THIRD QUARTER QUARTELY LABOUR FORCE SURVEY (2021)

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Third Quarter Quarterly Labour Force Survey 2021 report is produced by the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT)

Additional information about the Third Quarter Quarterly Labour Force Survey 2021 report may be obtained from ZIMSTAT: P.O. Box CY342, Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe; Telephone: (263) 242706681/8 E-mail: info@@zimstat.co.zw; Website: http://www.zimstat.co.zw

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

GDP	Gross Domestic Product
EPR	Employment to Population Ratio
ICLS	International Conference of Labour Statisticians
ILO	International Labour Organisation
LFPR	Labour Force Participation Rate
NDS1	National Development Strategy 1
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
QLFS	Quarterly Labour Force Survey
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
ZIMSTAT	Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency
ZW$	Zimbabwe Dollar

Foreword

In an endeavour to ensure timely provision of labour statistics for planning and decision making on a high frequency basis, the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT) started conducting Quarterly Labour Force Surveys (QLFS's) conducted in the 3rd quarter of 2021.

The QLFS provides key labour market indicators which include but not limited to levels of employment both formal and informal, unemployment and some labour underutilization indicators, income levels, labour migration and job losses. These statistics are useful in providing information for policy formulation on employment, human capital development strategies, macroeconomic development, incomes support and social programmes. The survey findings also feed into the compilation of the quarterly Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the economy.

This QLFS is the first one to be conducted by ZIMSTAT. It is premised on the 2013 labour force framework adopted at the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) that provided new guidelines for measuring and compiling statistics on work, employment and labour underutilization.

It is also noteworthy to note that results of the Quarterly Labour Force Surveys are susceptible to seasonal variations. As such, long term trend analysis of the results will be done through analysis of year on year quarterly changes.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare and the National Social Security Authority for their valuable input during questionnaire design.

As a Statistical Agency we remain indebted to all households that participated in the survey for their invaluable time and effort. The competency, dedication and hard work exuded by ZIMSTAT staff on this maiden project is second to none and much appreciated.

I have no doubt that the results of this survey will be fully utilised in the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of national development plans and strategies.

Taguma Mahonde
DIRECTOR-GENERAL

THIRD QUARTER QUARTERLY LABOUR FORCE KEY FINDINGS (2021)

1. Introduction

The Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) is a national household based sample survey which was conducted in private households both in rural and urban areas across all provinces of Zimbabwe. It is designed to provide in-depth information on the labour force status as well as socio-economic indicators useful in monitoring living conditions. The survey produces key labour market indicators which include to levels of formal and informal employment, unemployment and other labour underutilisation indicators, labour migrants as well as job losses.

2. Objectives of the Survey

The primary objectives of the survey are to provide information on:

a) the number of people classified according to their activity status in line with the 19th ICLS resolution in terms of the measurement of work statistics;
b) Informal sector and informal employment;
c) labour migration;
d) labour market indicators necessary to monitor the implementation of Zimbabwe's macro-economic policies such as the National Development Strategy 1 and other related strategies;
e) key labour market indicators for Zimbabwe that are comparable with other SADC and African countries in line with international standards established by the ILO; and
f) indicators that allow monitoring of the implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

3. Survey Methodology

A two stage sample design was used for sample selection. The 1st stage was the selection of enumeration areas using the probability proportional to size criteria. The 2nd stage was the selection of households in the selected enumeration areas using random systematic sampling technique. A total of 500 enumeration areas and 12,500 households were selected for the survey. The survey had a national response rate of 96.1 percent.

4. Third Quarter QLFS (2021) Findings

This Quarterly Labour Force Survey report presents findings for the 3rd quarter of 2021. It provides an assessment of the overall state of the labour market in Zimbabwe during the third quarter of 2021. The table below gives some key findings obtained from the survey.

Key Findings

Indicator	Value	Percent
Working Age Population (15 years and above)	**8,991,382**	
Labour Force (15 years and above)	**4,087,445**	
Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)		45.5
Total Employed	**3,349,723**	
Employment to Population Ratio (EPR)		37.3
Sector of Employment		
Formal (non-agriculture)	872,250	26.0
Informal (non-agriculture)	1,527,075	45.6
Agriculture	790,123	23.6
Household	160,275	4.8
Unemployment		
National (15 years and above)	737,722	18.0
Youth (15-24 years)	501,003	31.0
Youth (15-34 years)	276,642	24.3
Expanded/Relaxed Unemployment		
National (15 years and above)	3,009,185	47.3
Youth (15-24 years)	1,068,877	63.5
Youth (15-34 years)	1,897,993	54.9
Youth Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)		
Youth (15-24 years) NEET	1,280,400	44.3
Youth (15-34 years) NEET	2,212,802	46.1

The working age population was estimated at 9 million constituting 59 percent of the total population. The total labour force obtained from the survey was 4.1 million giving a total Labour Force Participation Rate of 46 percent.

Around 3.3 million of the working age population were currently employed. The national Employment to Population Ratio (EPR) stood at 37 percent. Harare had the highest proportion of the employed population at around 23 percent followed by Mashonaland East at 13 percent. Mata beleland North 3 percent had the least proportion**.**

Twenty-six of the employed population was in the formal sector while forty-six percent were in the informal sector. Of those in employment 24 percent and 5 percent were in the agriculture and household sectors, respectively. Seventy percent of the employed population were informally employed.

The wholesale trade; retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motor cycles industry had the largest proportion of the employed population at 26 percent followed by agriculture, forestry and fishing with 24 percent.

Eighty-four percent of the employed persons earned income of RTGS$20,000 and below during the month of July 2021.

Eighteen percent of persons 15 years and above were unemployed. Among males the rate was 16 percent while for females it was 20 percent. Bulawayo province had the highest unemployment rate of 29 percent. The age group (15-19) years had the highest unemployment rate of 33 percent followed by those aged (20-24) years at 23 percent.

Youth (15-24) years had a national unemployment rate of 31 percent. The national unemployment rate for youth (15-34) years was 24 percent. Unemployment rate was highest among those who had completed upper secondary at 20 percent followed by those with lower secondary and primary levels at 19 percent, respectively.

The expanded national unemployment rate for persons 15 years and above was 47 percent. It was higher for females at 53 percent than males with 42 percent. Matabeleland North had the highest expanded unemployment rate of 58 percent.

The age group (20-24) years had the highest expanded unemployment rate of 64 percent. Youths (15-24) years had a national expanded unemployment rate of 64 percent while the national expanded unemployment rate for youths (15-34) years was 55 percent.

The expanded unemployment rate was higher among those staying in the rural areas at 60 percent than those in urban area.

The national proportion of youths (15-24) years who were Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) was 44 percent while NEET for youths (15-34) years was estimated at 46 percent.

Three percent of the currently employed population reported suffering from work related injuries/illnesses or both in the last twelve months preceding the survey. Midlands Province had the highest proportion, 18 percent of employed persons who reported having suffered both work related illnesses and injury. Around 60 percent of those who reported having suffered work related illnesses or injuries resided in rural areas. Most workers were injured in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industries at 23 percent.

The survey revealed that there were 32 thousand labour migrants of whom the majority 43 percent came from Mozambique followed by 18 percent who came from Zambia.

One percent of the employed population had at least one form of functional disability.

Table 1: Households Covered and Response Rates by Province, 3rd Quarter QLFS (2021)

Province	Household Sampled	Household Occupied	Household Interviewed	Household Response Rate
Bulawayo	950	897	799	89.1
Manicaland	1,475	1,417	1,405	99.2
Mashonaland Central	1,225	1,170	1,156	98.8
Mashonaland East	1,325	1,189	1,146	96.4
Mashonaland West	1,325	1,260	1,238	98.3
Matabeleland North	975	925	893	96.5
Matabeleland South	875	827	813	98.3
Midlands	1,375	1,290	1,271	98.5
Masvingo	1,325	1,222	1,183	96.8
Harare	1,650	1,502	1,343	89.4
Area				
Urban	4,075	3,750	3,454	92.1
Rural	8,425	7,949	7,793	98
Total	**12,500**	**11,699**	**11,247**	**96.1**

Figure 1: Population Distribution by Province, 3rd Quarter QLFS (2021)

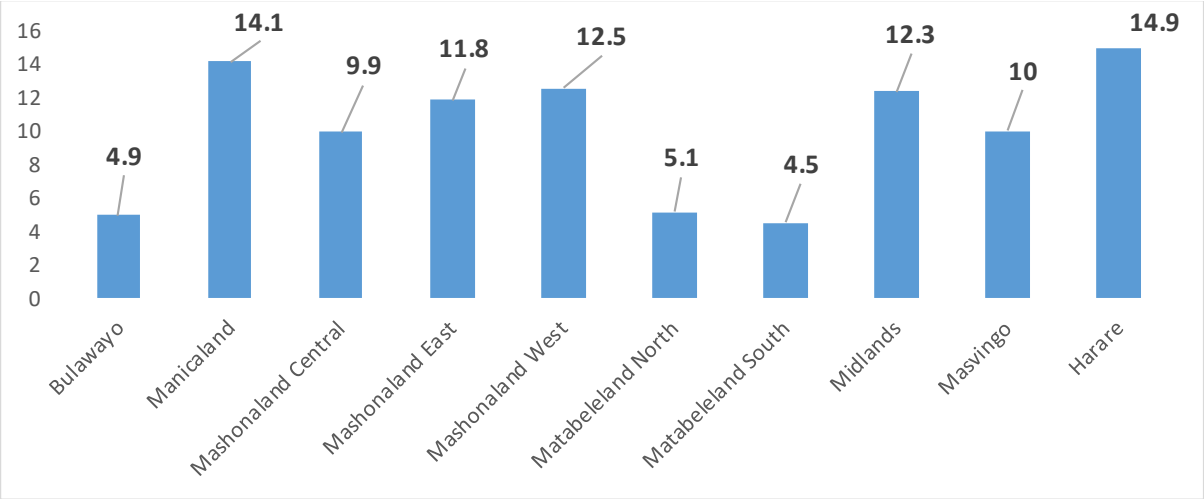

Figure 2: Labour Force Participation Rates by Province and Sex, 3rd Quarter QLFS (2021)

