

**2024 FIRST QUARTER  
LABOUR FORCE SURVEY  
REPORT**



**MAY 2024**

The 2024 First Quarter Labour Force Survey report was produced by the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT). Additional information about the report may be obtained from:

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## **1.0 Introduction**

Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) is a household-based survey conducted in both rural and urban areas across all provinces in Zimbabwe. The Survey is conducted in line with recommendations and guidelines of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) as well as International Labour Organisation (ILO) Statistical Manual on the Informal Sector and Informal Employment (2013).

## **2.0 Survey Objectives**

The Quarterly Labour Force Survey aims to establish the following:

- a) Employment level
- b) Employment status of the labour force
- c) Employment in the informal economy
- d) Income levels
- e) Labour underutilisation
- f) Labour migration

## **3.0 Survey Methodology**

The sample was stratified using province and rural/urban domains. Selection was done in two stages. The first stage entailed selection of enumeration areas using the probability proportional to size method. The second stage entailed selection of households in selected enumeration areas using the systematic random sampling technique. A total of 9,650 households were selected from 386 enumeration areas. The survey response rate was 95.0 percent.

## **4.0 Weighting**

Weighting of survey data was done as follows:

- a) First stage selection probabilities were combined with second stage probabilities and adjusted for non-response
- b) The inverse of the combined probabilities adjusted for non-response was used as the base weight for sample households.

## **5.0 Definitions of Key Labour Market Indicators**

- a. Working Age Population refers to persons aged 16 and above
- b. *Labour Force = Employed Persons + Unemployed Persons*
- c. Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) =

$$\frac{\text{Labour Force}}{\text{Working Age Population}} \times 100$$

d. Employment-to-Population Ratio (EPR) =

$$\frac{\text{Number of employed persons in working age population}}{\text{Working age population}} \times 100$$

Note: In calculating LPFR and EPR for various categories, numerators and denominators will be with respect to the referenced categories.

e. Unemployment Rate=

$$\frac{\text{Total number of unemployed persons}}{\text{Labour Force}} \times 100$$

f. Youth Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)=

$$\frac{N_y - (N_{ye} + N_{yt})}{N_y} \times 100$$

Where:  $N_y$  is Total Number of youth

$N_{ye}$  is Number of youth in employment

$N_{yt}$  is Number of youth not in employment but in education or training)

Note: Africa Union definition of youth is 15-35 years

United Nations definition of youth is 15-24 years

g. Expanded unemployment rate=

$$\frac{(\text{Total number of unemployed persons} + PLF)}{(\text{Labour Force} + PLF)} \times 100$$

Where  $PLF$  is Potential Labour Force

h. Employment by Industry

The indicator disaggregates employed persons into 21 sections of the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC) Revision 4 and expresses each sector as a percentage of total employment.

i. Employment by occupation

The indicator disaggregates employed persons into 10 major groups of the International Standard Classification of Occupations 2008 (ISCO-08) and expresses each group as a percentage of total employment.

j. Employment in informal economy

Employment in informal economy covers two concepts namely employment in informal sector and informal employment.

i) Employment in informal sector is determined by the characteristics of an enterprise in which a person is employed. For the purposes of the QLFS, an economic unit is considered to be in informal sector if it is not registered with the Registrar of Companies.

ii) Informal employment

Informal employment is determined by characteristics of the job a person holds and includes the following:

1. own account workers and employers who work in their own informal sector enterprises
2. unpaid contributing family workers irrespective of whether they work in formal or informal sector enterprises and
3. paid employees not entitled to any of the following: contribution to pension fund by employer, paid annual leave, paid sick leave and written contract with employer.

k. Employment in informal economy

Employment in informal economy covers two concepts namely;

- i. employment in informal sector,
- ii. informal employment.

Employment in informal sector is determined by the characteristics of an enterprise in which a person is employed. An economic unit is considered to be in informal sector if it is not registered with the Registrar of Companies.

Informal employment is determined by characteristics of the job a person holds. Informal employment includes the following jobs:

- i. own account workers and employers who work in their own informal sector enterprises,
- ii. unpaid contributing family workers irrespective of whether they work in formal or informal sector enterprises and
- iii. paid employees not entitled to any of the following: contribution to pension fund by employer, paid annual leave, paid sick leave and written contract with employer.

l. Time-Related Underemployment

Refers to all persons in employment who wanted to work additional hours, whose working time in all jobs was less than 40 hours per week, and who were available to work additional hours given an opportunity for more work.

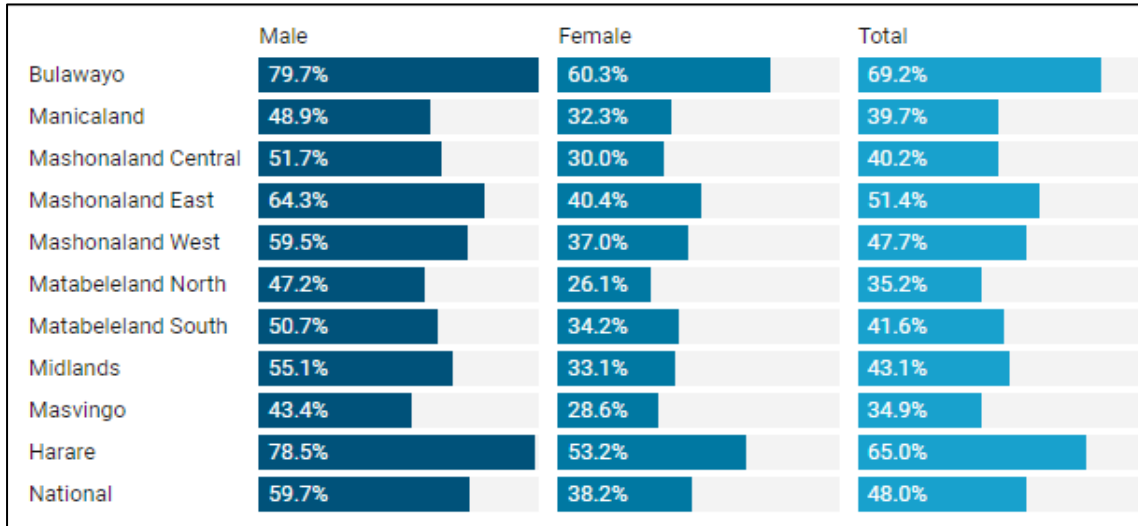
## 6.0 Summary of 2024 First Quarter, QLFS Findings

**Table 1: Key findings**

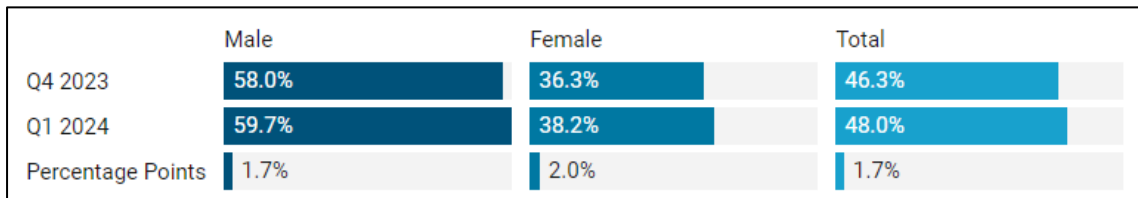
Indicator	4th Quarter 2023		1st Quarter 2024	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Labour Force</b>				
Working Age Population (16 years and above)	8,639,522		8,616,968	
Labour Force (16 years and above)	4,003,121		4,140,180	
Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)		46.3		48.0
Total Employed	3,173,293		3,289,853	
Employment to Population Ratio (EPR)		36.7		38.2
<b>Sector of Employment</b>				
Formal (non-agriculture)	908,742	28.6	988,596	30.0
Informal (non-agriculture)	1,387,302	43.7	1,359,440	41.3
Agriculture	708,296	22.3	754,822	22.9
Activities of Households as an Employer	168,953	5.3	186,995	5.7
<b>Unemployment</b>				
National (16 years and above)	826,827	20.7	850,326	20.5
Youth (15-24 years)	283,182	38.4	324,945	37.7
Youth (15-35 years)	557,893	28.7	591,326	27.9
<b>Expanded/Relaxed Unemployment</b>				
National (16 years and above)	1,980,132	38.4	2,102,526	39.0
Youth (15-24 years)	633,240	58.7	742,876	58.1
Youth (15-35 years)	1,221,630	47.1	1,322,133	46.4
<b>Youth Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)</b>				
Youth (15-24 years) NEET	1,197,122	45.4	1,377,336	49.4
Youth (15-35 years) NEET	2,267,290	48.5	2,338,942	48.9



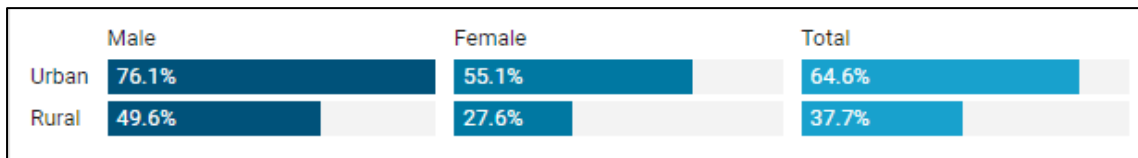
**Figure 1: Labour Force Participation Rates by Province and Sex, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024**



