ZimStat
Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency

2025 SECOND QUARTER LABOUR FORCE SURVEY REPORT

JULY 2025

The 2025 Second 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 21st International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS).

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 in all provinces. The survey response rate was 96.3 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) =

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

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

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

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

e. Unemployment Rate=

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

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=

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

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 2025 Second Quarter, QLFS Findings

Table 1: Key findings

	2nd Quarter 2025	
Indicator	**Number**	**Percent**
Labour Force		
Working Age Population (16 years and above)	8,539,402	
Labour Force (16 years and above)	4,020,125	
Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)		47.1
Total Employed	3,186,598	
Employment to Population Ratio (EPR)		37.3
Sector of Employment		
Formal	1,140,886	35.8
Informal	1,863,695	58.5
Household Own Use Production and Community Sector	182,017	5.7
Unemployment		
National (16 years and above)	833,527	20.7
Youth (15-24 years)	313,106	39.3
Youth (15-35 years)	563,422	28.9
Expanded/Relaxed Unemployment		
National (16 years and above)		37.1
Youth (15-24 years)		58.2
Youth (15-35 years)		46.1
Youth Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)		
Youth (15-24 years) NEET	1,267,065	47.6
Youth (15-35 years) NEET	2,244,389	49.2

Figure 1: Labour Force Participation Rates by Province and Sex, 2nd Quarter 2025

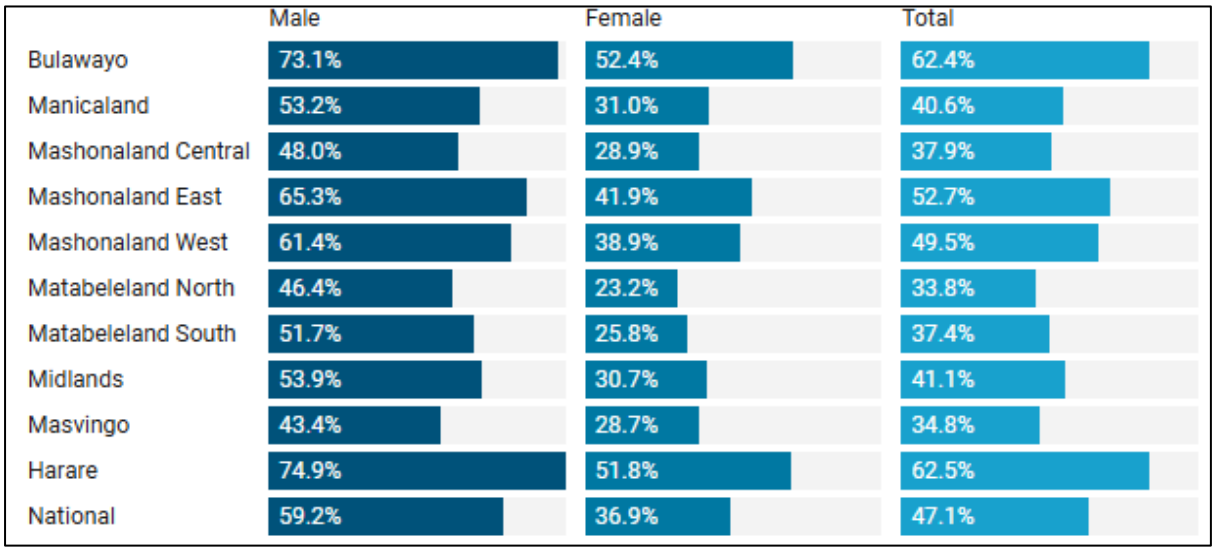

Figure 2: Labour Force Participation Rates by Urban/Rural Areas and Sex, 2nd Quarter 2025

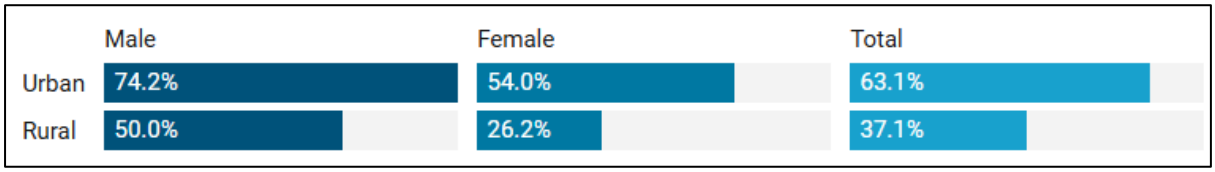

Figure 3: Labour Force Participation Rates by Age Group and Sex, 2nd Quarter 2025