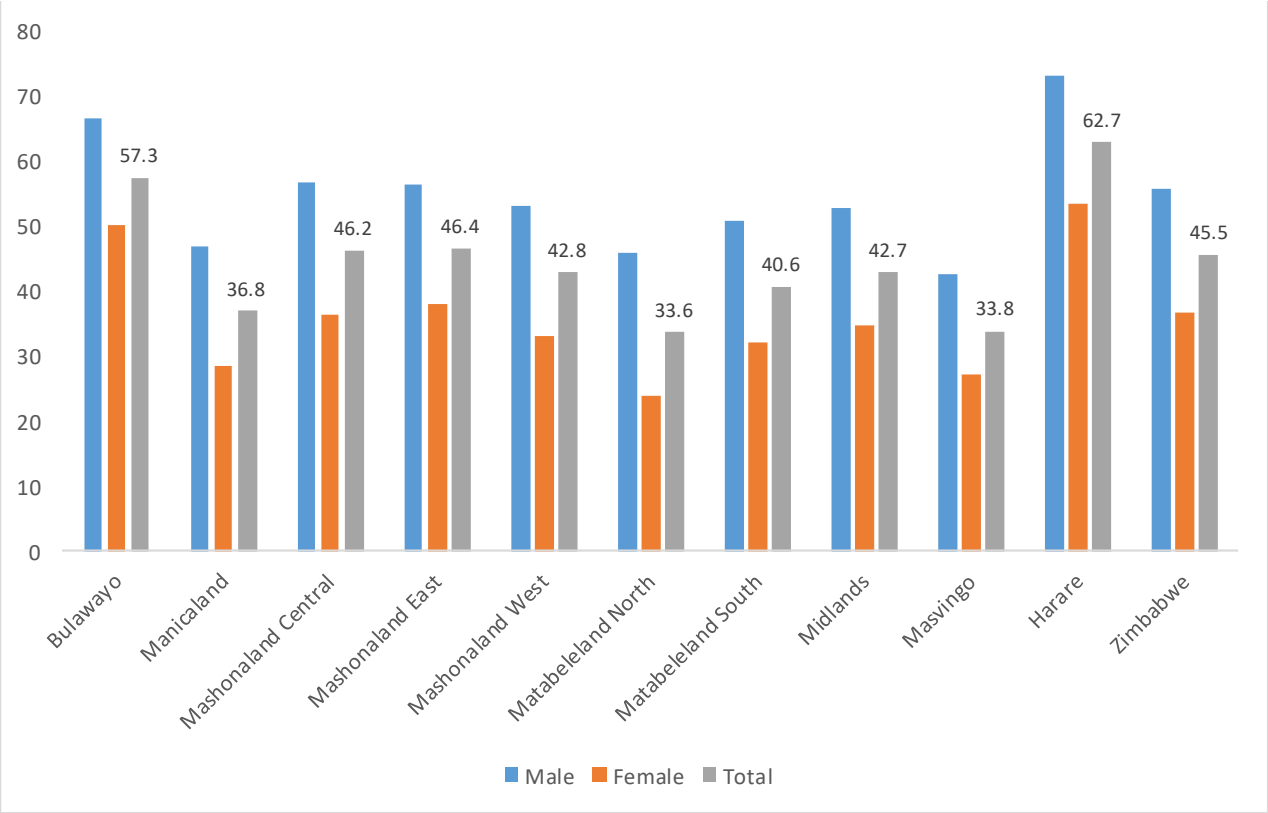

Figure 3: Employment to Population Ratio by Sex, 3rd Quarter QLFS (2021)

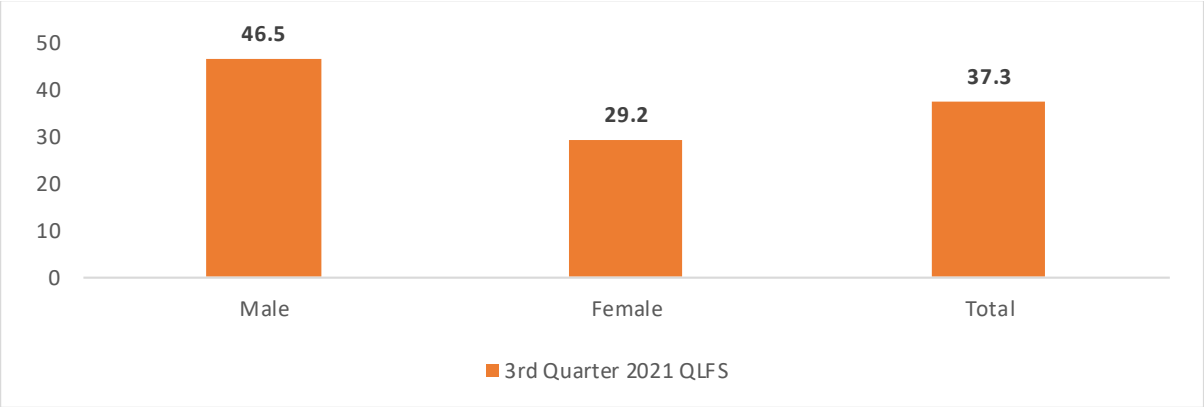

Figure 4: Employment to Population Ration by Province and Sex, 3rd Quarter QLFS (2021)

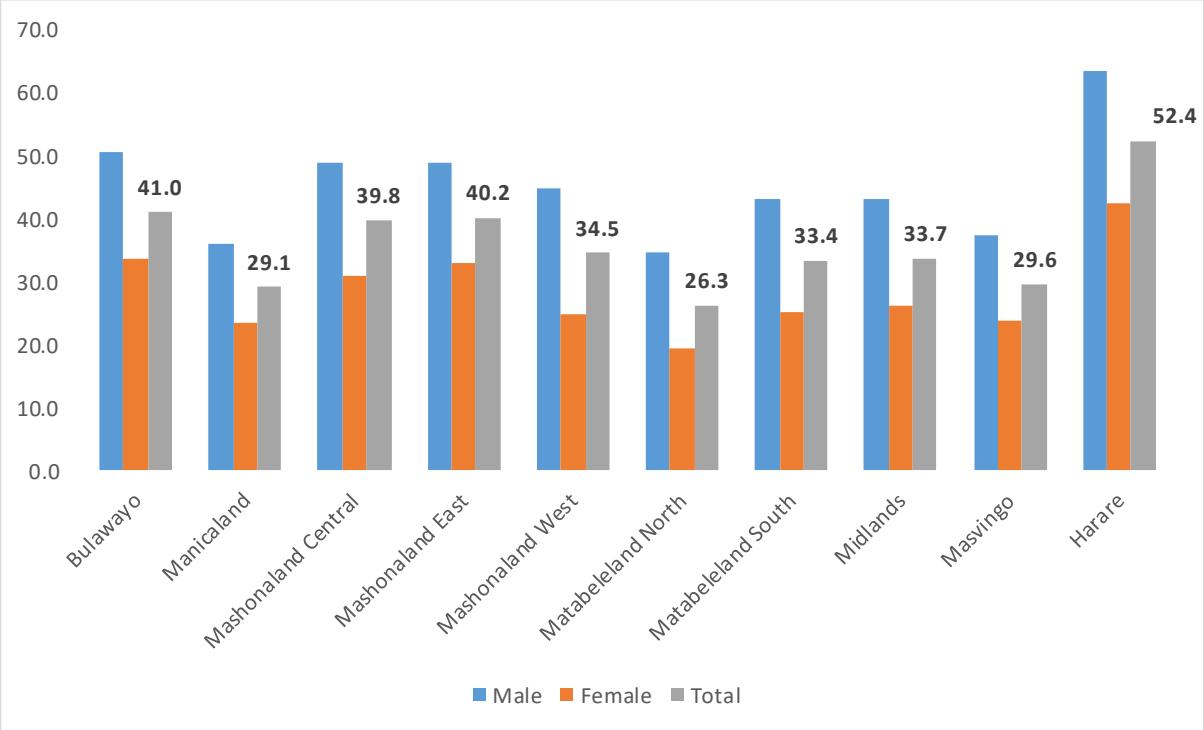

Figure 5: Employment to Population Ratio by Age Group and Sex, 3rd Quarter QLFS (2021)

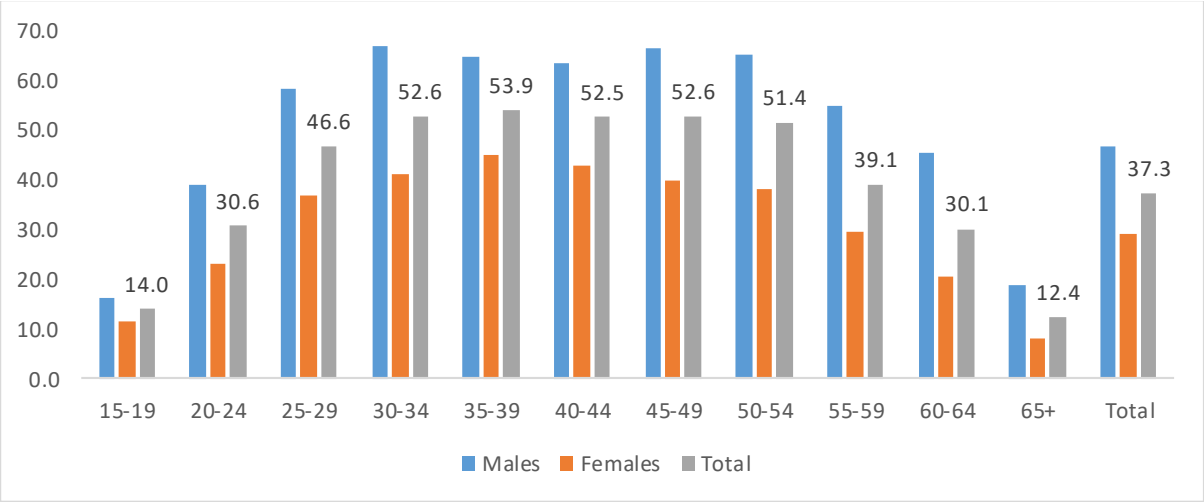

Figure 6: Percent Distribution of the Employed Population 15 Years and Above by Sector of Employment, 3rd Quarter QLFS (2021)

