreover, the Community Services sector, despite its strong annual performance, showed a steep reversal in Q4, losing 13,274 jobs. Financial & Business Services, in contrast, rebounded positively in Q4, creating 21,985 jobs despite an annual decline. This indicates shifting economic dynamics and the need for targeted interventions to sustain job creation and address sector-specific challenges moving forward.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, while Durban's labor market demonstrated robust employment growth and a decreasing official unemployment rate in 2024, the city must proactively address the concerning rise in discouraged work-seekers. To achieve inclusive and sustainable job growth, Durban should prioritize expanding access to diverse job opportunities, reinforcing targeted skills development programs, and enhancing overall labor market inclusivity. Through focused interventions in these critical areas, the city can ensure broader economic participation, resilience, and long-term prosperity for all its residents.

REFERENCE LIST

Statistics South Africa. (2024). Quarterly labour force survey. (Online)
https://www.statssa.gov.za/?page_id=1854&PPN=P0211&SCH=73894

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The Economic Development Unit of
eThekweni Municipality*

For more information, contact edge@durban.gov.za