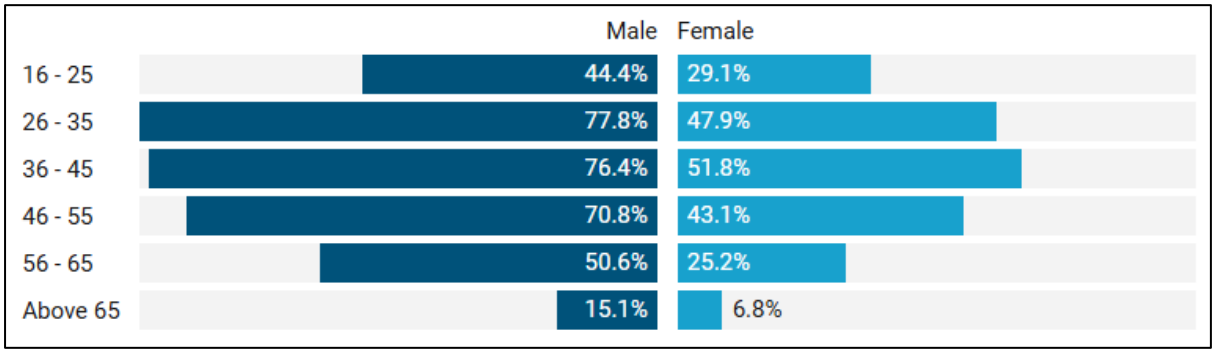

Figure 4: Employment to Population Ratio by Province and Sex, 2nd Quarter 2025

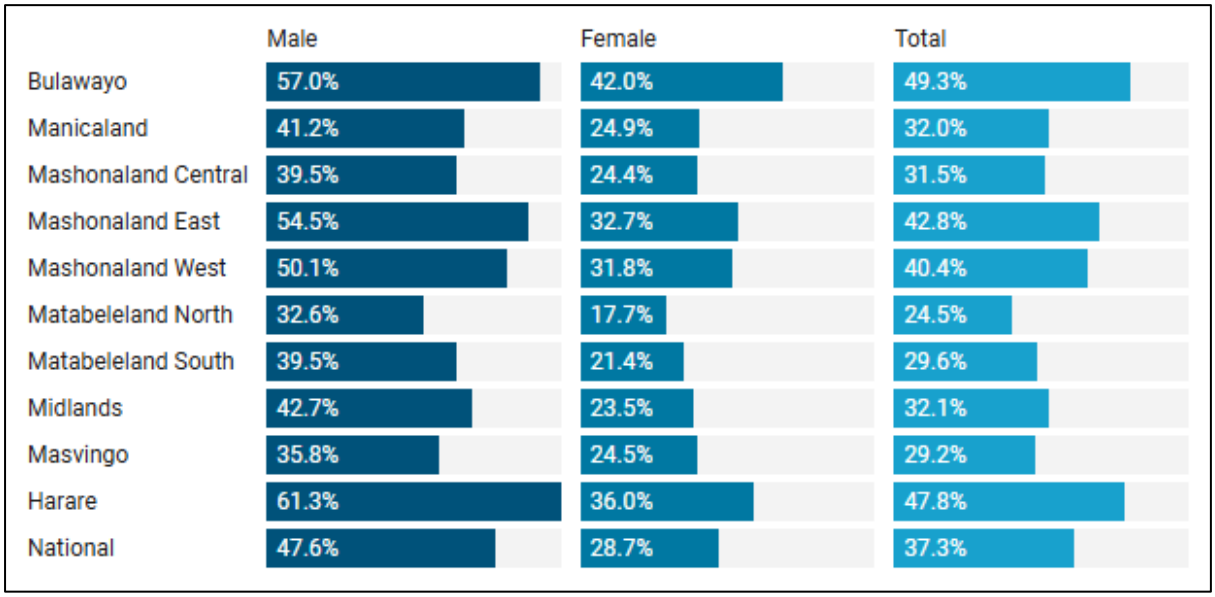

Figure 5: Employment to Population Ratio by Age Group and Sex, 2nd Quarter 2025

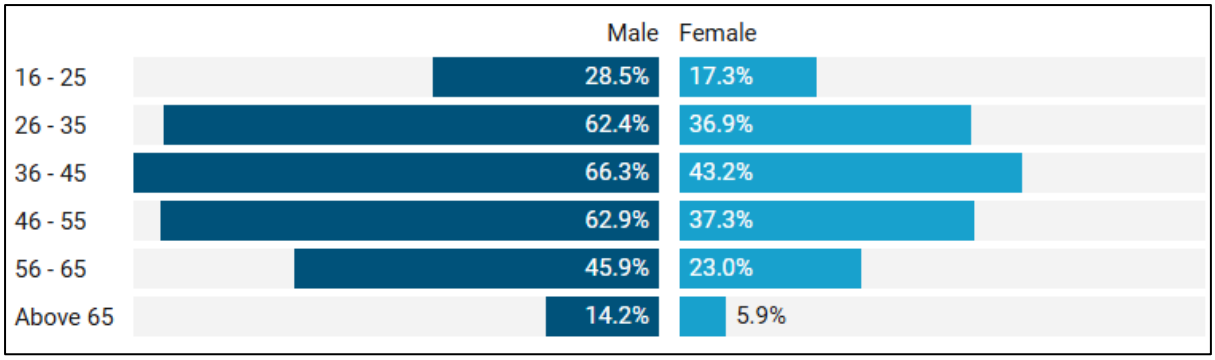

Figure 6: Employment to Population Ratio by Urban/Rural Areas and Sex, 2nd Quarter 2025

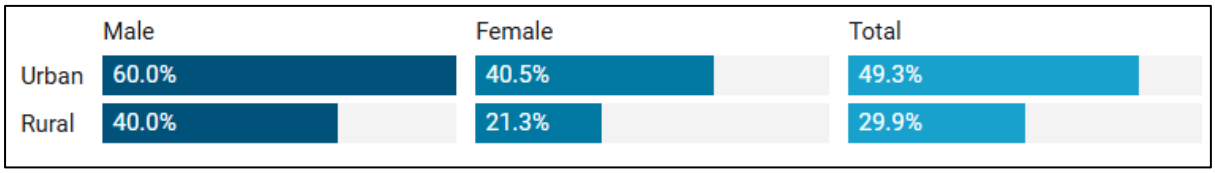

Figure 7a: Distribution of Employed Population by Major Sector of Employment and Sex, 2nd Quarter 2025

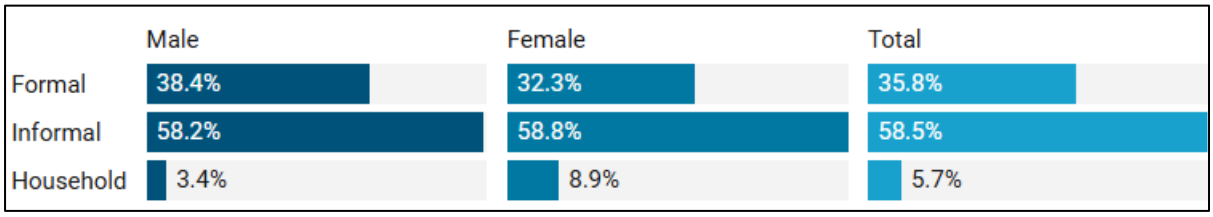

Figure 7b: Distribution of Employed Population by Sector of Employment and Sex, 2nd Quarter 2025

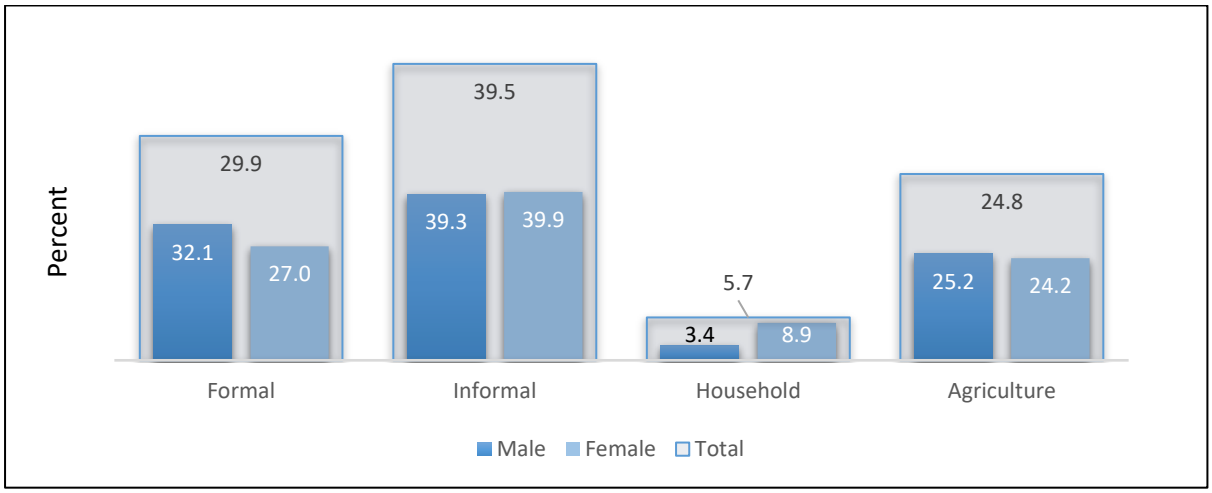

Figure 8: Distribution of Employed Population by Province and Sex, 2nd Quarter 2025

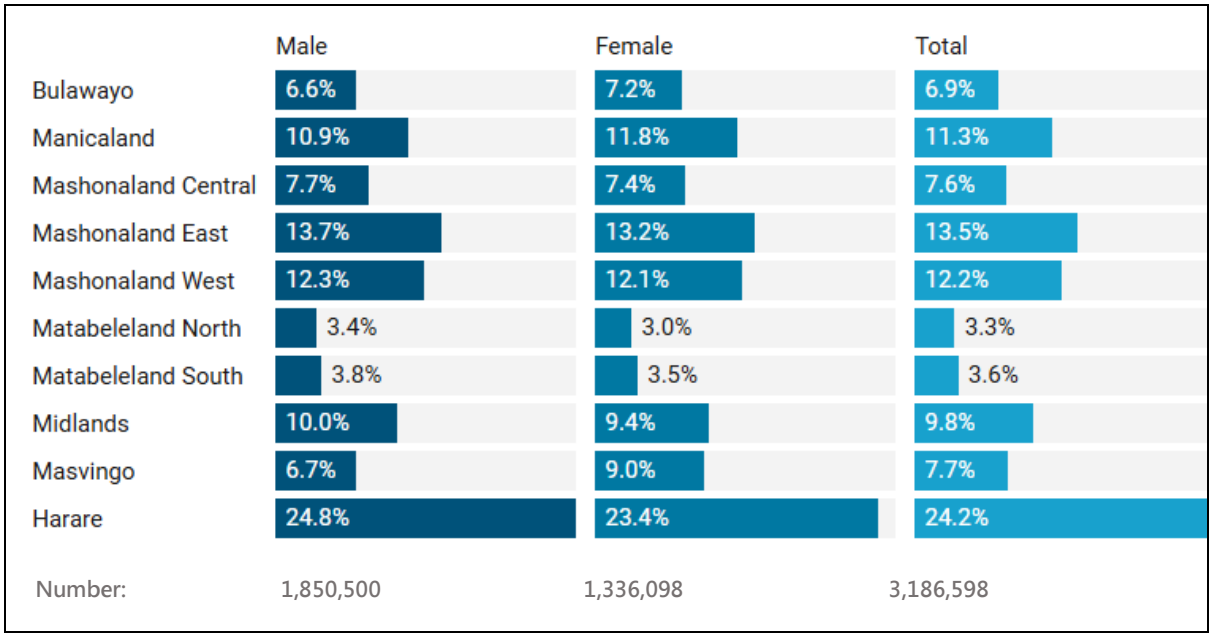

Figure 9: Distribution of Employed Population by Major Contributing Industries to Employment, 2nd Quarter 2025