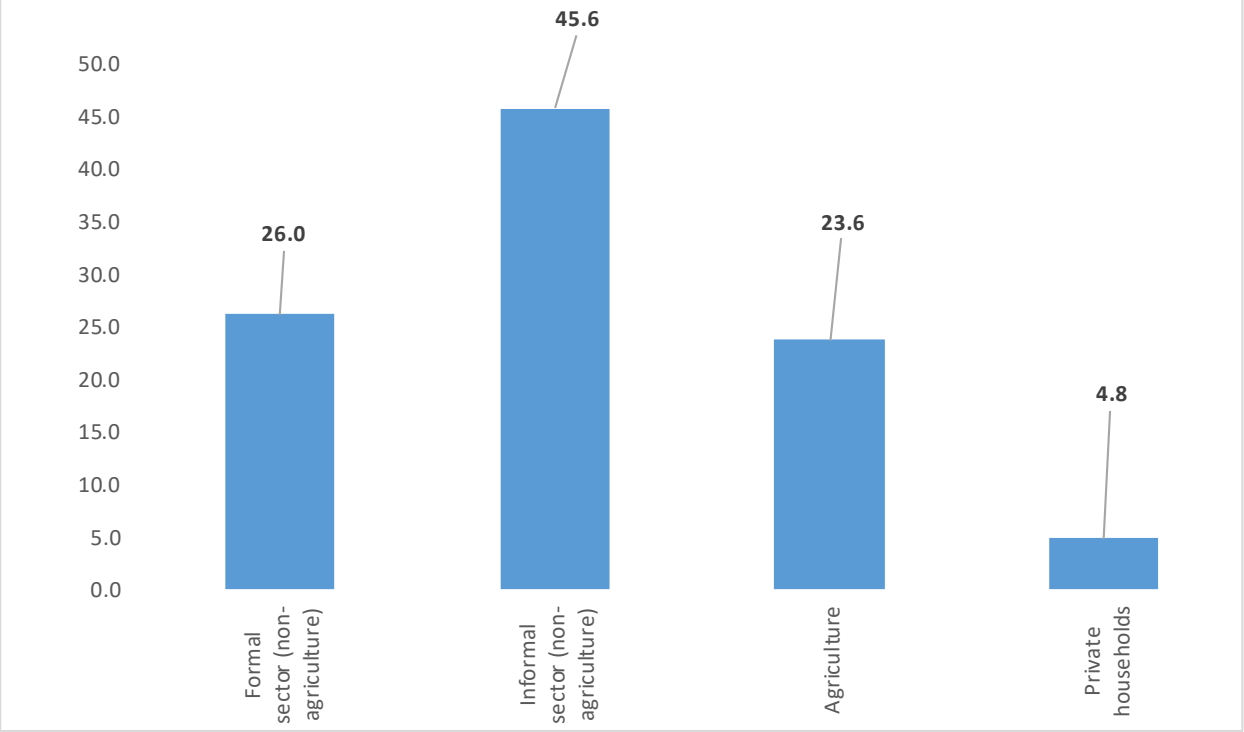

Figure 7: Percent Distribution of Employed Population 15 Years and Above by Province and Sex, 3rd Quarter QLFS (2021)

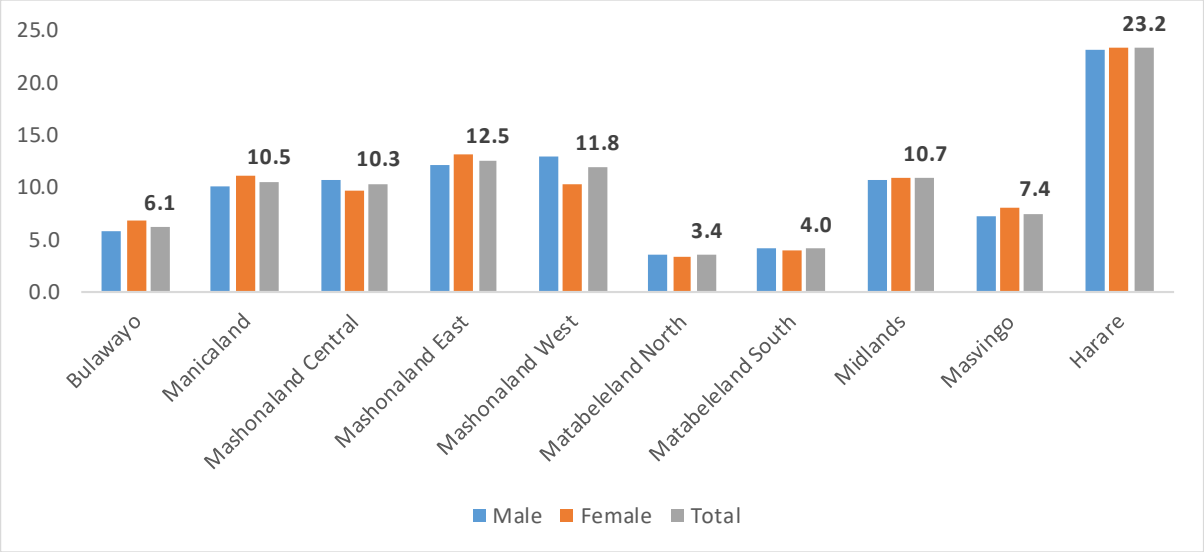

Figure 8: Percent Distribution of Employed Population 15 Years and Above by Industry, 3rd Quarter QLFS (2021)

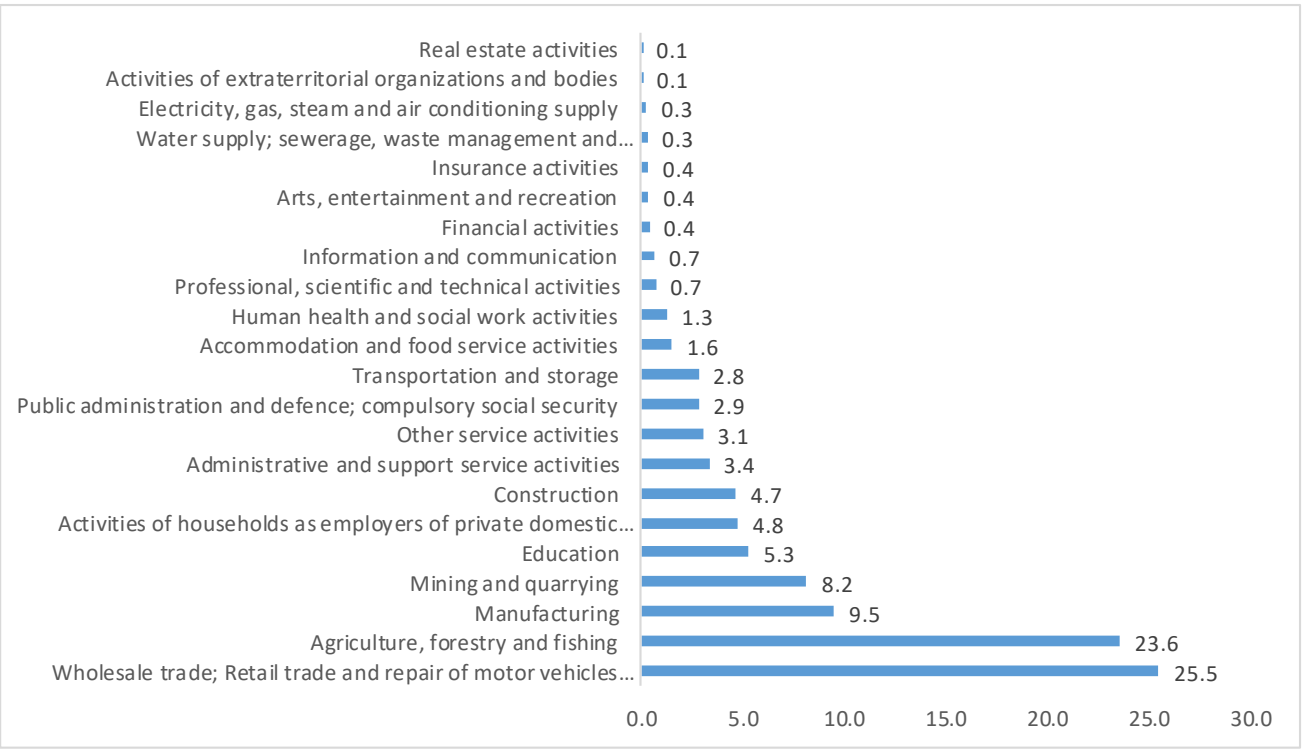

Figure 9: Percent Distribution of the Employed Population 15 Years and Above by Income Band in ZW$ Dollars, 3rd Quarter QLFS (2021)