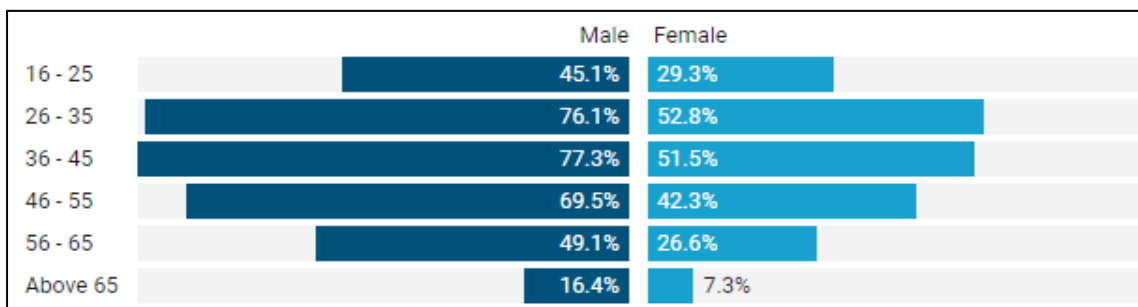
**Figure 2: Quarterly Percentage Changes in Labour Force Participation Rates by Sex**



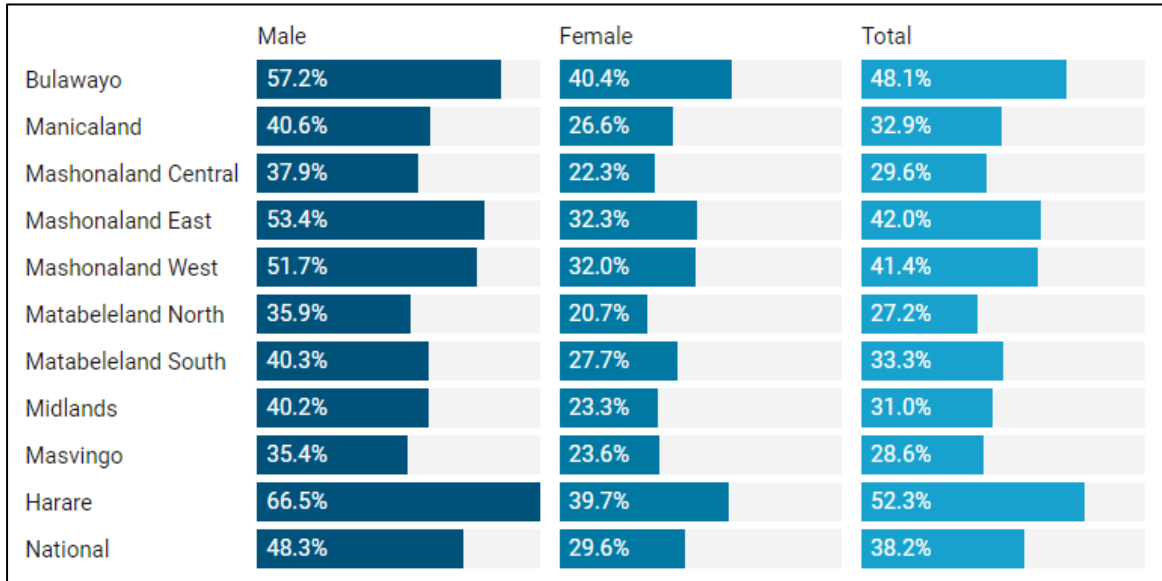
**Figure 3: Labour Force Participation Rates by Urban/Rural Areas and Sex, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024**



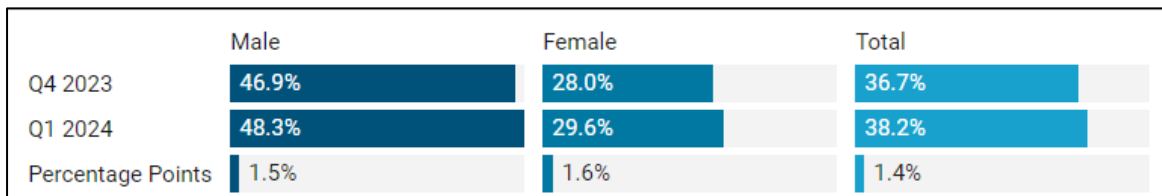
**Figure 4: Labour Force Participation Rates by Age Group and Sex, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024**



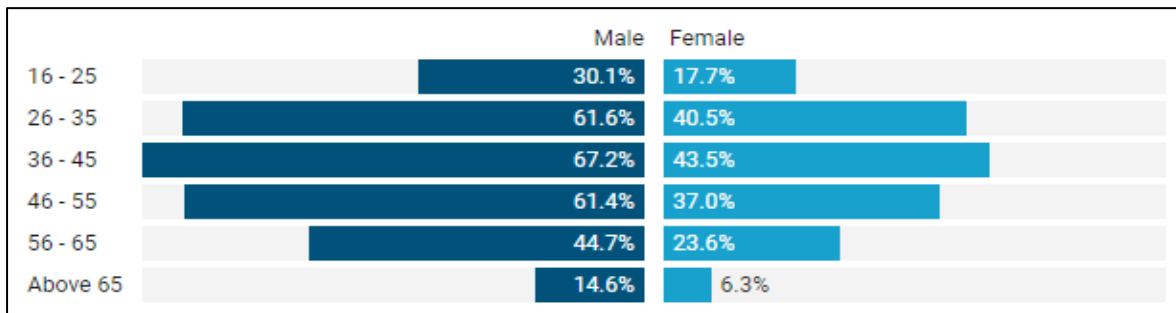
**Figure 5: Employment to Population Ratio by Province and Sex, 1st Quarter 2024**



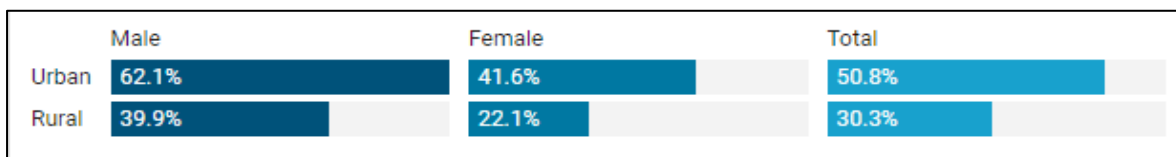
**Figure 6: Quarterly Percentage Changes in Employment to Population Ratio by Sex**



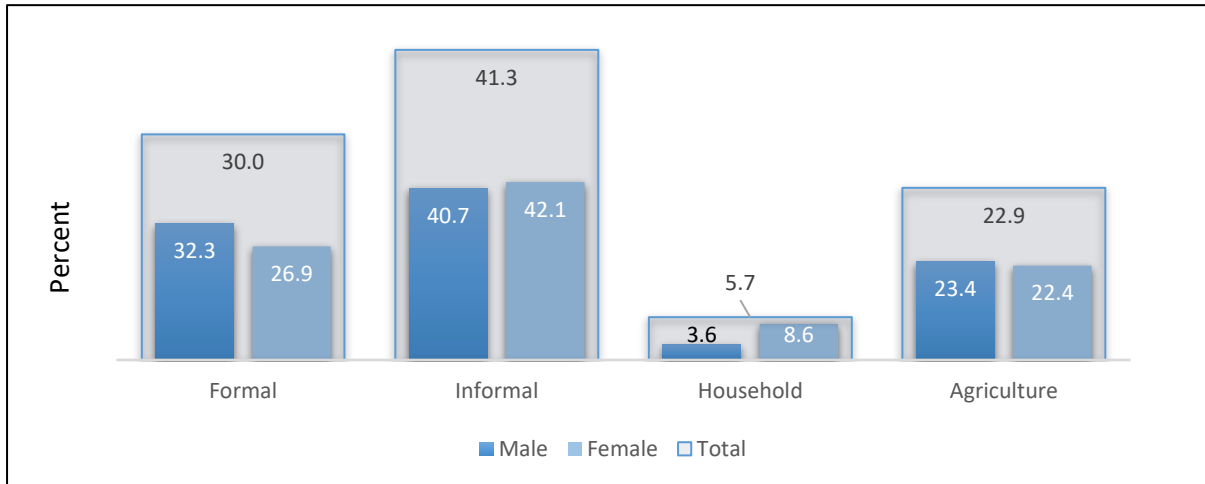
**Figure 7: Employment to Population Ratio by Age Group and Sex, 1st Quarter 2024**