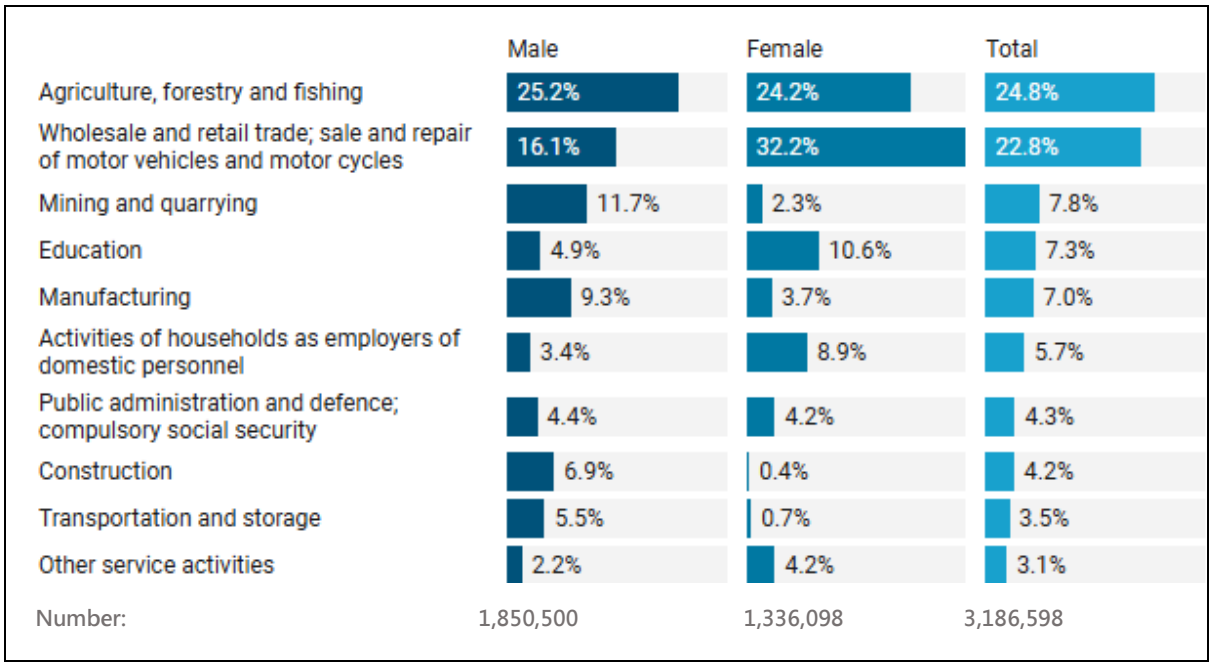

Figure 10: Distribution of Employed Population by Occupation and Sex, 2nd Quarter 2025

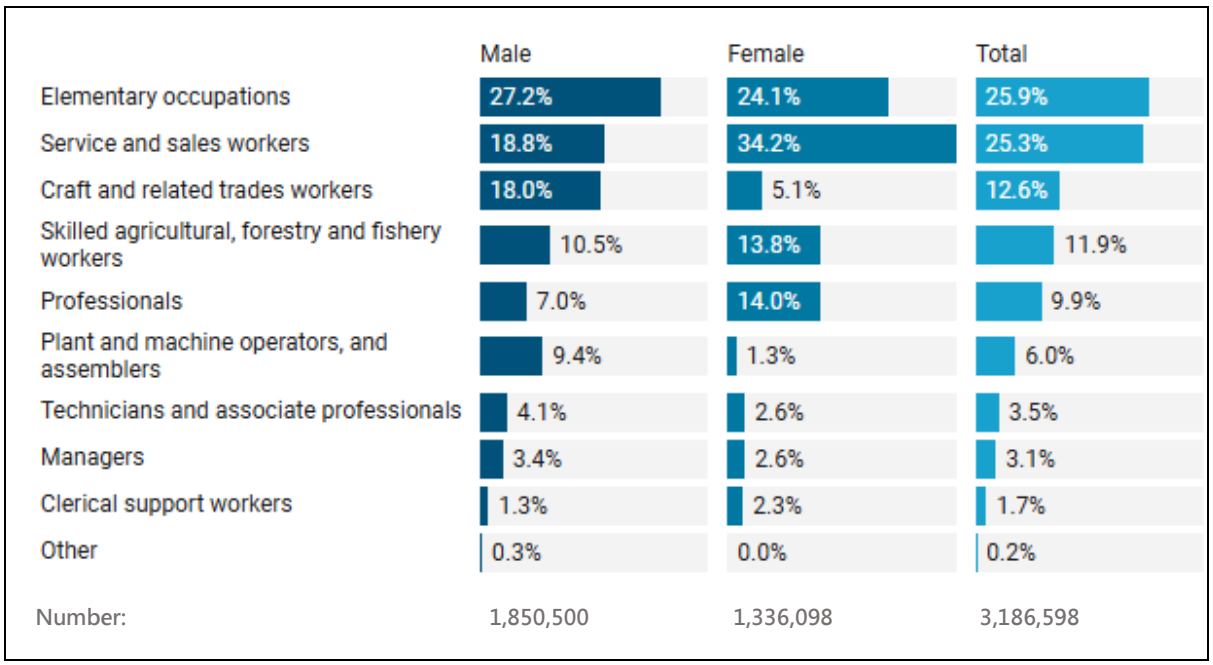

Figure 11: Distribution of Employed Population in Informal Sector by Industry and Sex, 2nd Quarter 2025

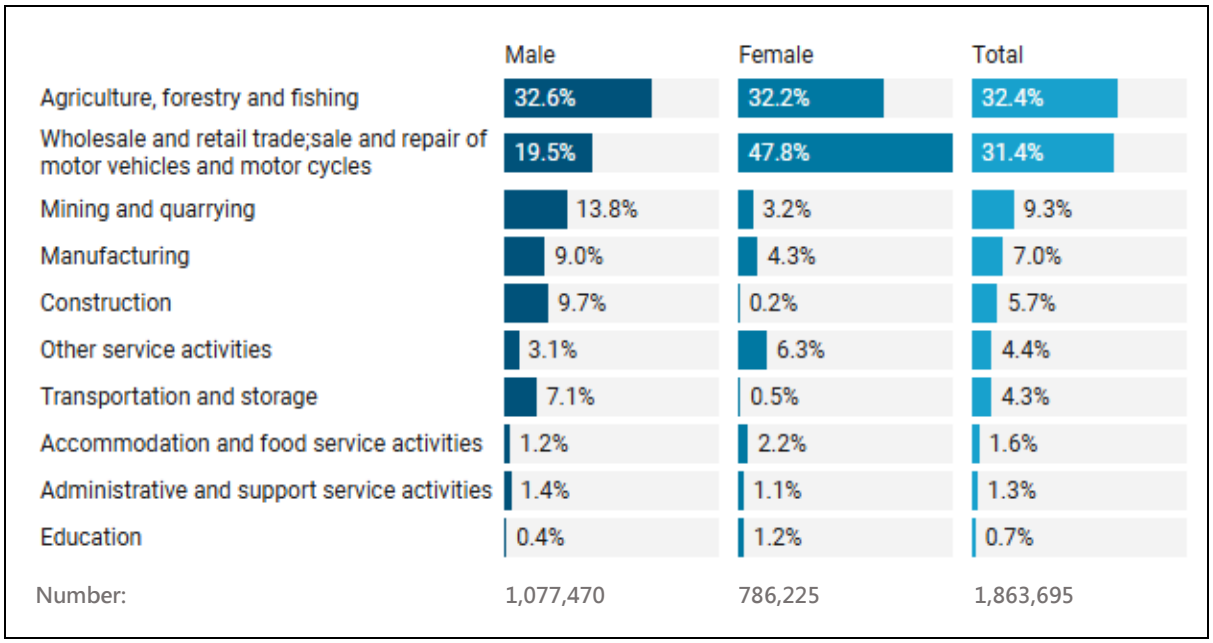

Figure 12: Distribution of Informally Employed Persons by Industry and Sex, 2nd Quarter 2025