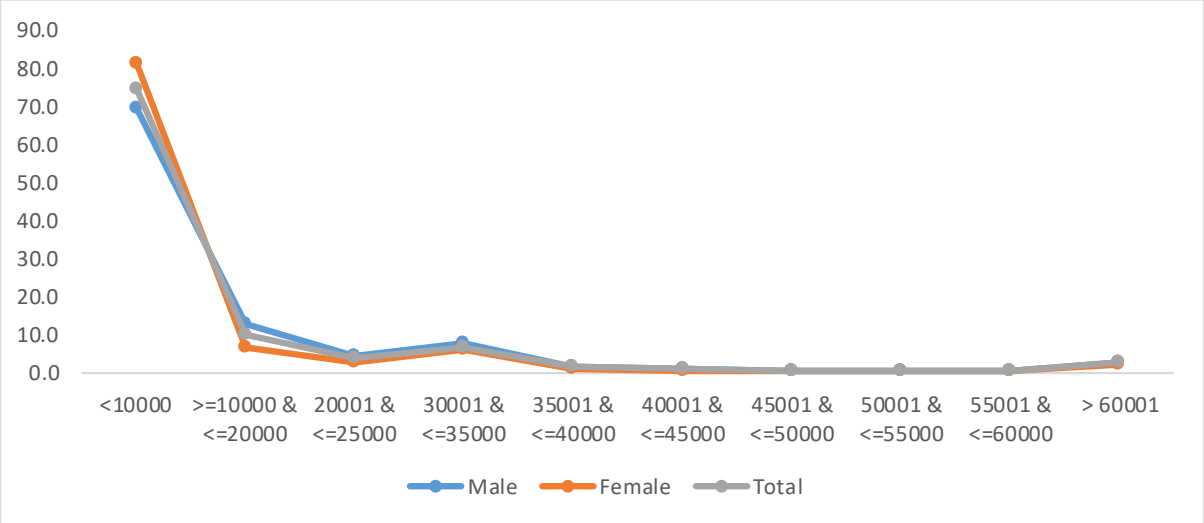

Figure 10: Percent Distribution of the Employed Population 15 Years and Above by Average Income and Industry, 3rd Quarter QLFS (2021)

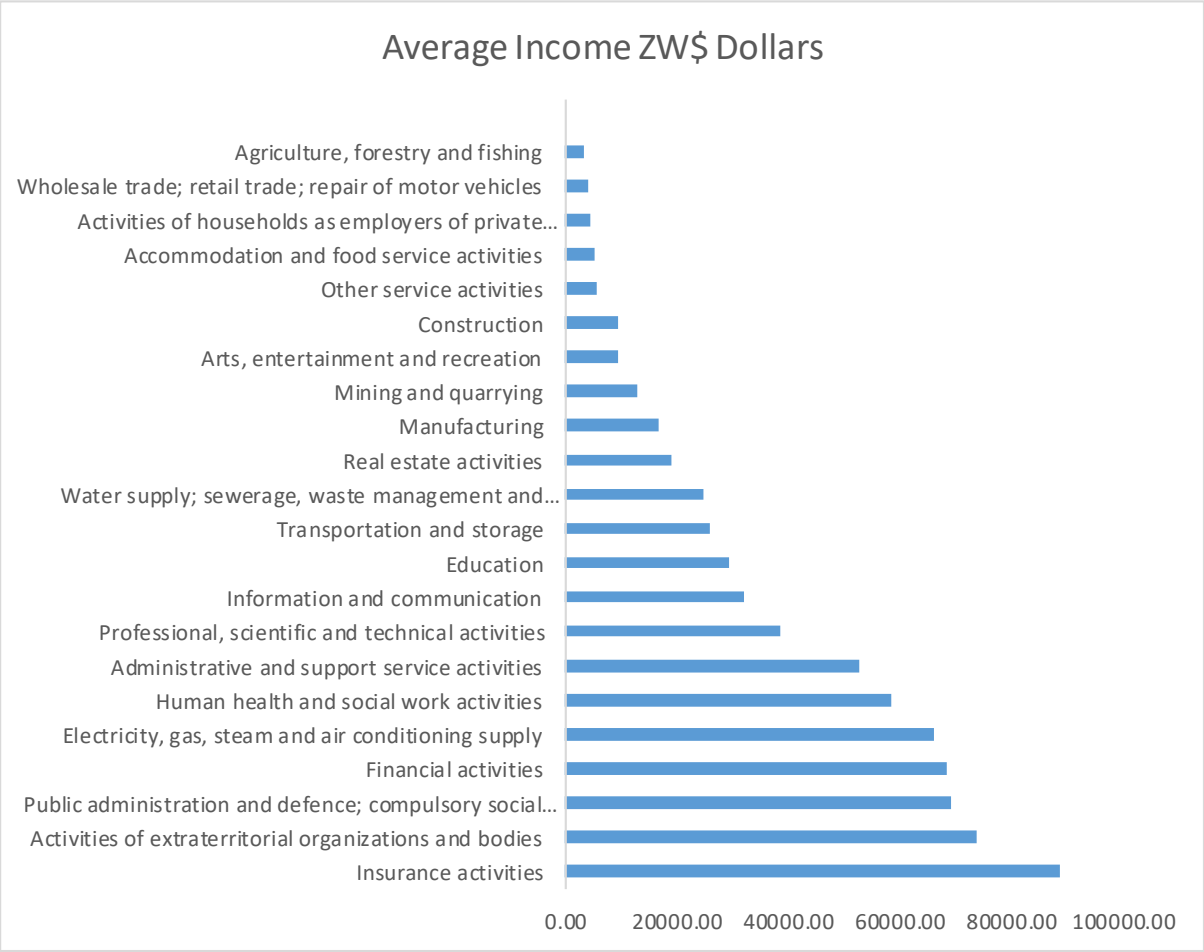

Figure 11: Percent Distribution of the Employed Population 15 Years and Above by Status in Employment, 3rd Quarter QLFS (2021)

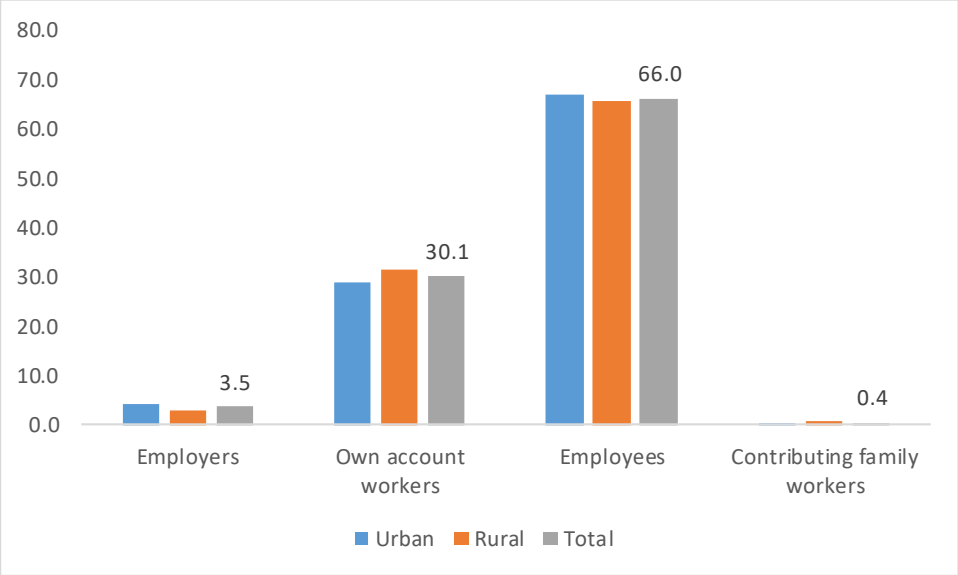

Figure 12: Percent Distribution of the Employed Population 15 Years and Above by Occupation, 3rd Quarter QLFS (2021)

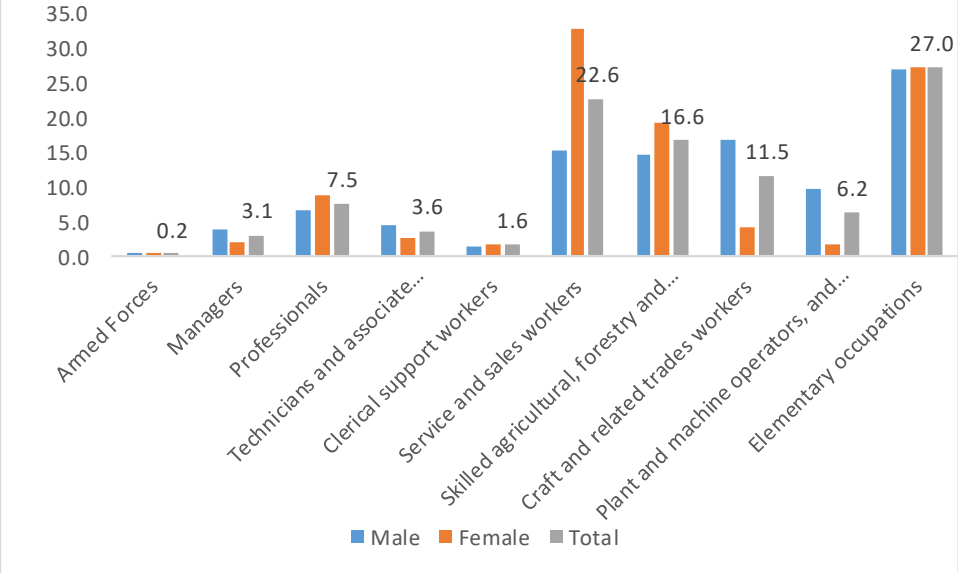

Figure 13: Percent Distribution of the Employed Population 15 Years and Above in the Informal Sector by Industry, 3rd Quarter QLFS (2021)