**Figure 8: Employment to Population Ratio by Urban/Rural Areas and Sex, 1st Quarter 2024**



**Figure 9: Distribution of Employed Population by Sector of Employment and Sex, 1st Quarter 2024**



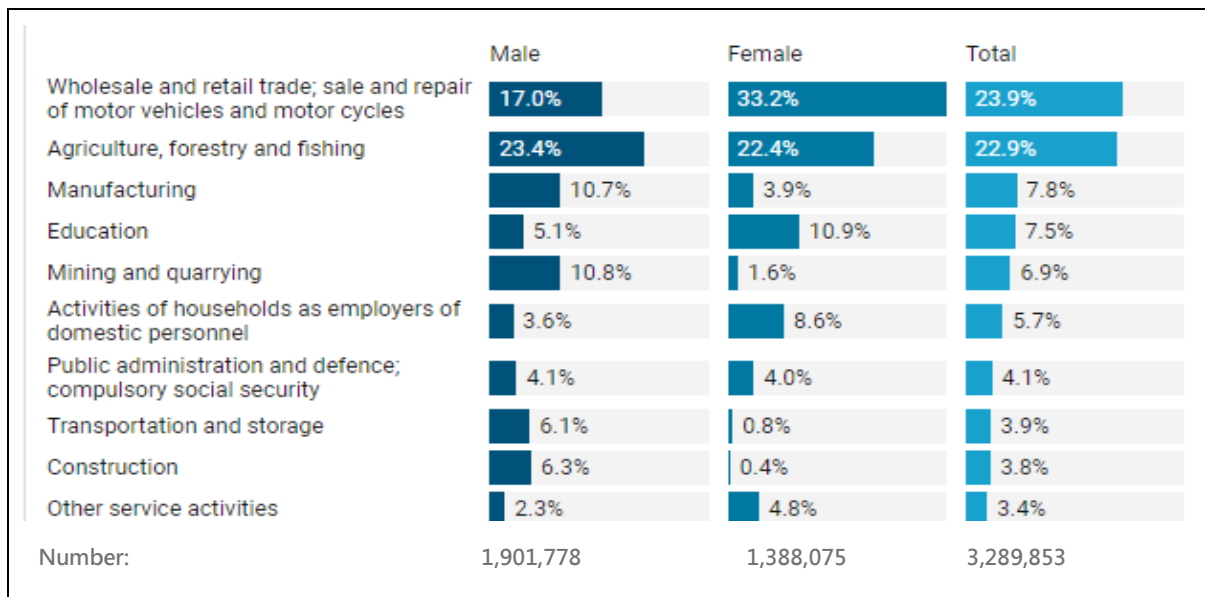
**Figure 10: Quarterly Percentage Changes in Employed Population by Sector of Employment and Sex**

	Formal	Informal	Household	Agriculture
Q4 2023	28.6%	43.7%	5.3%	22.3%
Q1 2024	30.0%	41.3%	5.7%	22.9%
Percentage Points	1.4%	-2.4%	0.4%	0.6%

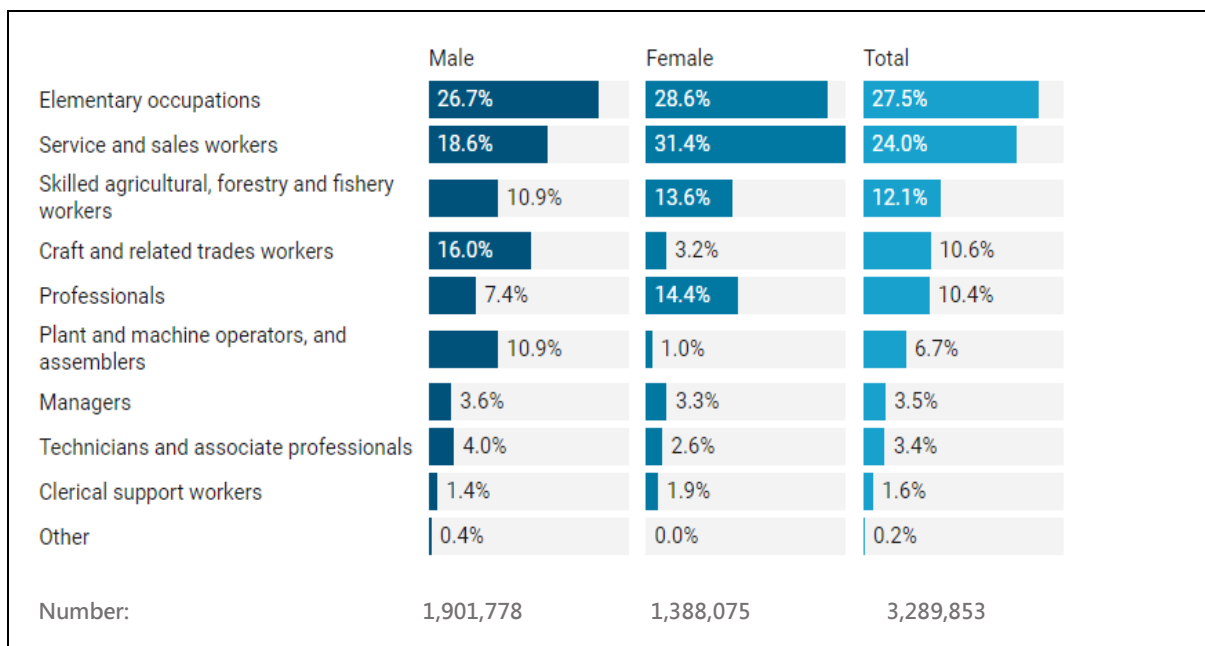
**Figure 11: Distribution of Employed Population by Province and Sex, 1st Quarter 2024**

	Male	Female	Total
Bulawayo	5.9%	6.7%	6.3%
Manicaland	10.5%	11.7%	11.0%
Mashonaland Central	7.2%	6.6%	6.9%
Mashonaland East	13.1%	12.7%	13.0%
Mashonaland West	13.7%	12.7%	13.3%
Matabeleland North	3.5%	3.6%	3.5%
Matabeleland South	3.7%	4.4%	4.0%
Midlands	9.3%	8.8%	9.1%
Masvingo	6.8%	8.5%	7.5%
Harare	26.3%	24.4%	25.5%
Number:	1,901,778	1,388,075	3,289,853

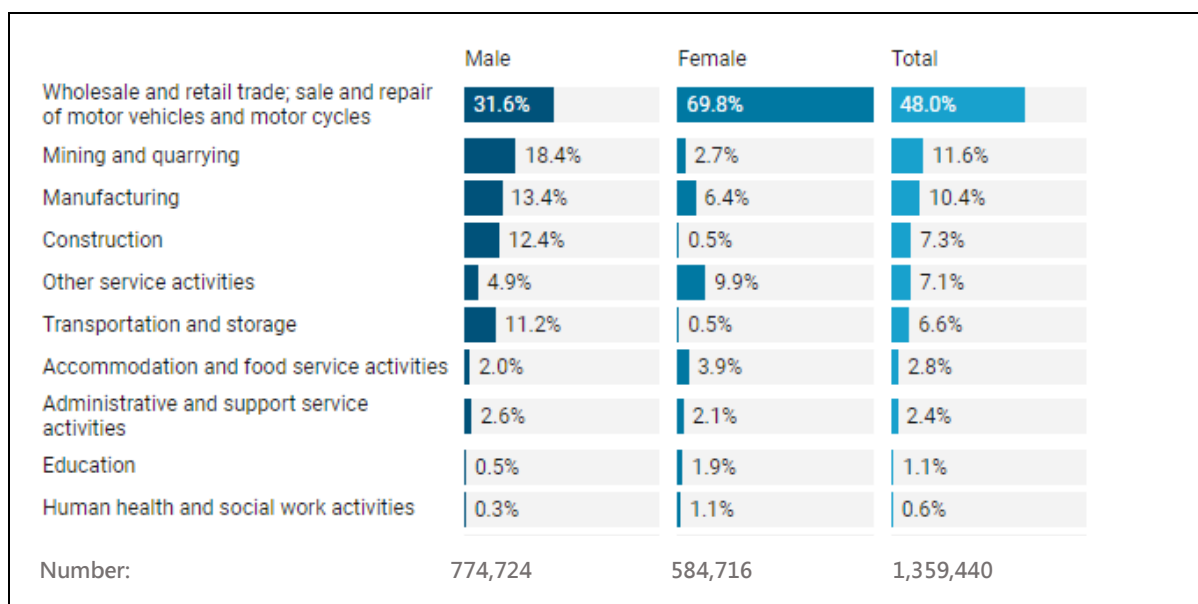
**Figure 12: Distribution of Employed Population by Major Contributing Industries to Employment, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024**