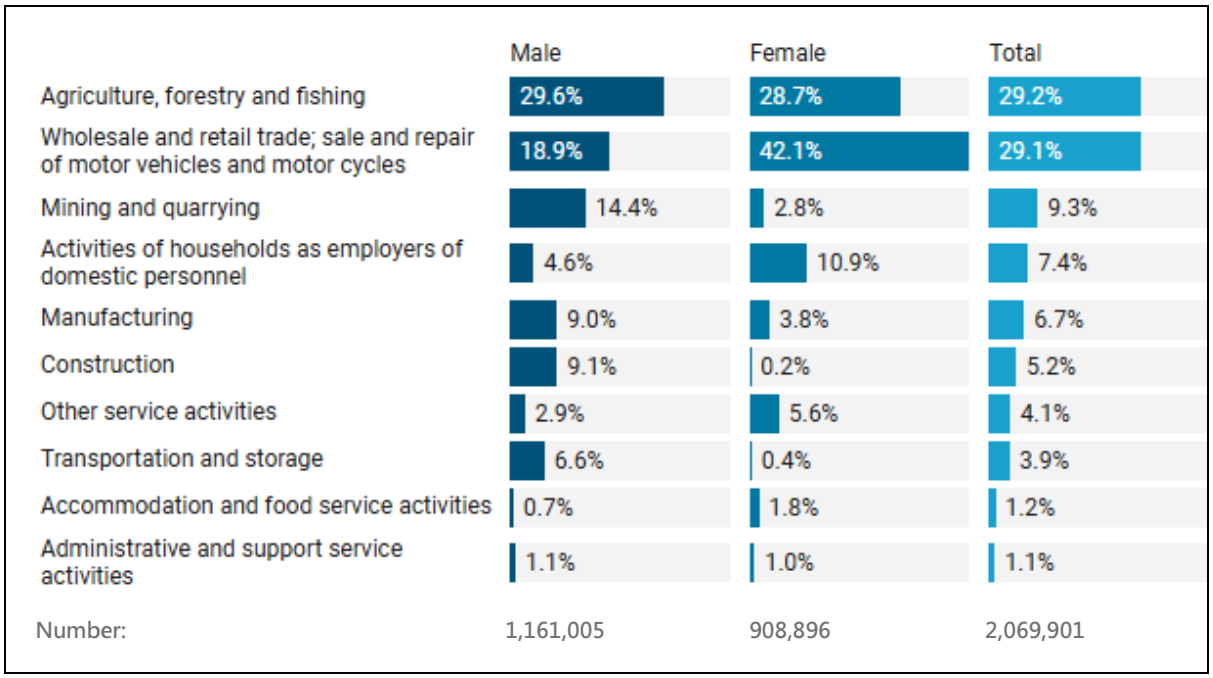

Figure 13: Informally Employed Persons in Non-Agriculture Sectors by Industry and Sex, 2nd Quarter 2025

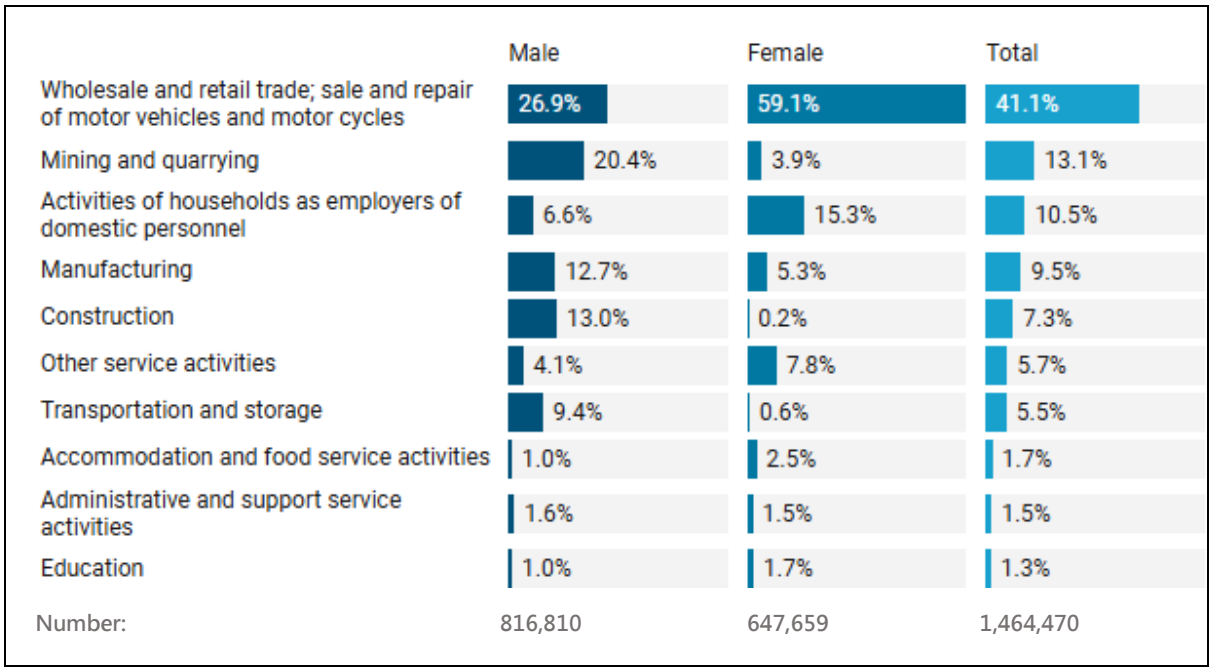

Figure 14: Distribution of Employed Persons with at Least One Form of Disability by Sex, 2nd Quarter 2025

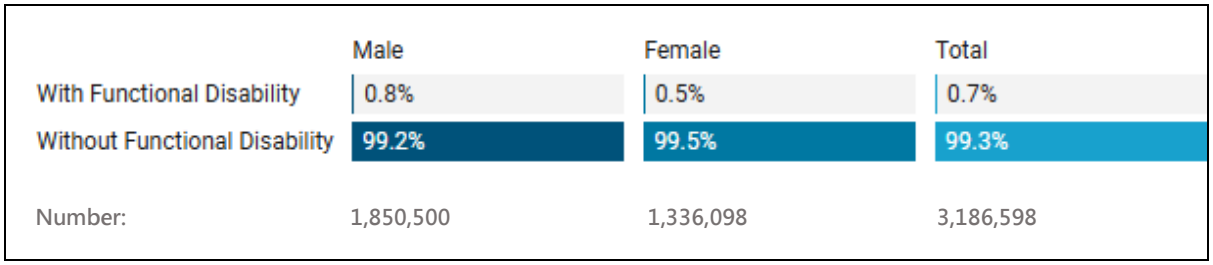

Figure 15: Employed Population in Time-related Underemployment by Industry, 2nd Quarter 2025