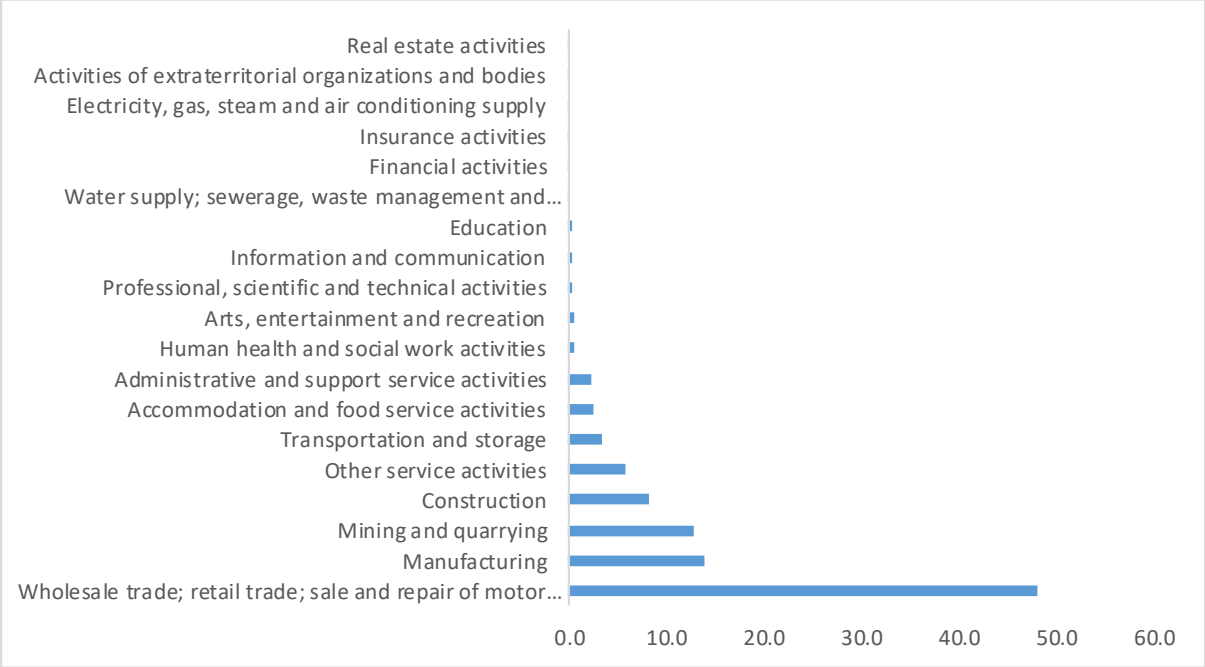

Figure 14: Percent Distribution of Employed Persons 15 Years and Above Informally Employed by Industry, 3rd Quarter QLFS (2021)

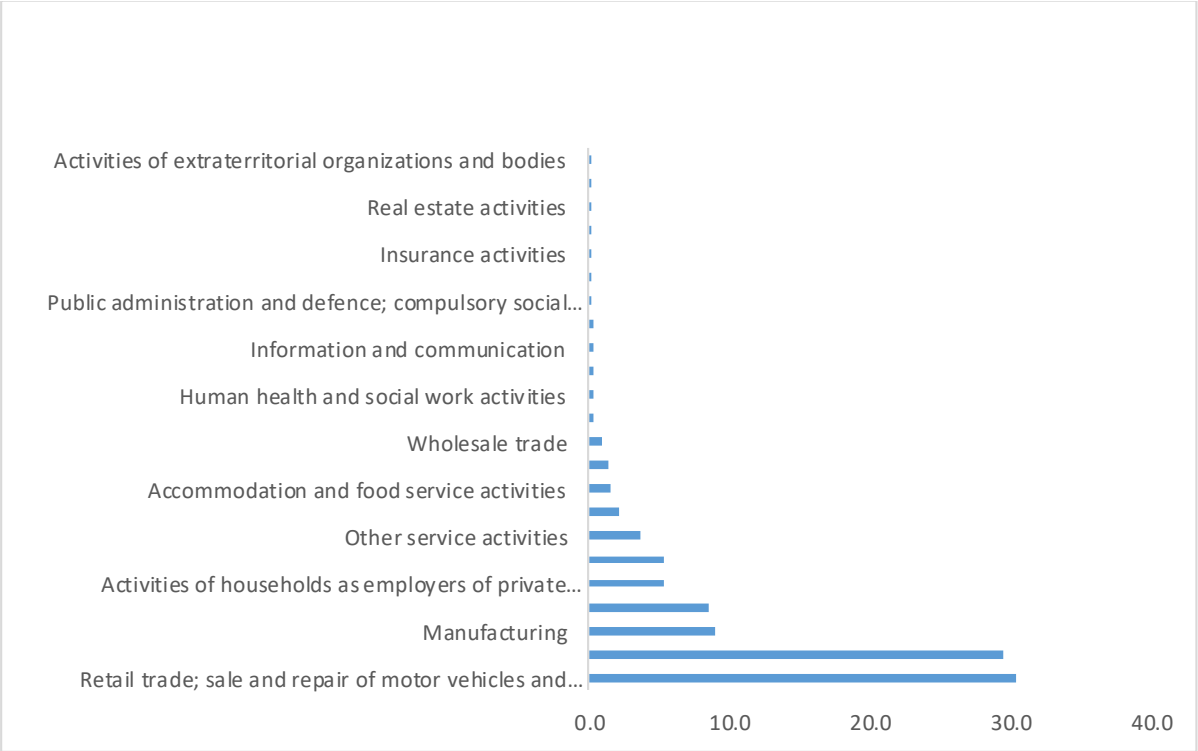

Figure 15: Unemployment Rates by Province and Sex, 3rd Quarter QLFS (2021)

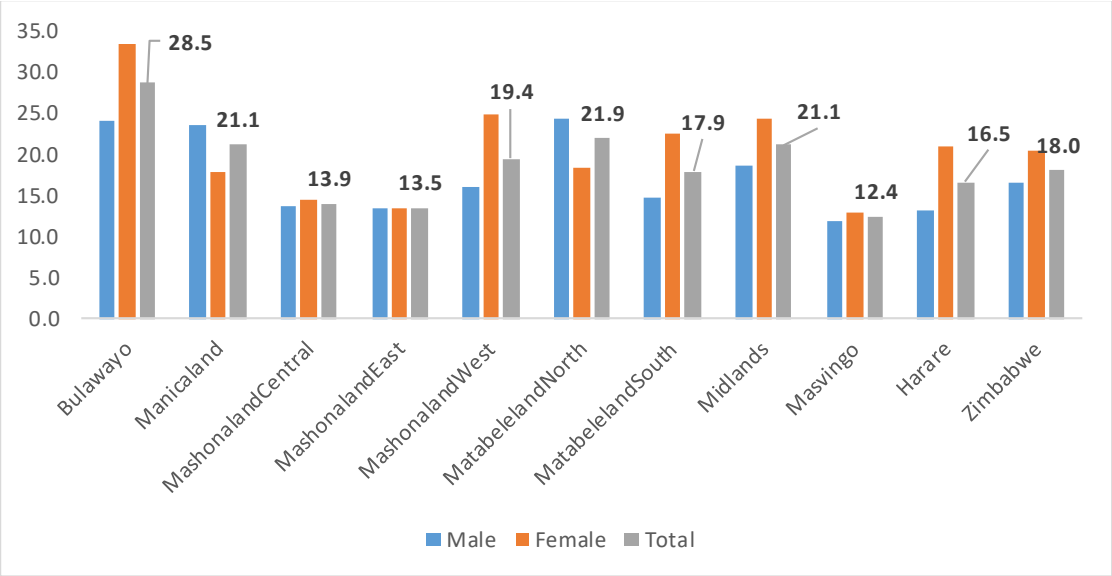

Figure 16: Unemployment Rates by Age Group and Sex, 3rd Quarter QLFS (2021)

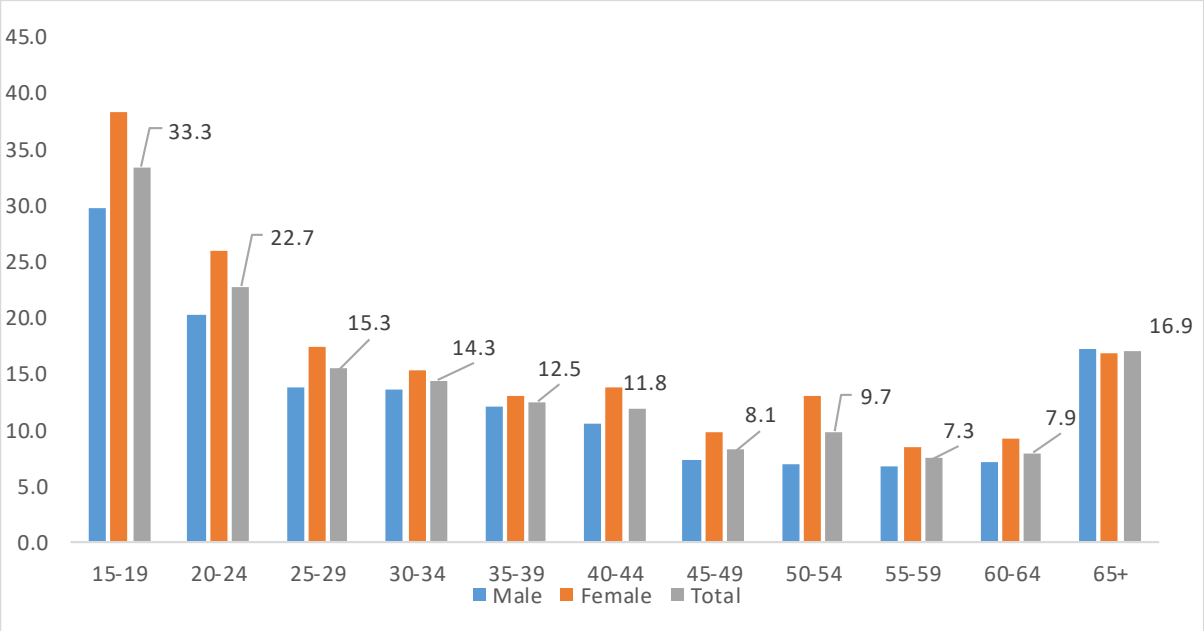

Figure 17: Unemployment Rates by Highest Level of Education Completed and Sex, 3rd Quarter QLFS (2021)