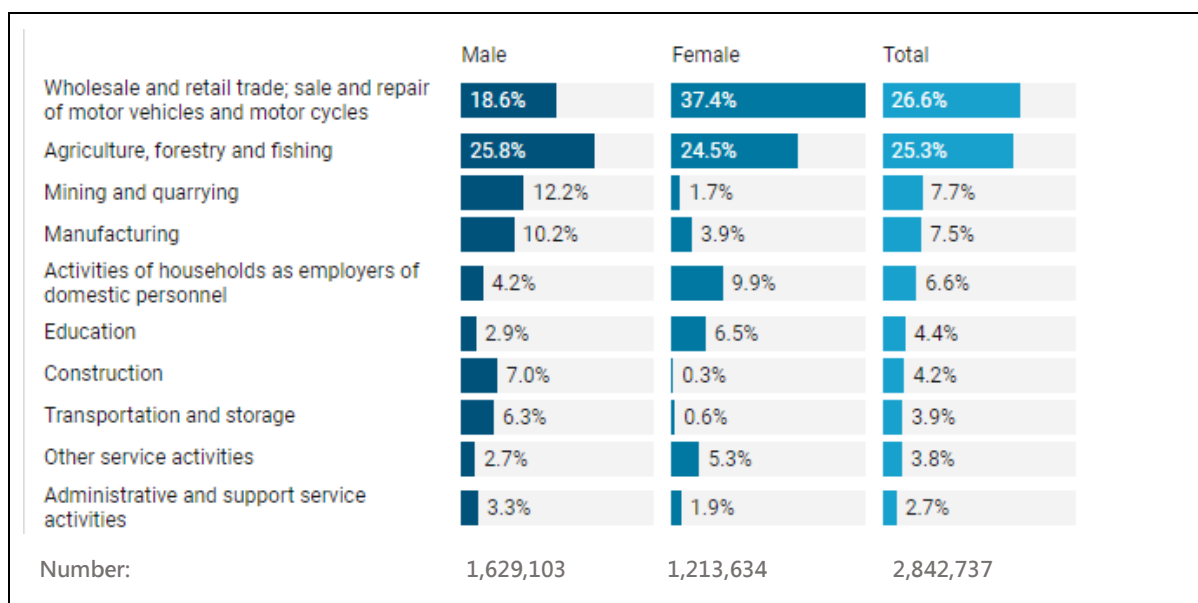
**Figure 13: Distribution of Employed Population by Occupation and Sex, 1st Quarter 2024**



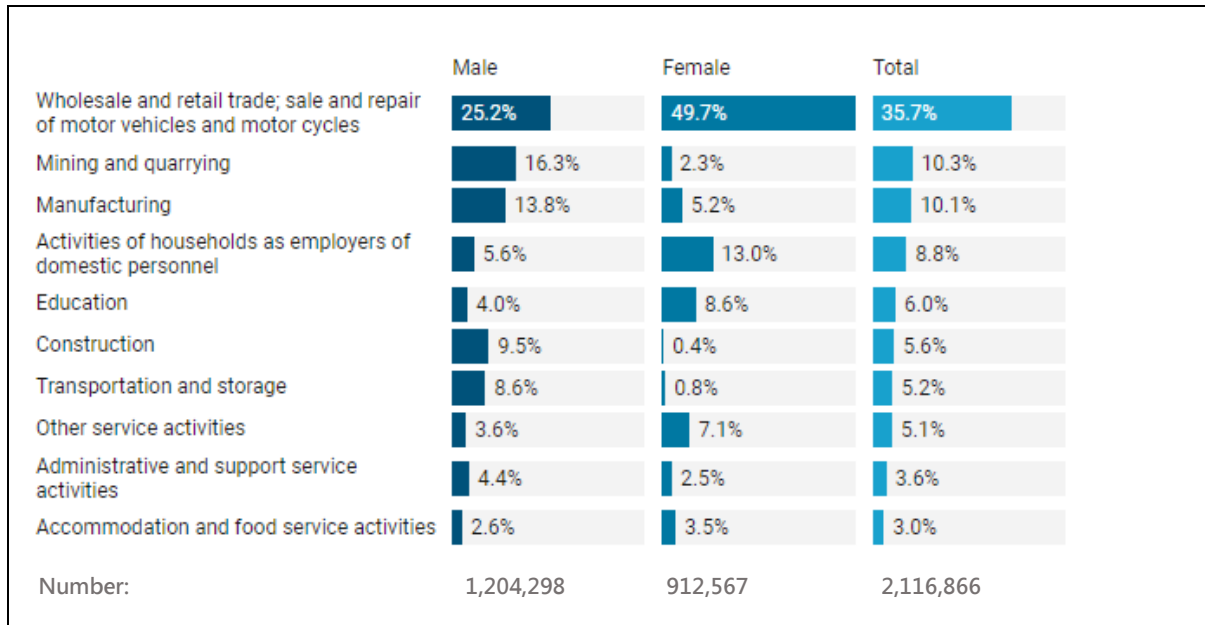
**Figure 14: Distribution of Employed Population in Informal Sector (Non-Agriculture) by Industry and Sex, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024**



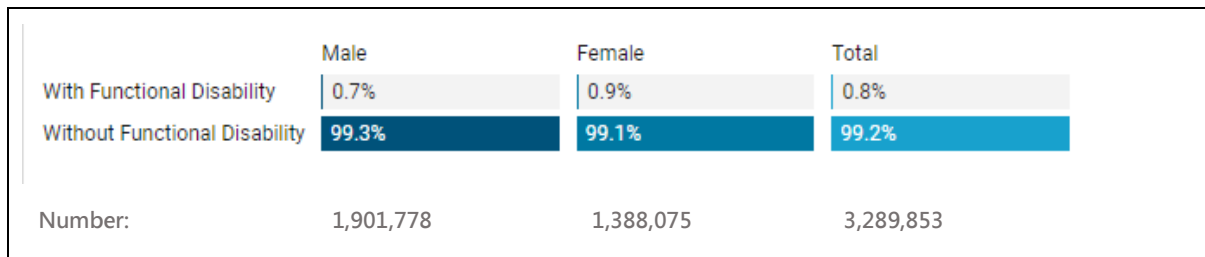
**Figure 15: Distribution of Informally Employed Persons by Industry and Sex, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024**



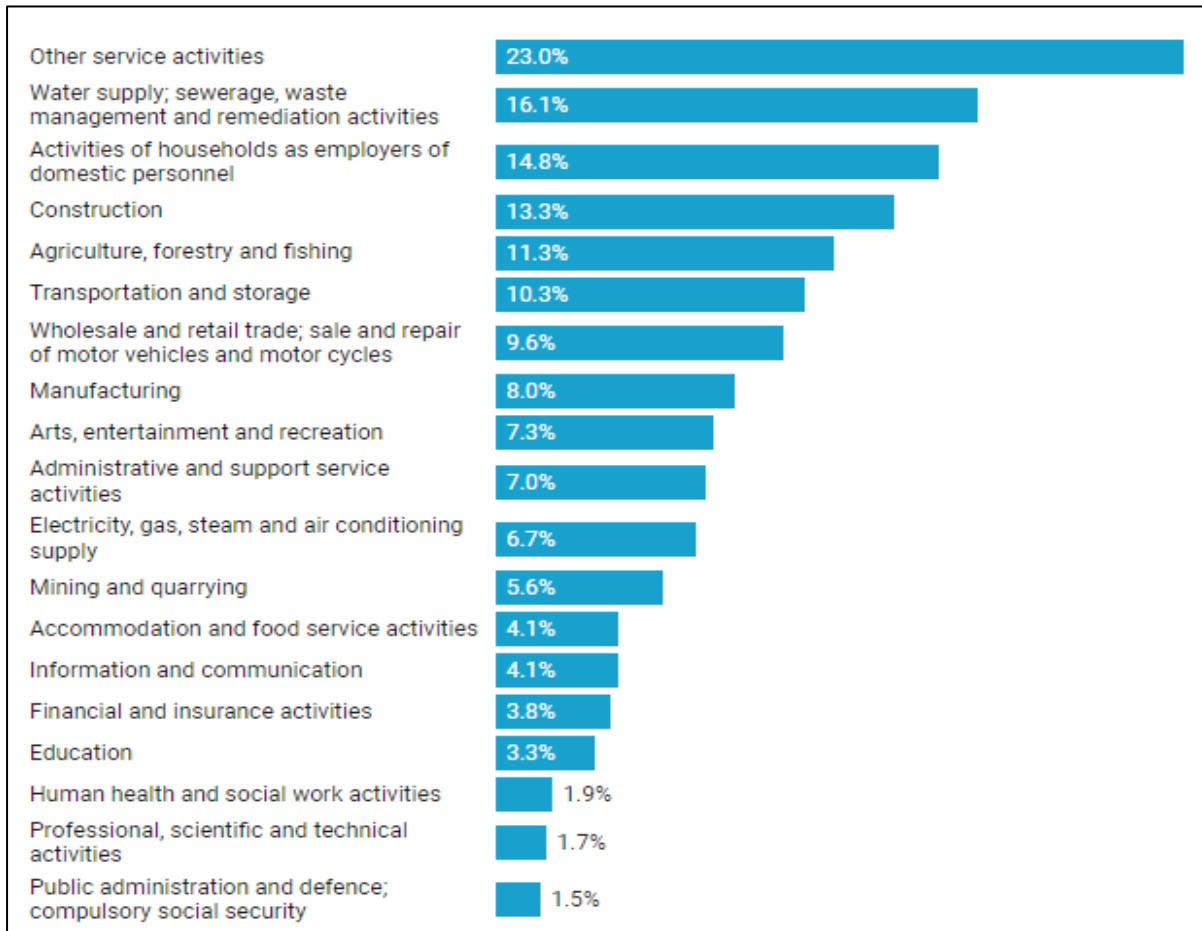
**Figure 16: Informally Employed Persons in Non-Agriculture Sectors by Industry and Sex, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024**