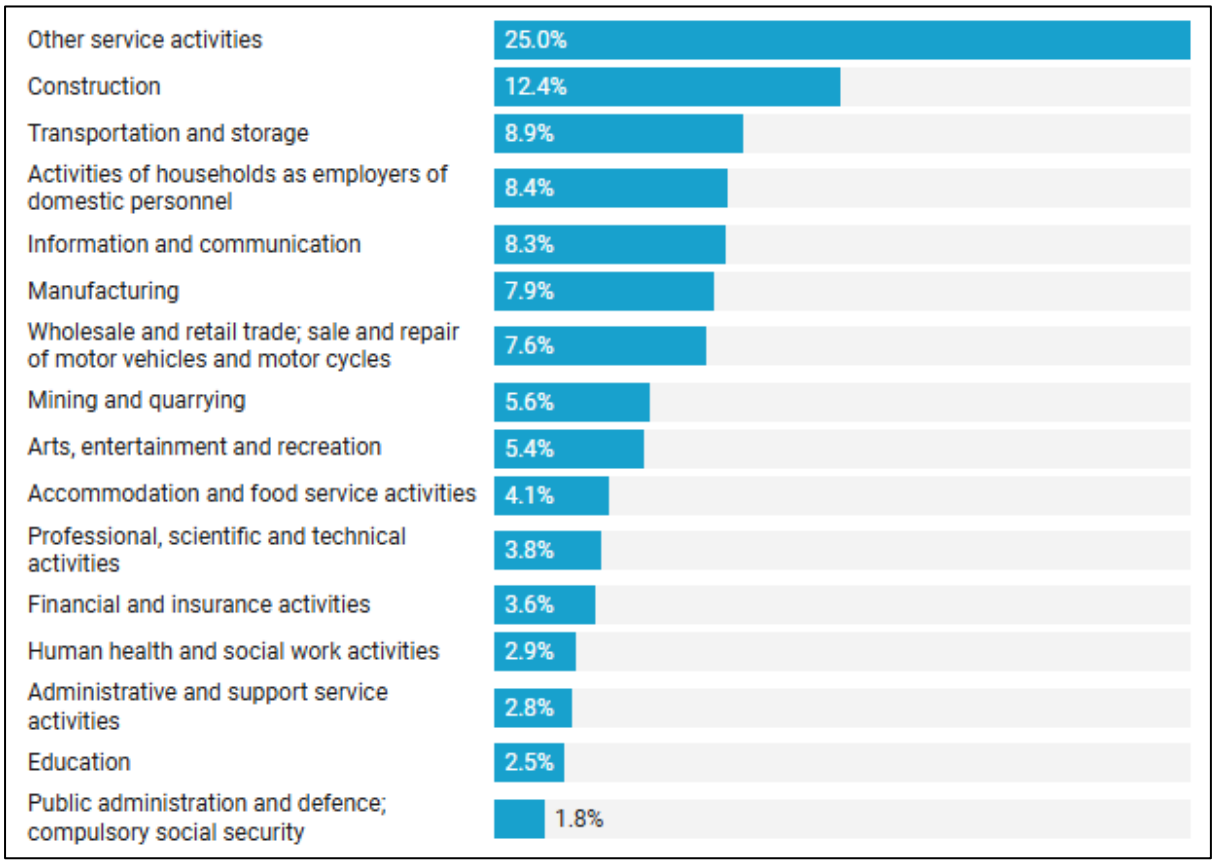

Figure 16: Distribution of Employed Persons by Income Band (in ZiG) and Sex, 2nd Quarter 2025

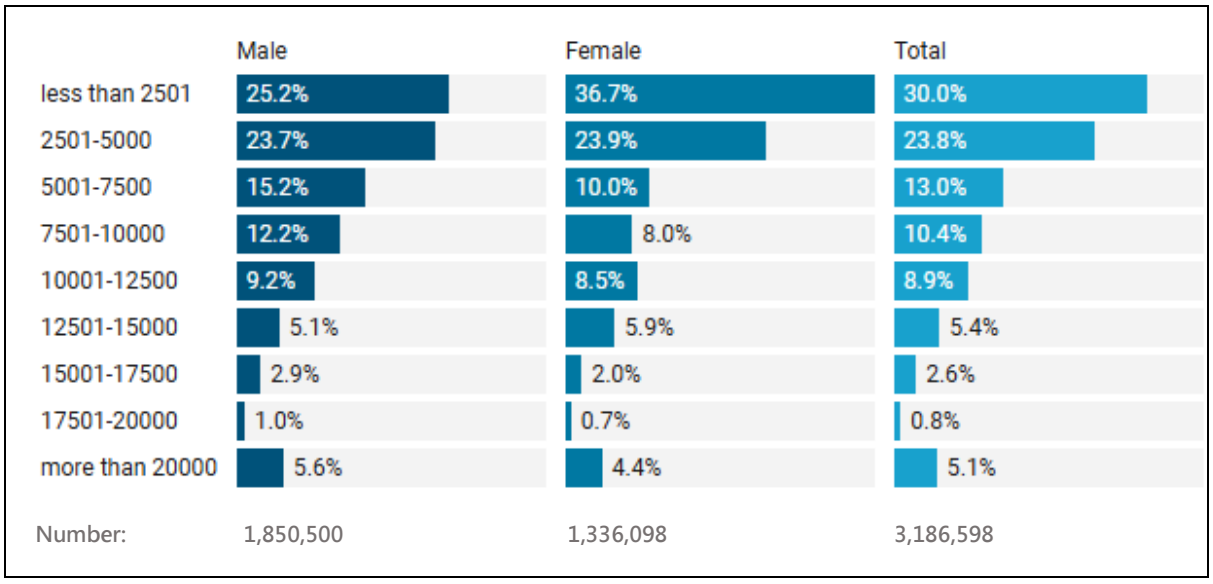

Figure 17: Average Income for Employed Persons by Industry, 2nd Quarter 2025

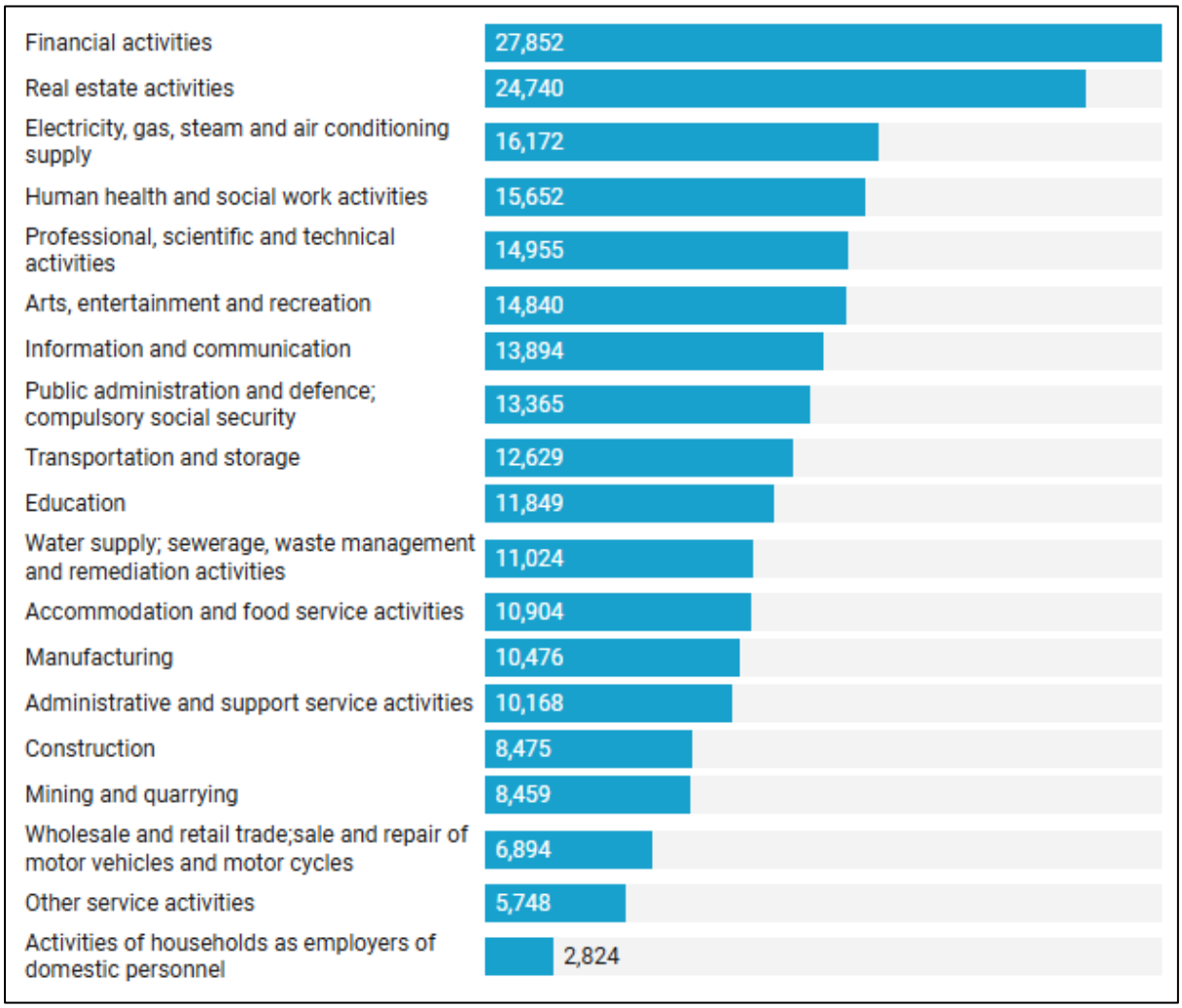

Figure 18: Distribution of Employed Population by Hours of Work and Sex, 2nd Quarter 2025