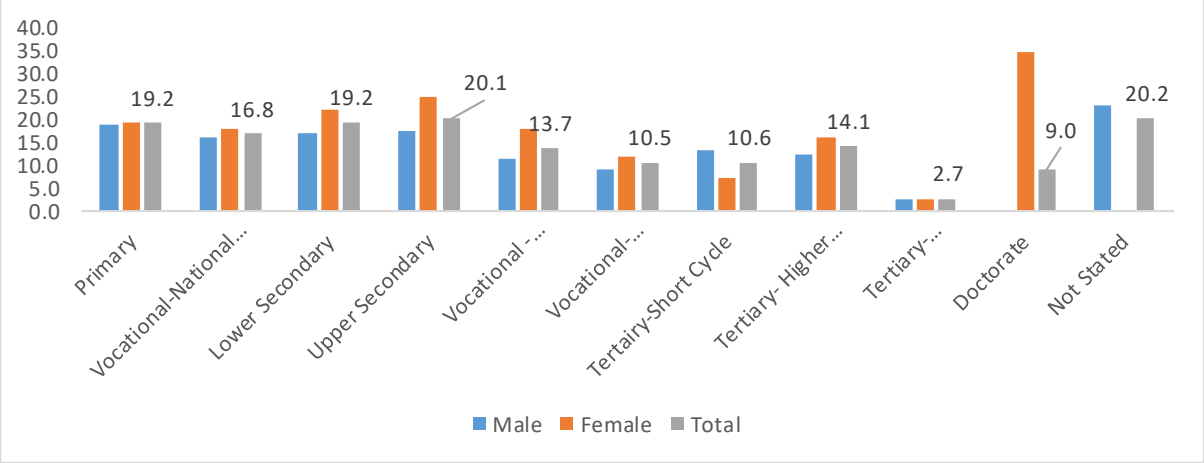

Figure 18: Expanded Unemployment Rates by Province and Sex, 3rd Quarter QLFS (2021)

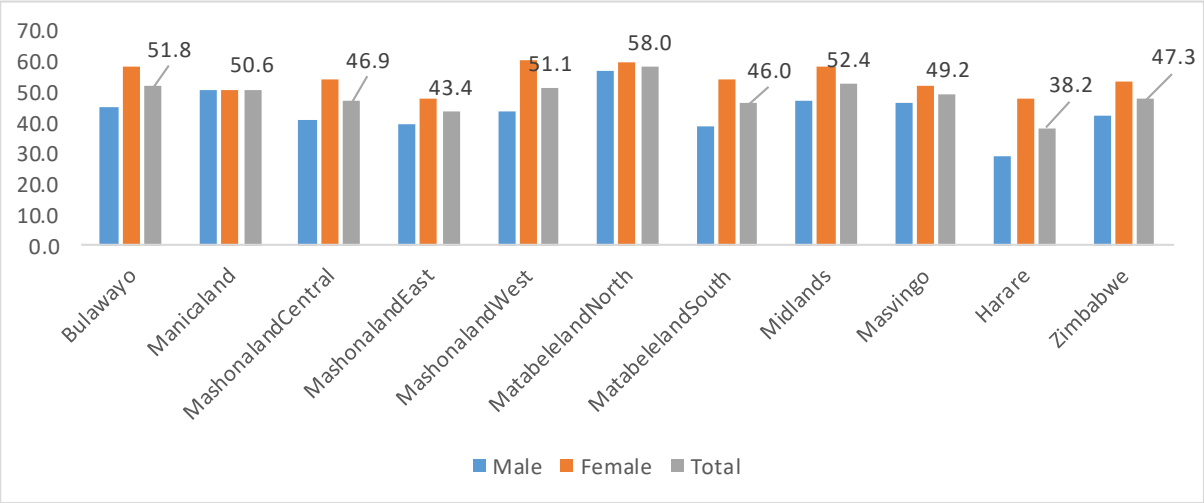

Figure 19: Expanded Unemployment Rates by Age Group and Sex, 3rd Quarter QLFS (2021)

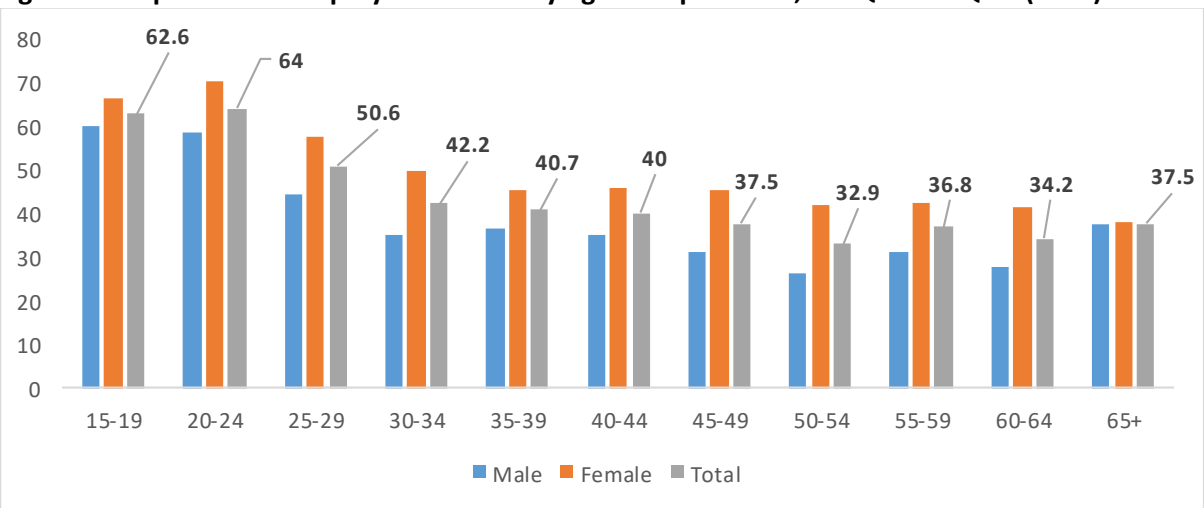

Figure 20: Expanded Unemployment Rates by Area, 3rd Quarter QLFS (2021)

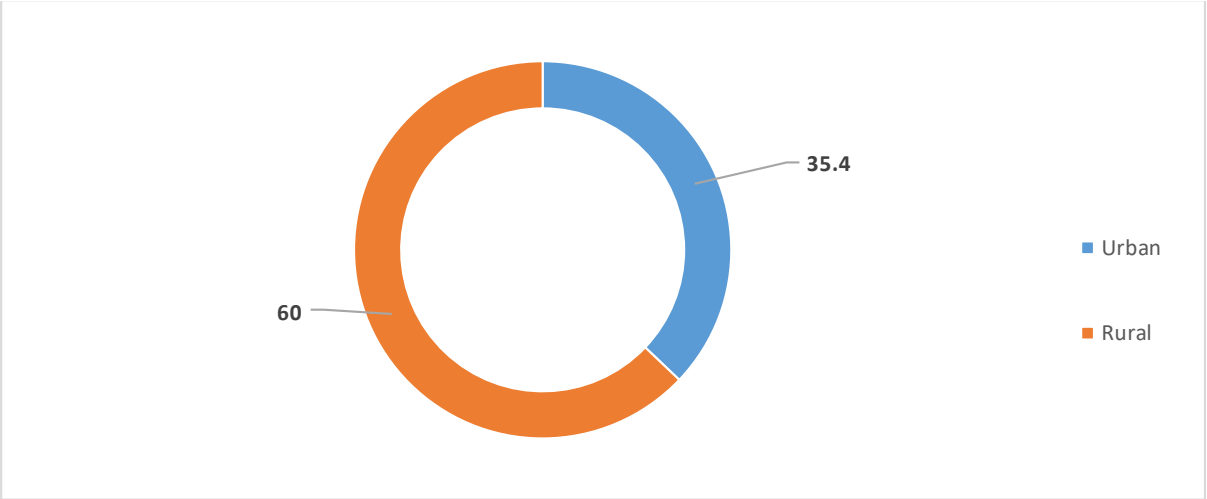

Figure 22: Youth (15-24) Years Not in Education, Employment or Training, 3rd Quarter QLFS (2021)

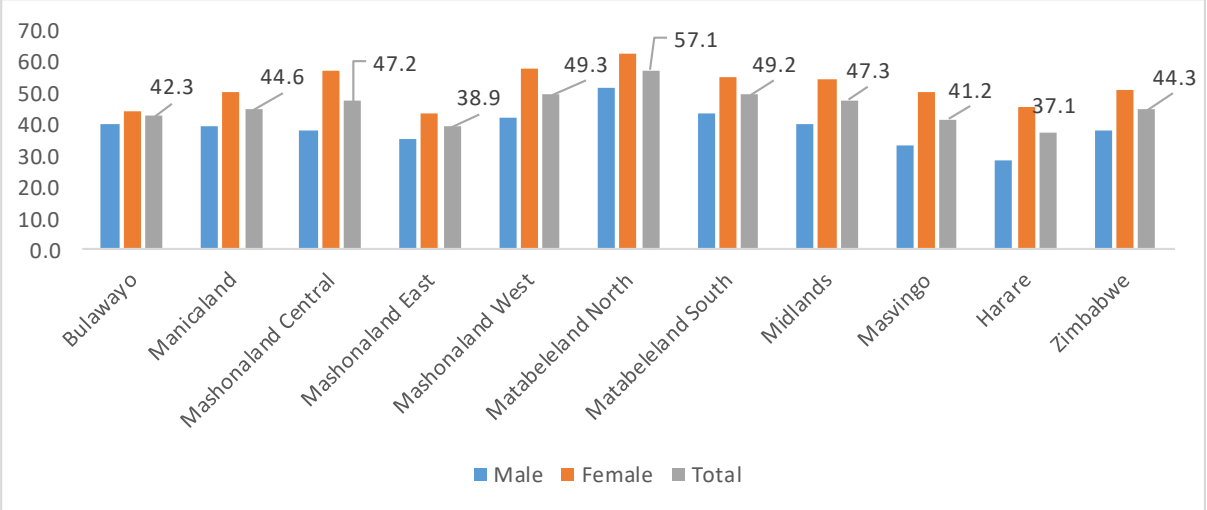

Figure 23: Youth (15-34) Years Not in Education, Employment or Training, 3rd Quarter QLFS (2021)