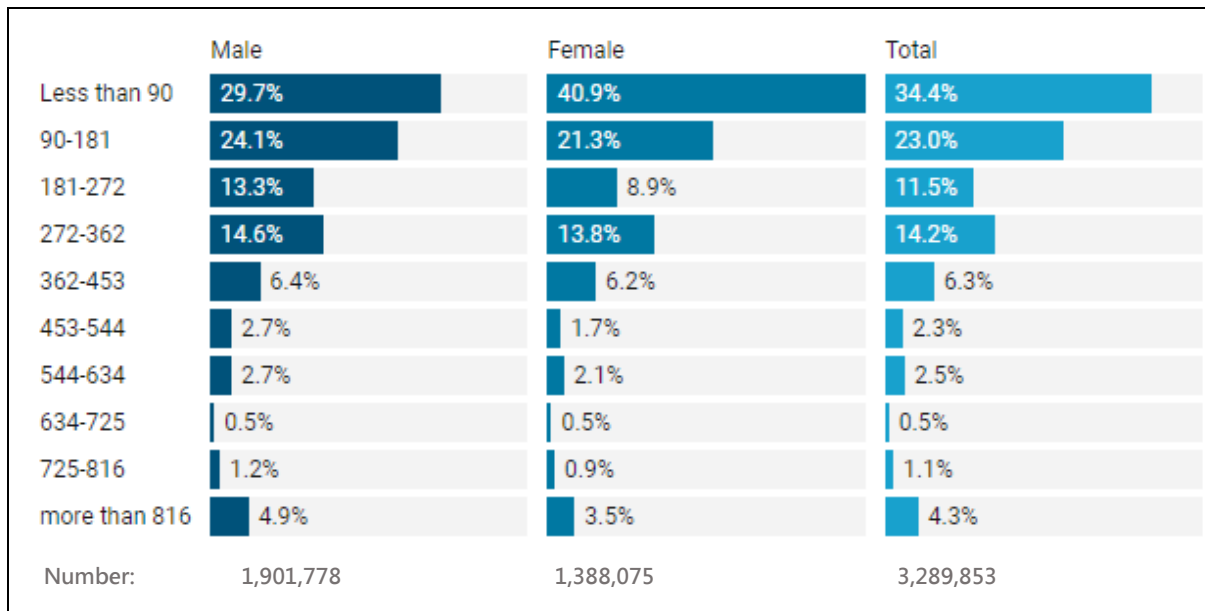
**Figure 17: Distribution of Employed Persons with at Least One Form of Disability by Sex, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024**



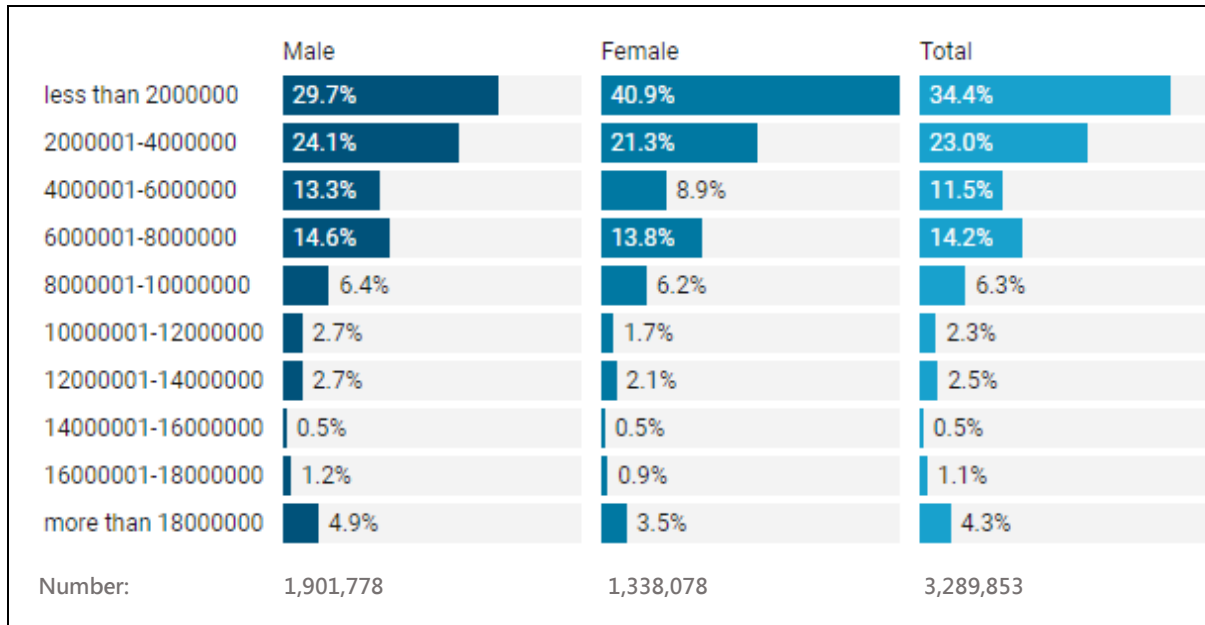
**Figure 18: Employed Population in Time-related Underemployment by Industry, 1st Quarter 2024**



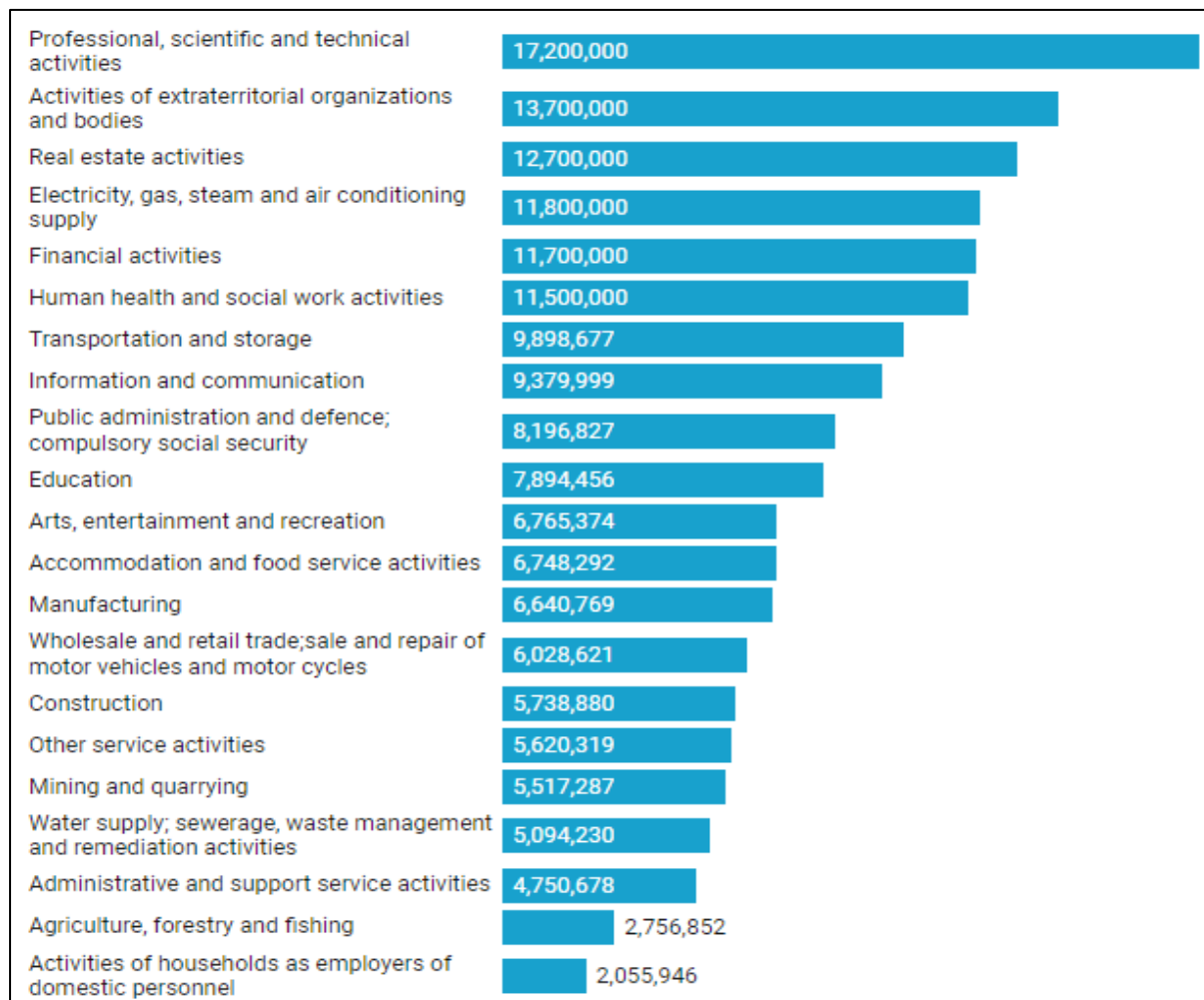
**Figure 19: Distribution of Employed Persons by Income Band (in USD) and Sex, 1st Quarter 2024**



**Figure 20: Distribution of Employed Persons by Income Band (in ZWL) and Sex, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024**