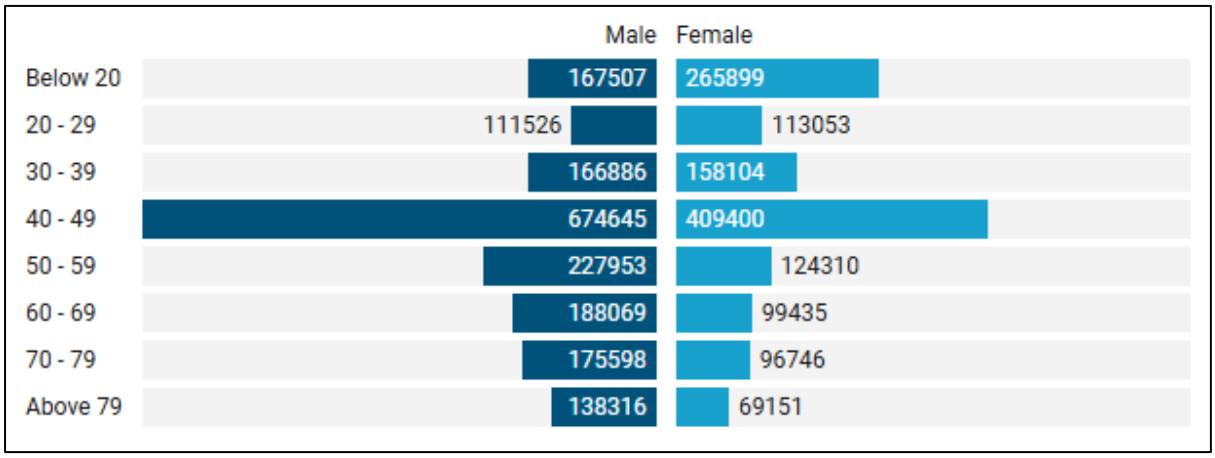

Figure 19: Unemployment Rates by Province and Sex, 2nd Quarter 2025

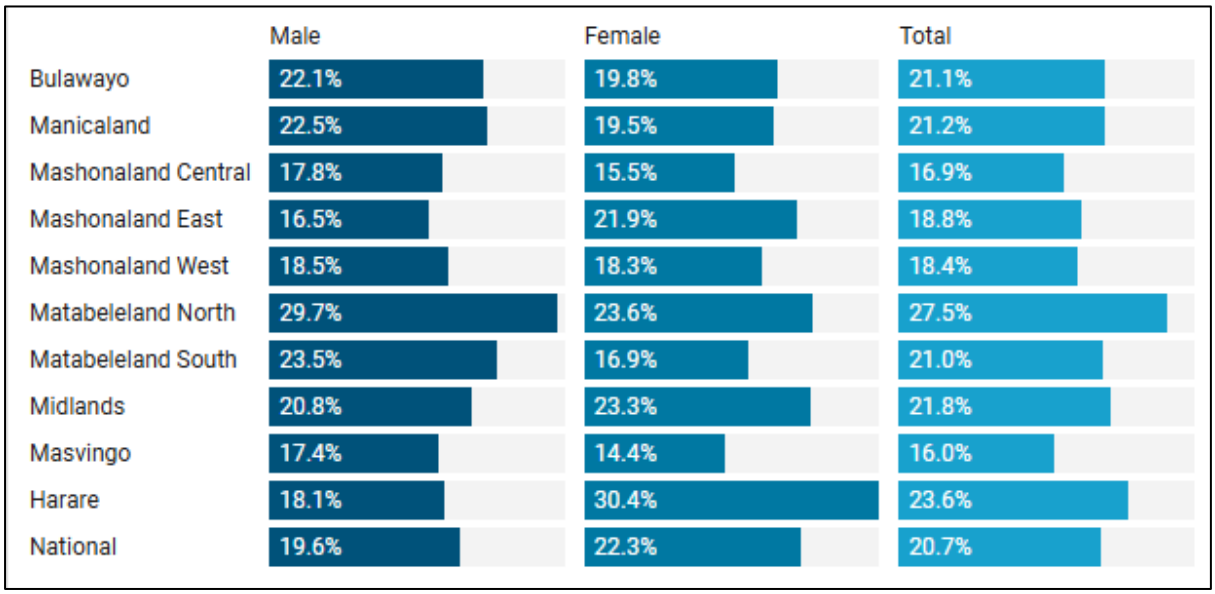

Figure 20: Unemployment Rates by Urban/Rural Area and Sex, 2nd Quarter 2025

Figure 21: Unemployment Rates by Age Group and Sex, 2nd Quarter 2025

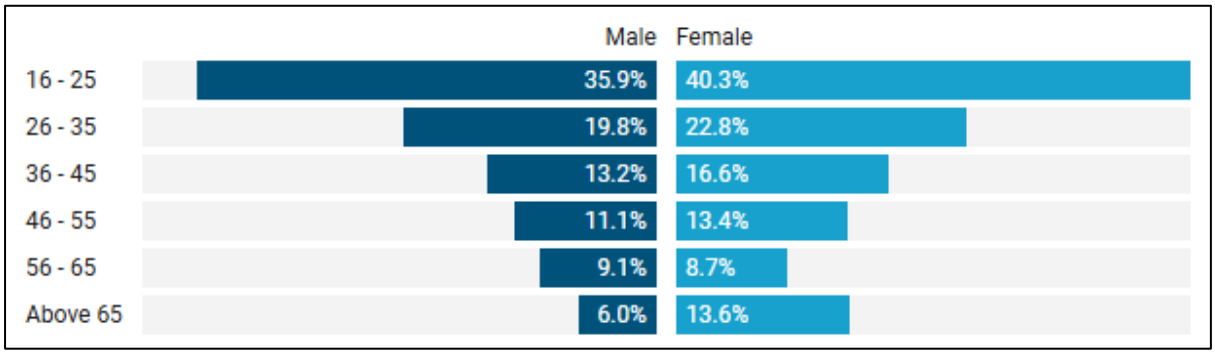

Figure 22: Unemployment Rates by Highest Level of Education Completed and Sex, 2nd Quarter 2025

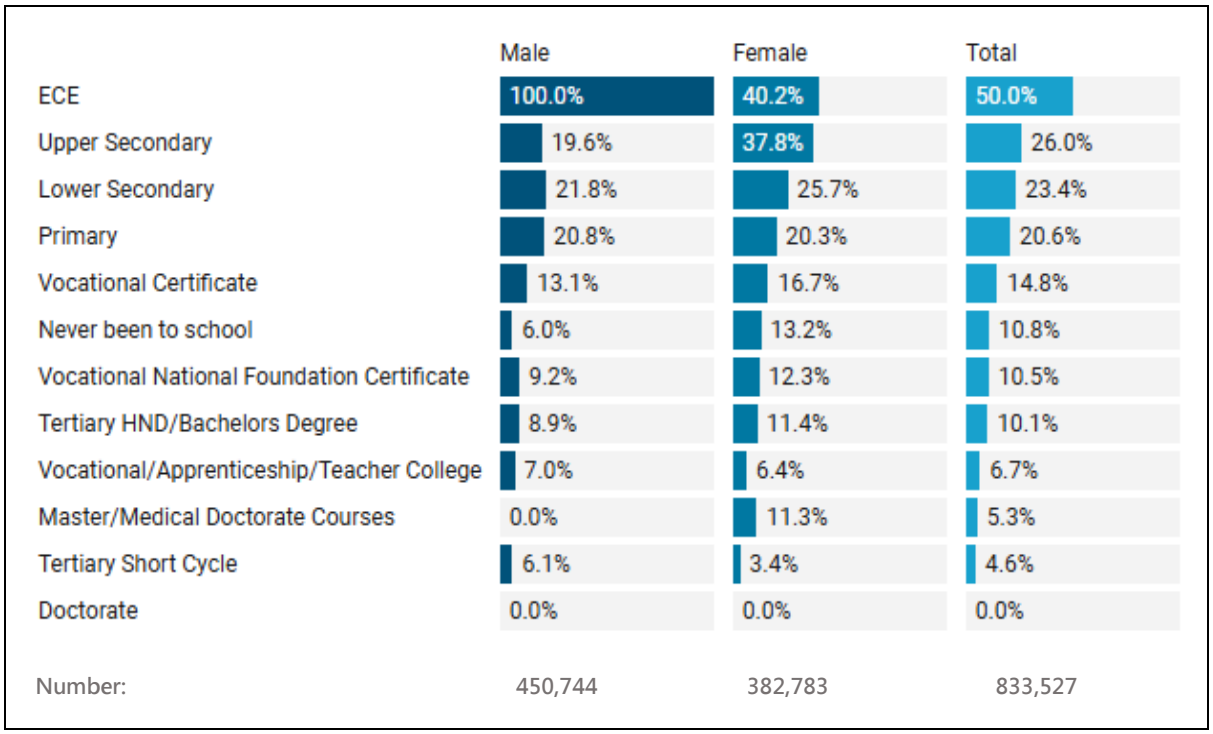

Figure 23: Unemployment Rate for Persons with Functional Disability by Sex, 2nd Quarter 2025