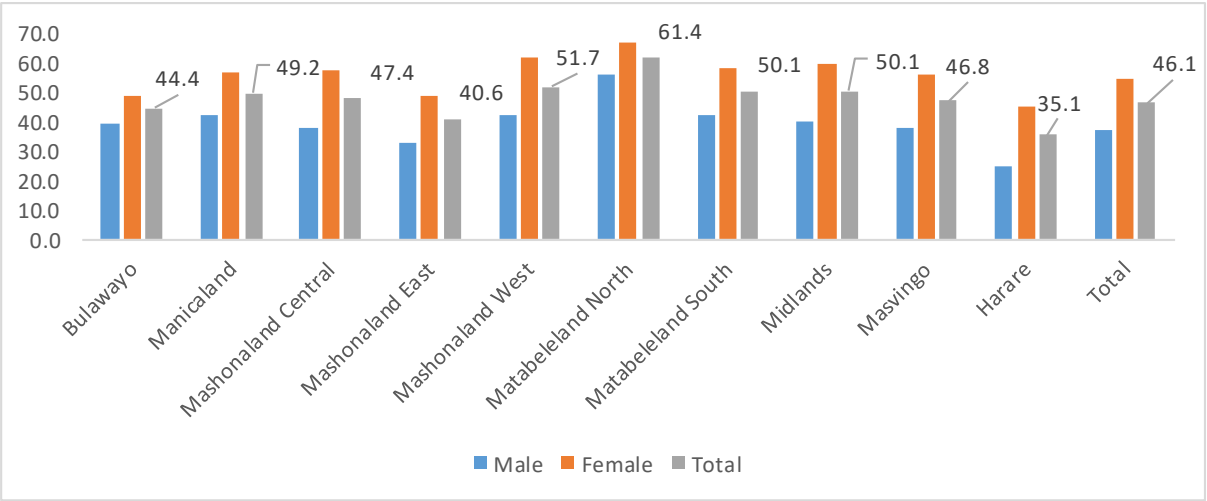

Figure 24: Distribution of Employed Persons who Reported Work Related Illnesses/Injuries by Province, 3rd Quarter QLFS (2021)

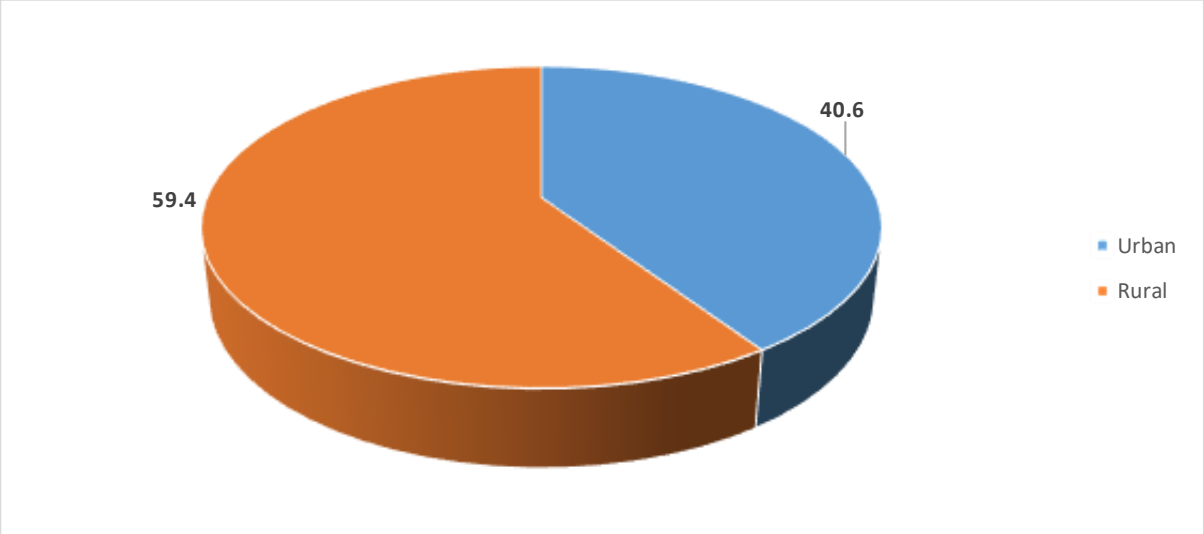

Figure 25: Distribution of Employed Persons who Reported Work Related Illnesses/Injuries by Industry, 3rd Quarter QLFS (2021)

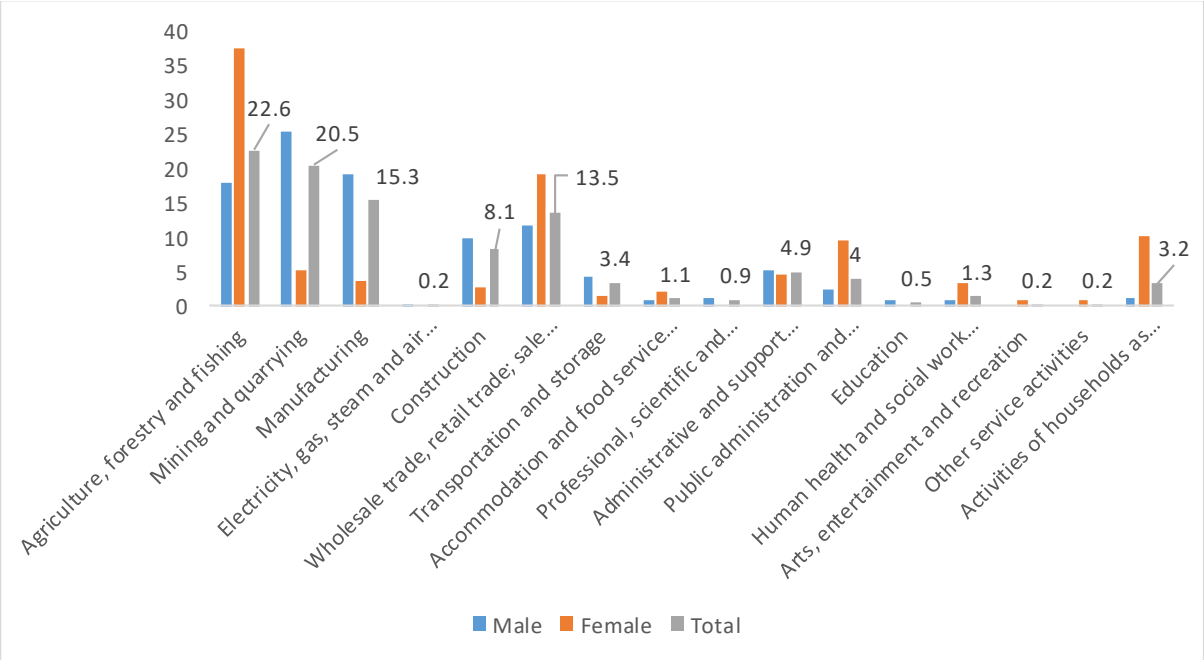

Figure 26: Percent Distribution of Persons who Lost their Jobs 3 Months Preceding the Survey by Province, 3rd Quarter QLFS (2021)

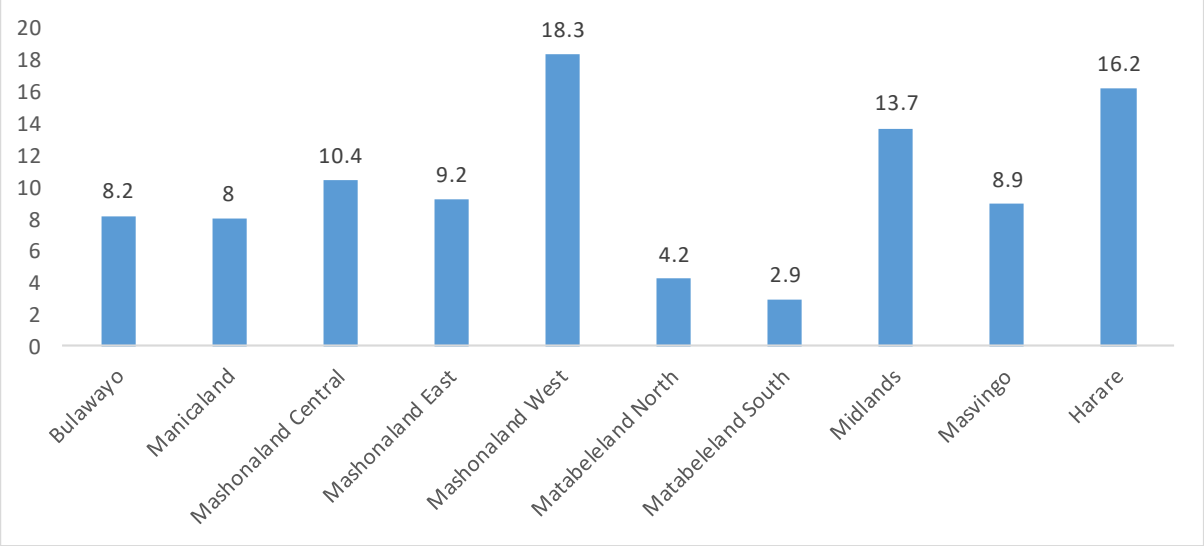

Figure 27: Percent Distribution of Persons who Lost their Jobs 3 Months Preceding the Survey by Industry, 3rd Quarter QLFS (2021)