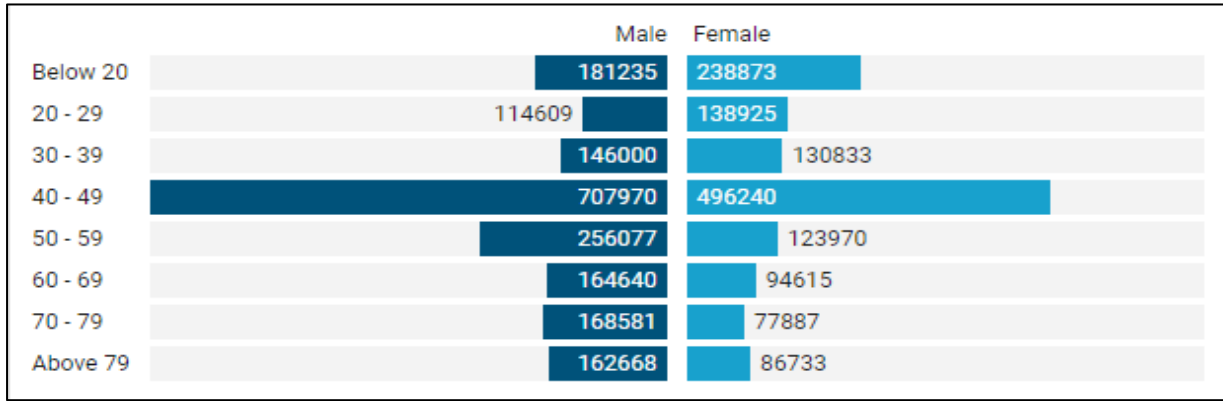


**Figure 21: Average Income for Employed Persons by Industry, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024**

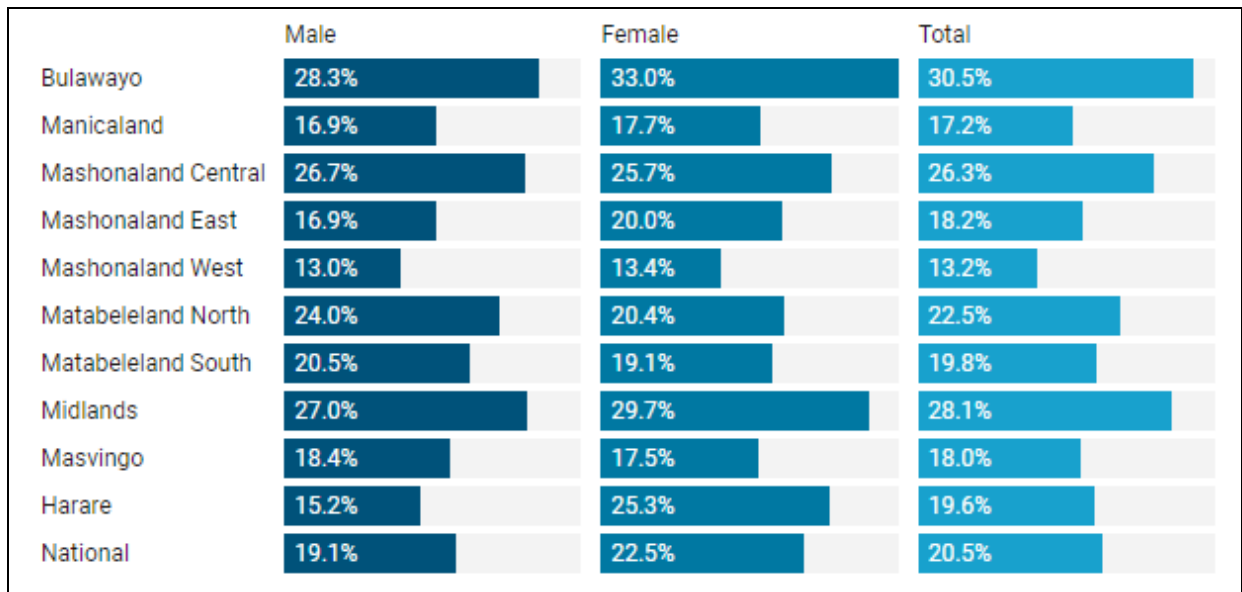




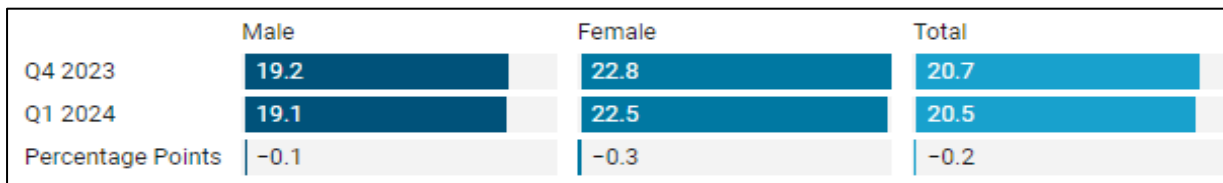
**Figure 22: Distribution of Employed Population by Hours of Work and Sex, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024**



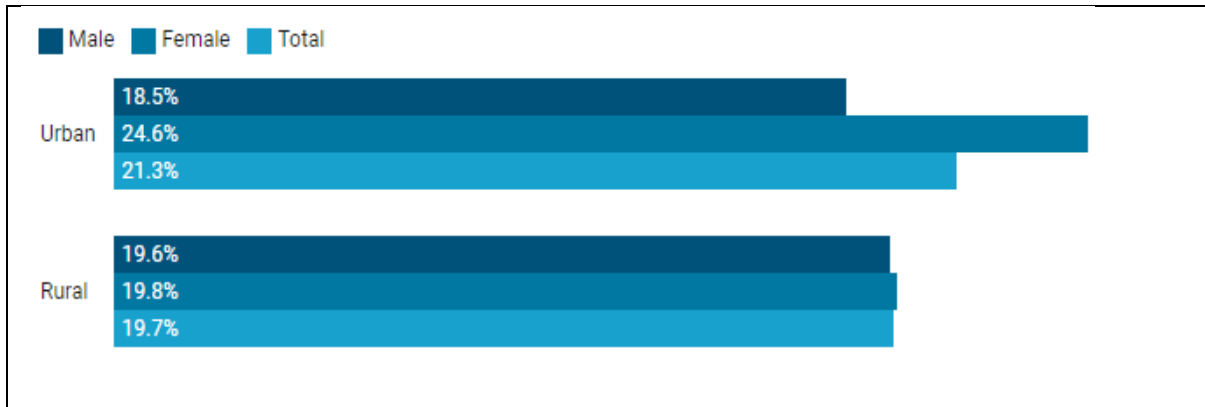
**Figure 23: Unemployment Rates by Province and Sex, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024**



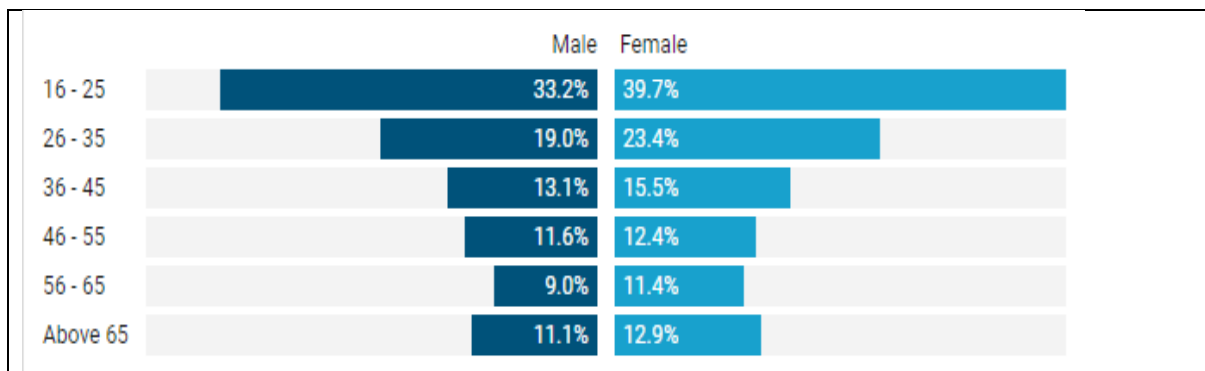
**Figure 24: Quarterly Percentage Changes in Unemployment Rates by Province and Sex**