Figure 24: Expanded Unemployment Rate by Province and Sex, 2nd Quarter 2025

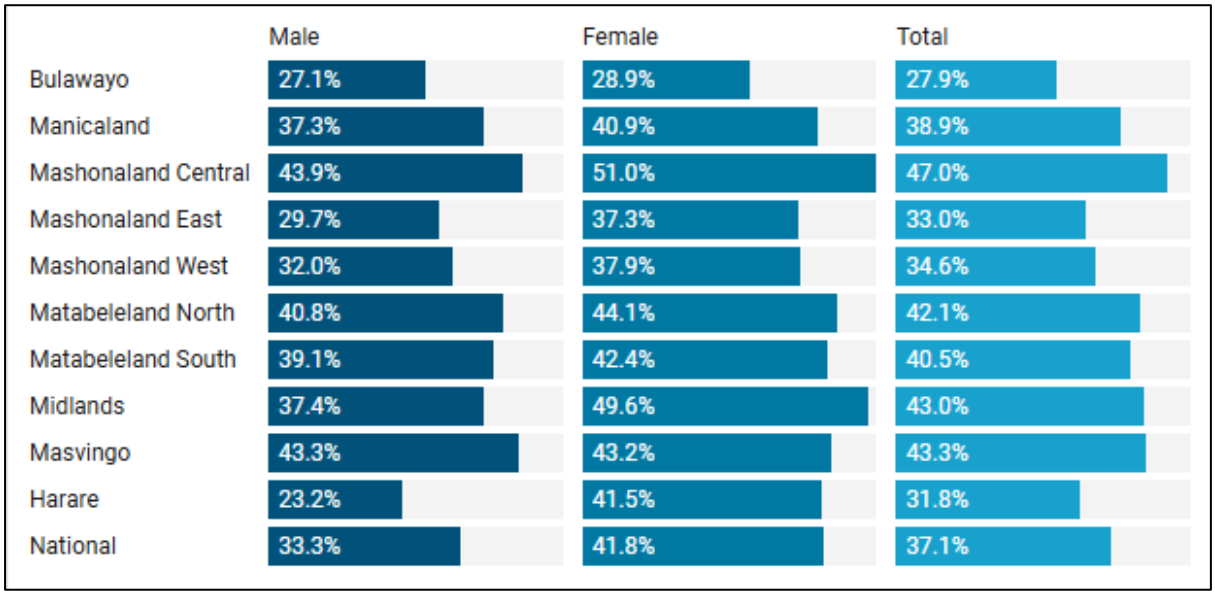

Figure 25: Distribution of Discouraged Job Seekers by Age Group and Sex, 2nd Quarter 2025

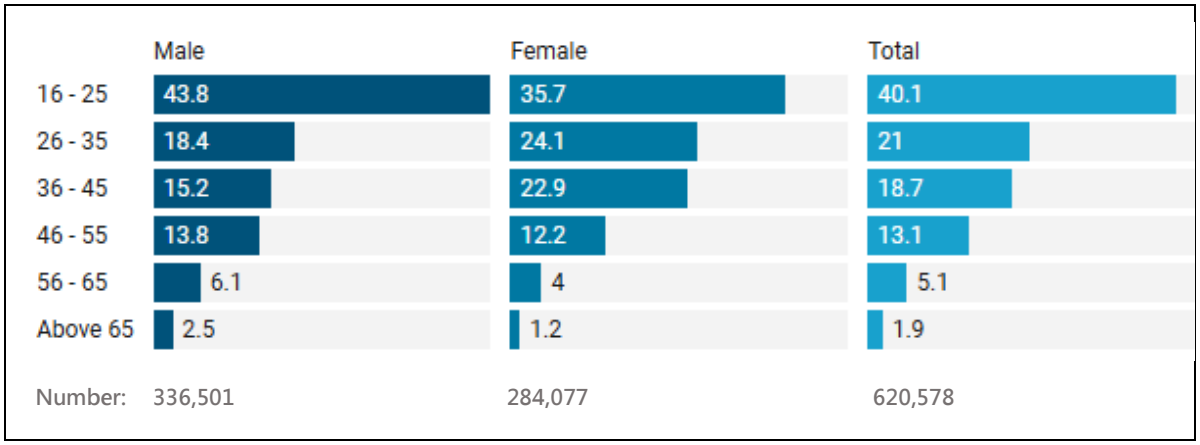

Figure 26: Proportion of Youth (15-24 Years) Not in Education, Employment or Training by Province and Sex, 2nd Quarter 2025

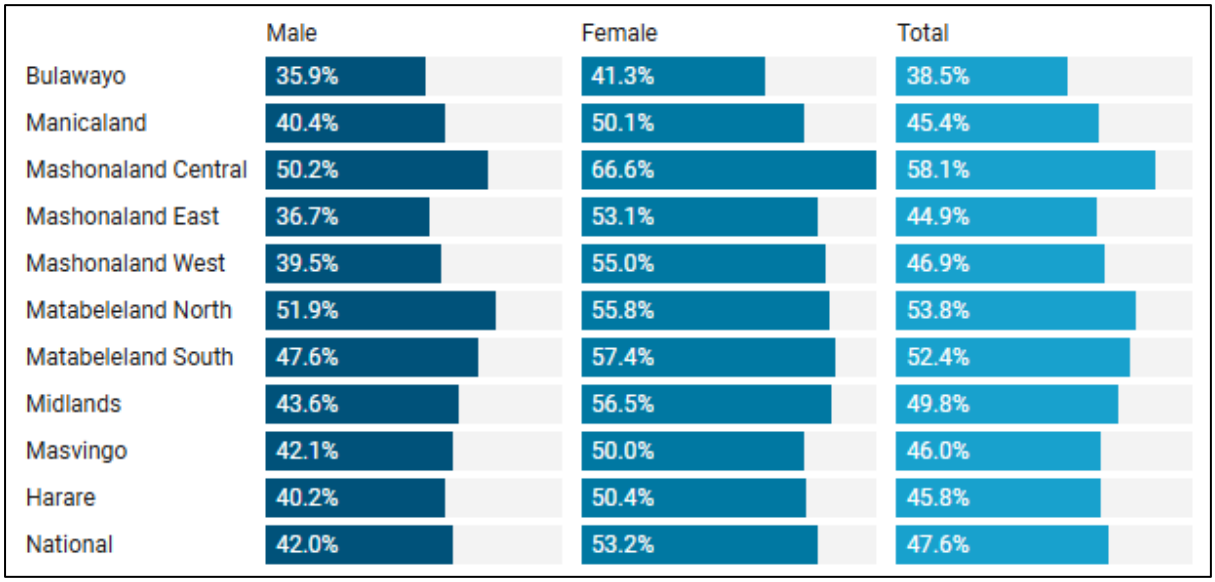

Figure 27: Proportion of Youth (15-35 Years) Not in Education, Employment or Training by Province and Sex, 2nd Quarter 2025