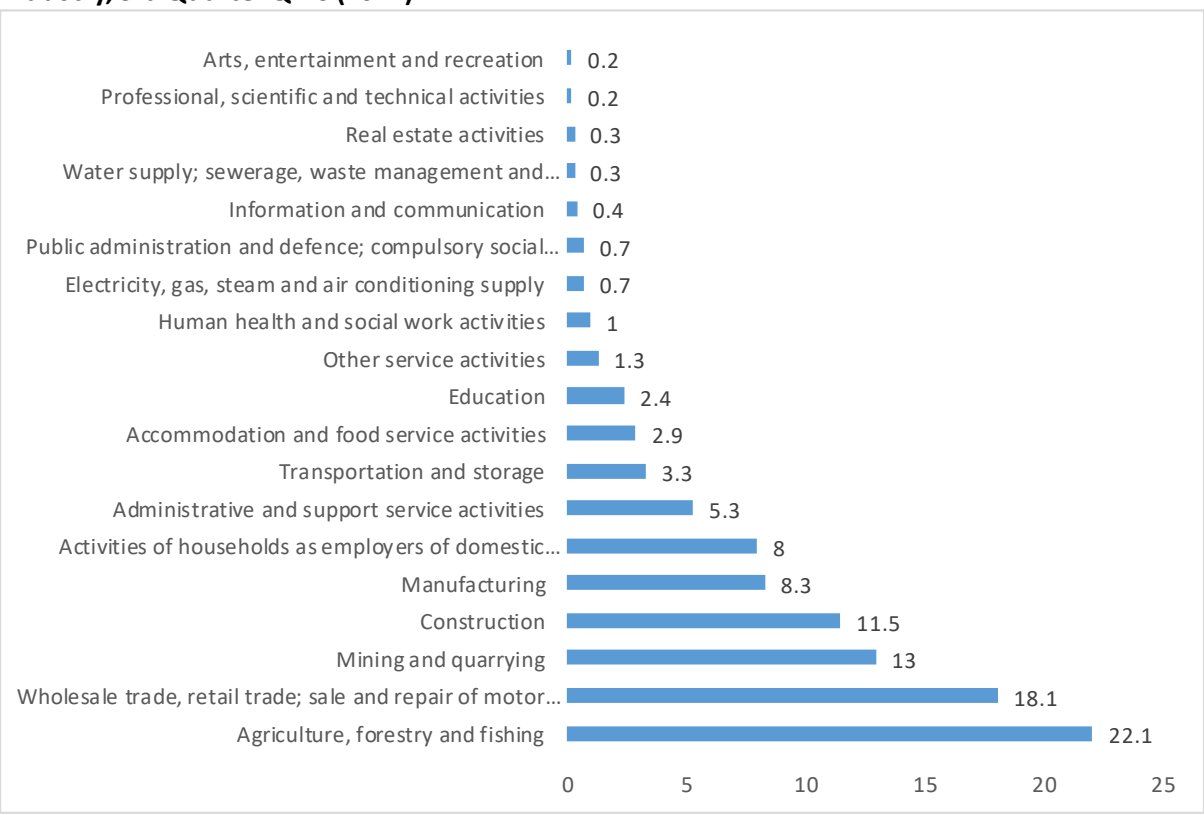

Figure 28: Percent Distribution of Persons who Lost their Jobs 3 Months Preceding the Survey by Age Group, 3rd Quarter QLFS (2021)

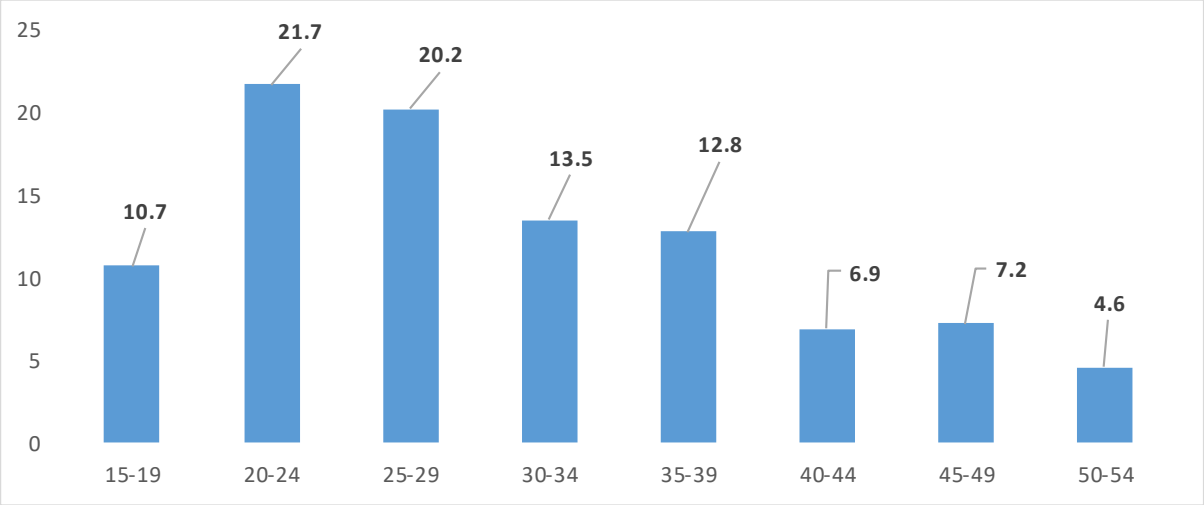

Figure 29: Percent Distribution of Labour Migrants by Country of Origin, 3rd Quarter QLFS (2021)

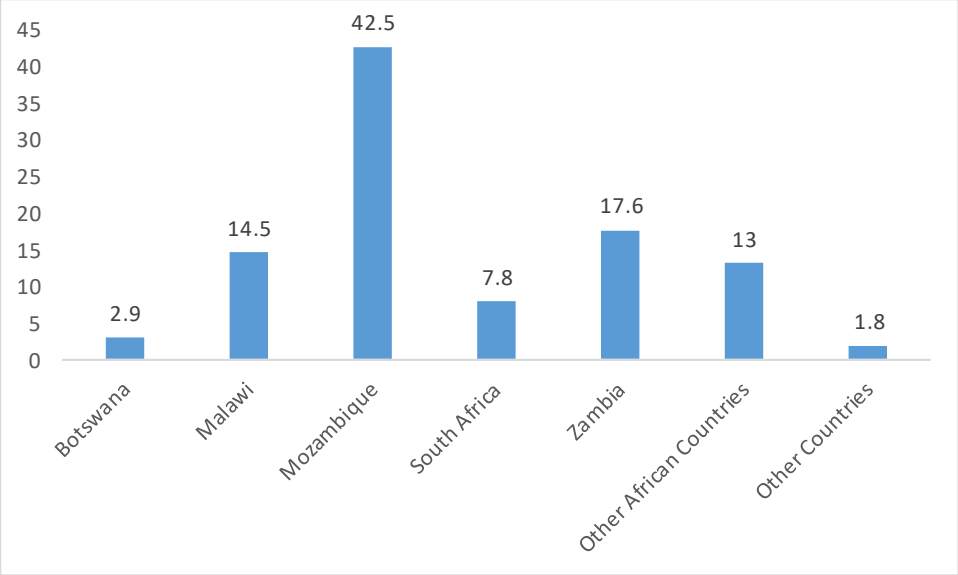
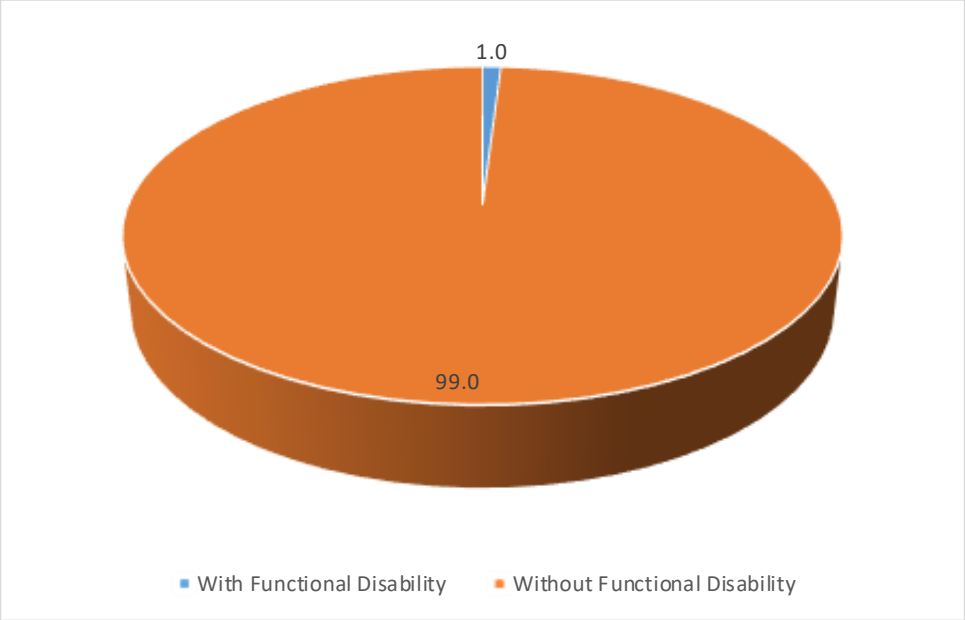
Figure 30: Percent Distribution of Employed Persons with At Least One Form of Disability, 3rd Quarter QLFS (2021)