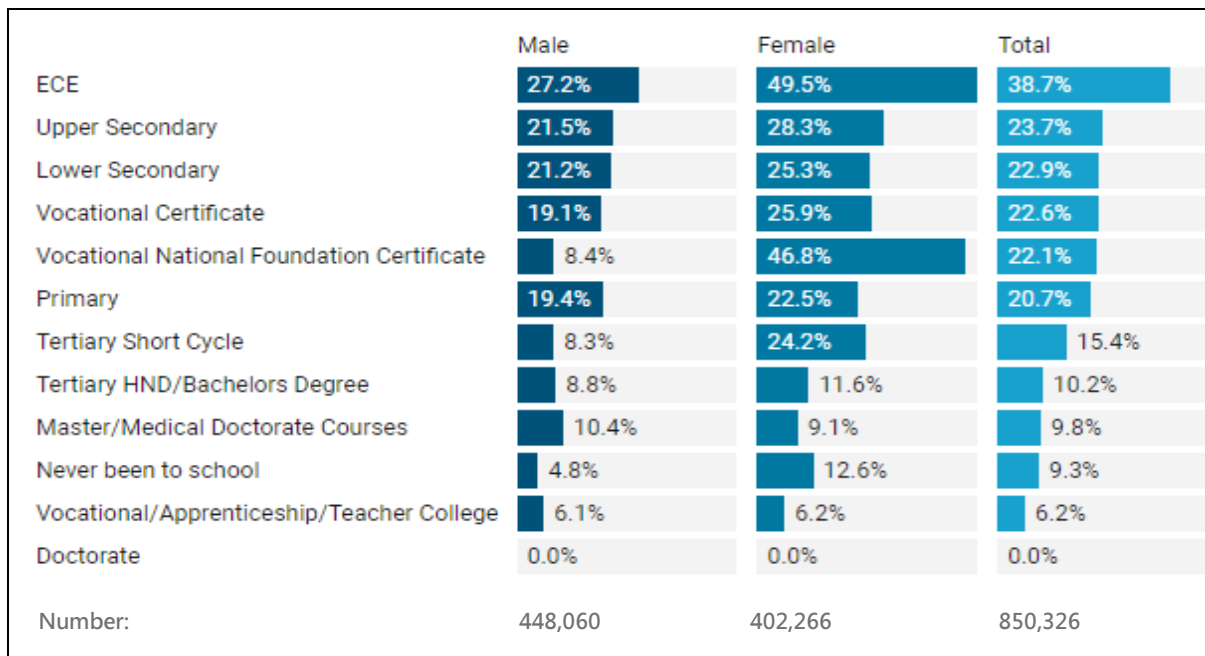
**Figure 25: Unemployment Rates by Urban/Rural Area and Sex, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024**



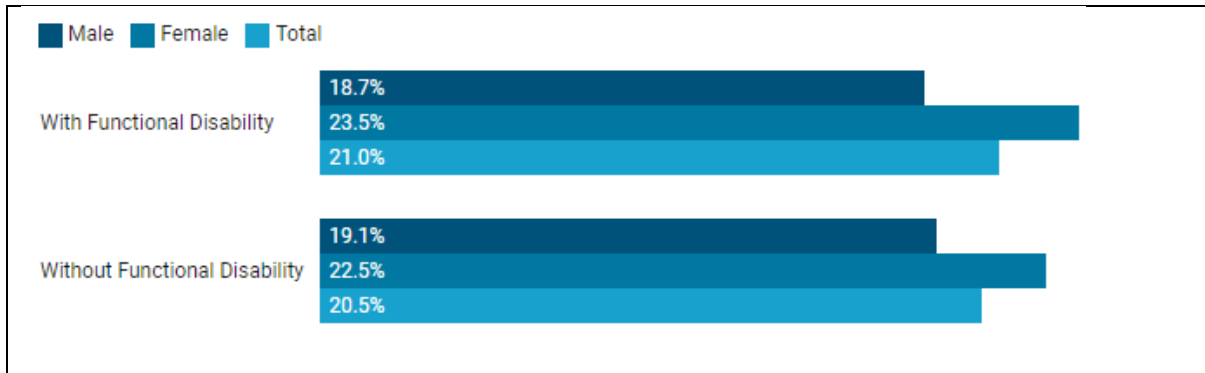
**Figure 26: Unemployment Rates by Age Group and Sex, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024**



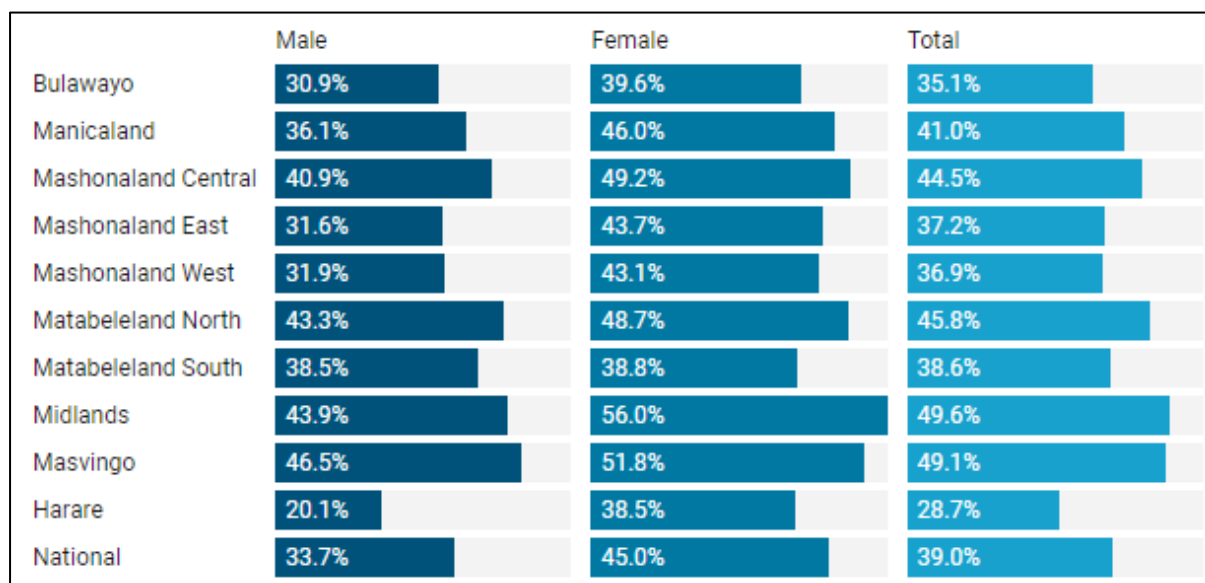
**Figure 27: Unemployment Rates by Highest Level of Education Completed and Sex, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024**



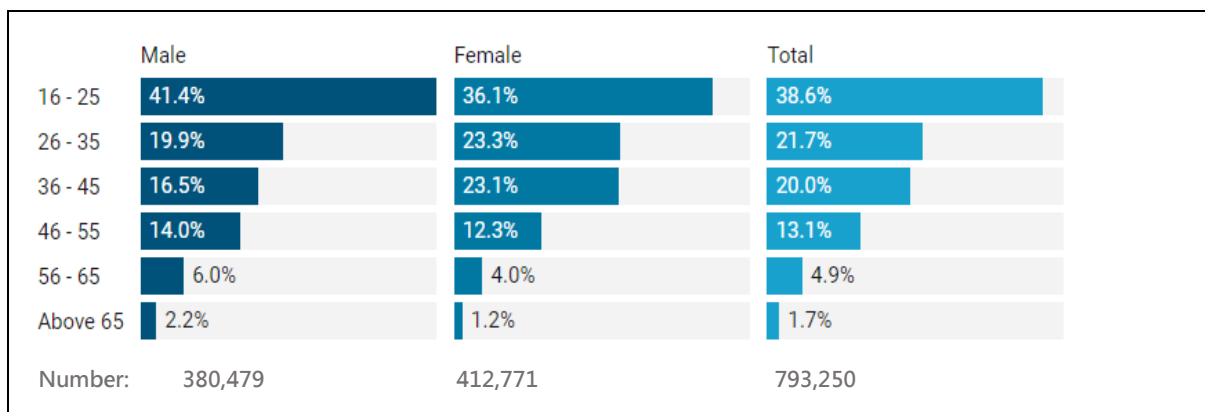
**Figure 28: Unemployment Rate for Persons with Functional Disability by Sex, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024**



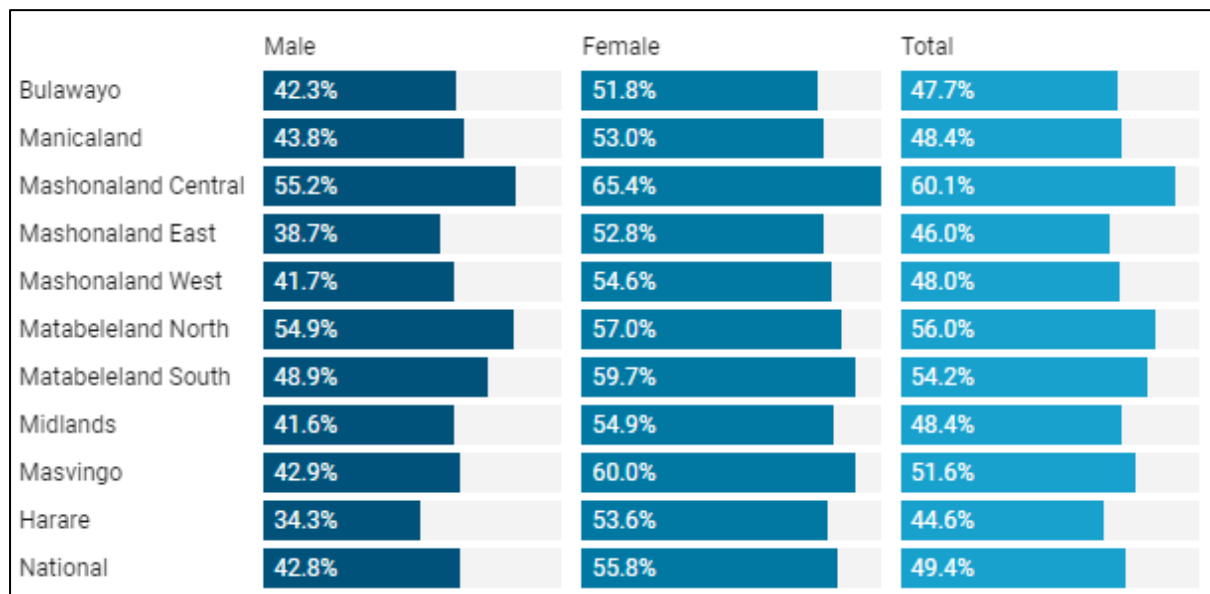
**Figure 29: Expanded Unemployment Rate by Province and Sex, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024**



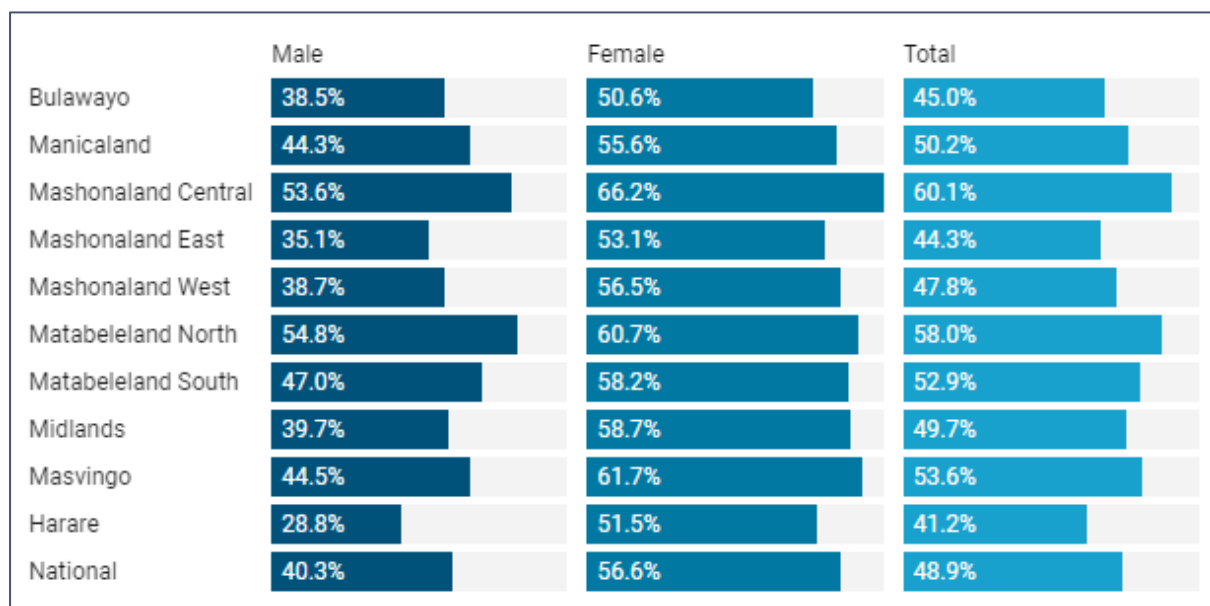
**Figure 30: Distribution of Discouraged Job Seekers by Age Group and Sex, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024**



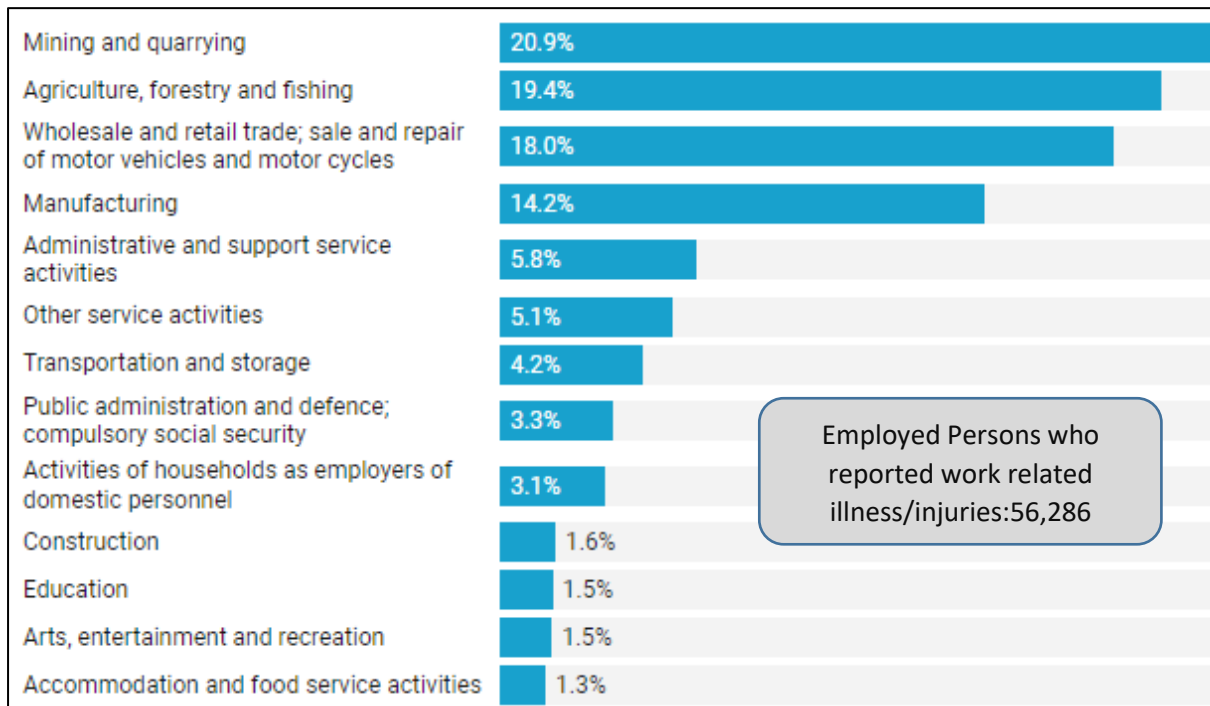
**Figure 31: Proportion of Youth (15-24 Years) Not in Education, Employment or Training by Province and Sex, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024**



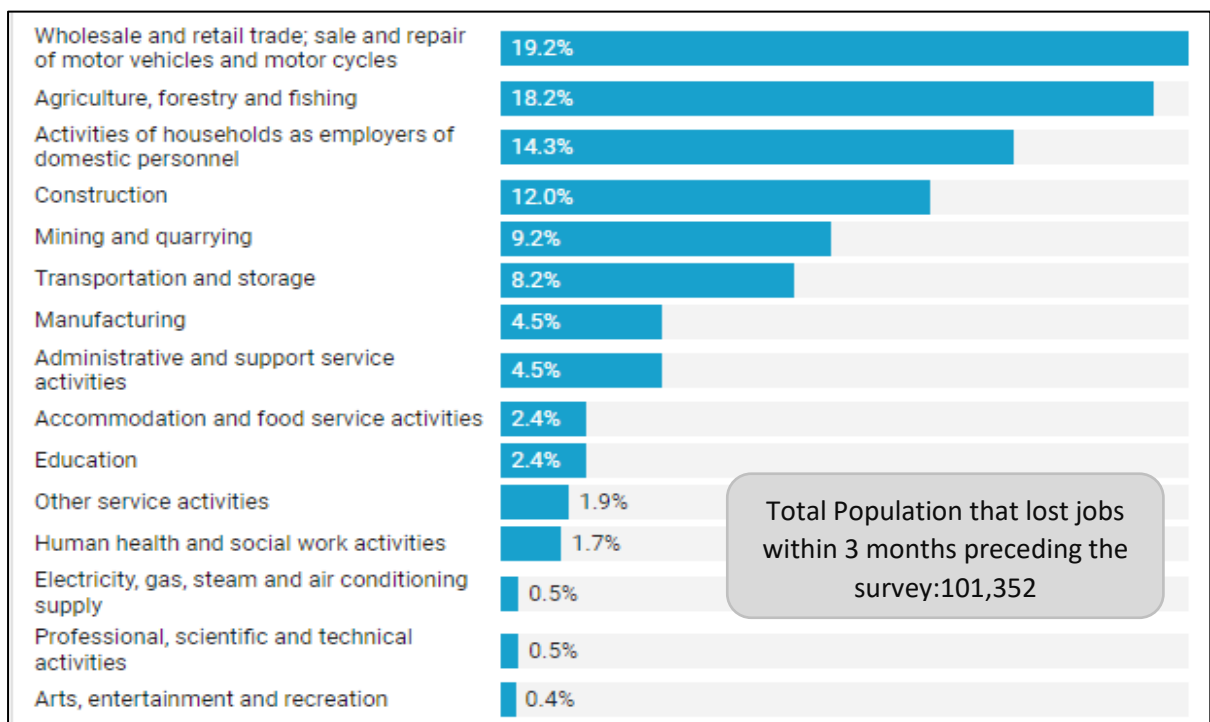
**Figure 32: Proportion of Youth (15-35 Years) Not in Education, Employment or Training by Province and Sex, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024**



**Figure 33: Distribution of Employed Persons Who Reported Work Related Illnesses/Injuries by Industry, 1st Quarter 2024**



**Figure 34: Distribution of Persons who lost Jobs 3 Months Preceding the Survey by Industry, 1st Quarter 2024**



**Figure 35: Distribution of Labour Migrants in Zimbabwe by Country of Origin, 1st Quarter 2024**