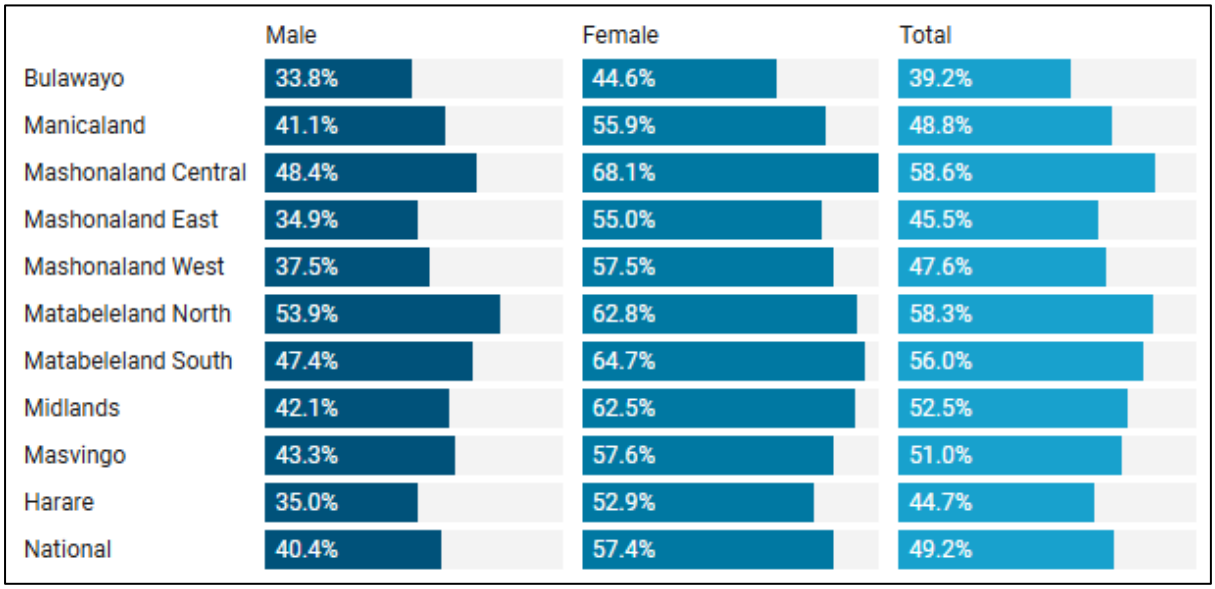

Figure 28: Distribution of Employed Persons Who Reported Work Related Illnesses/Injuries by Industry, 2nd Quarter 2025

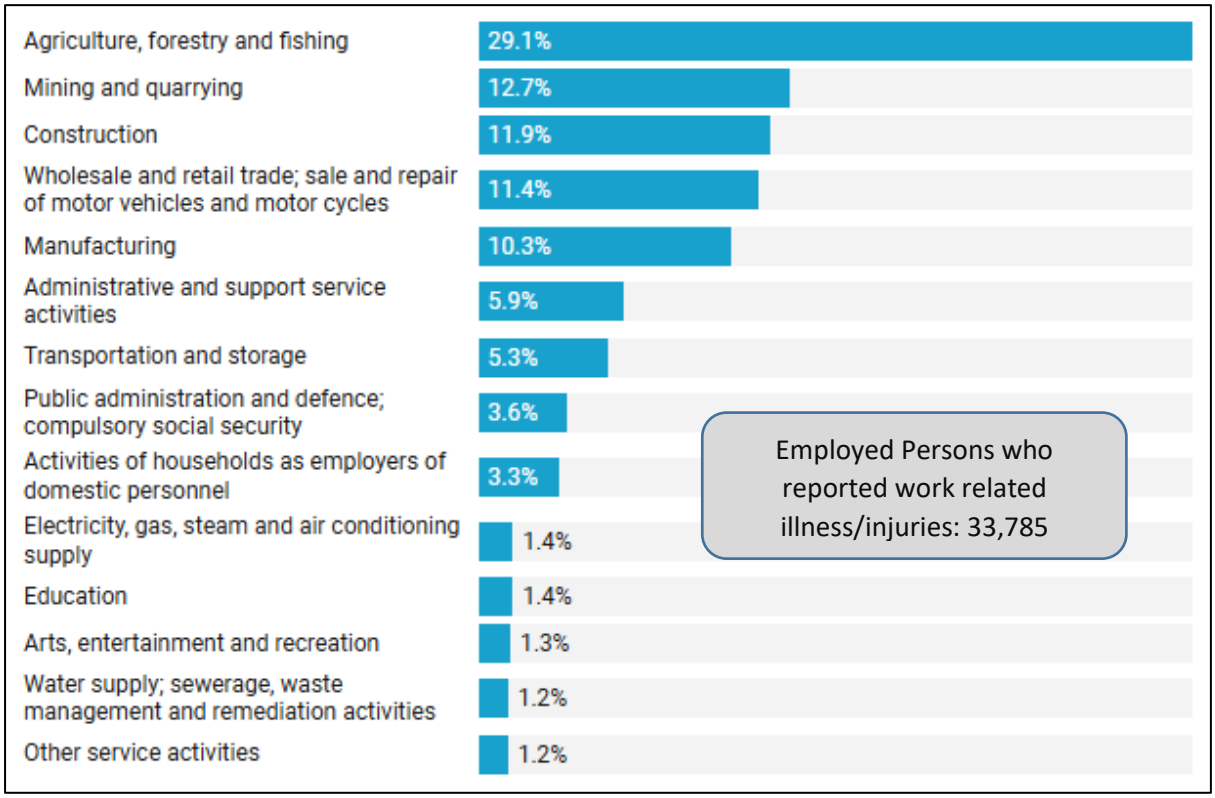

Figure 29: Distribution of Persons who lost Jobs 3 Months Preceding the Survey by Industry, 2nd Quarter 2025

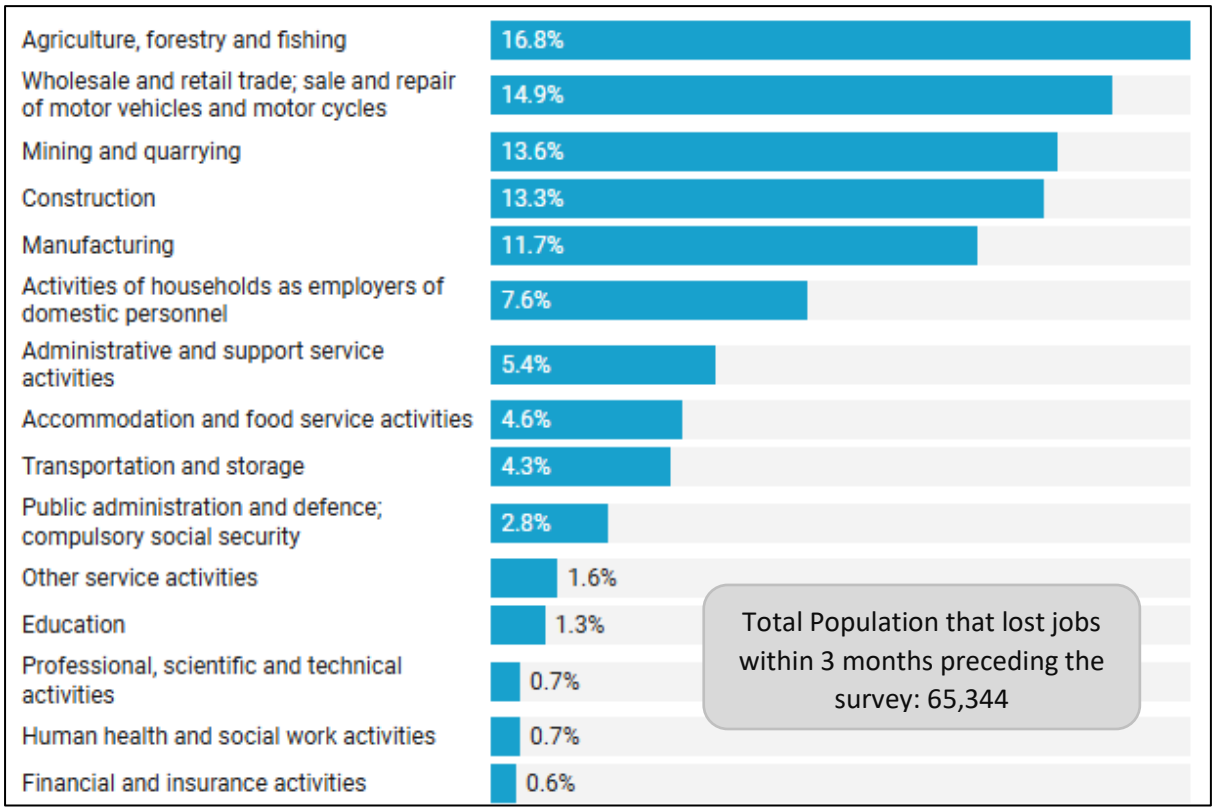
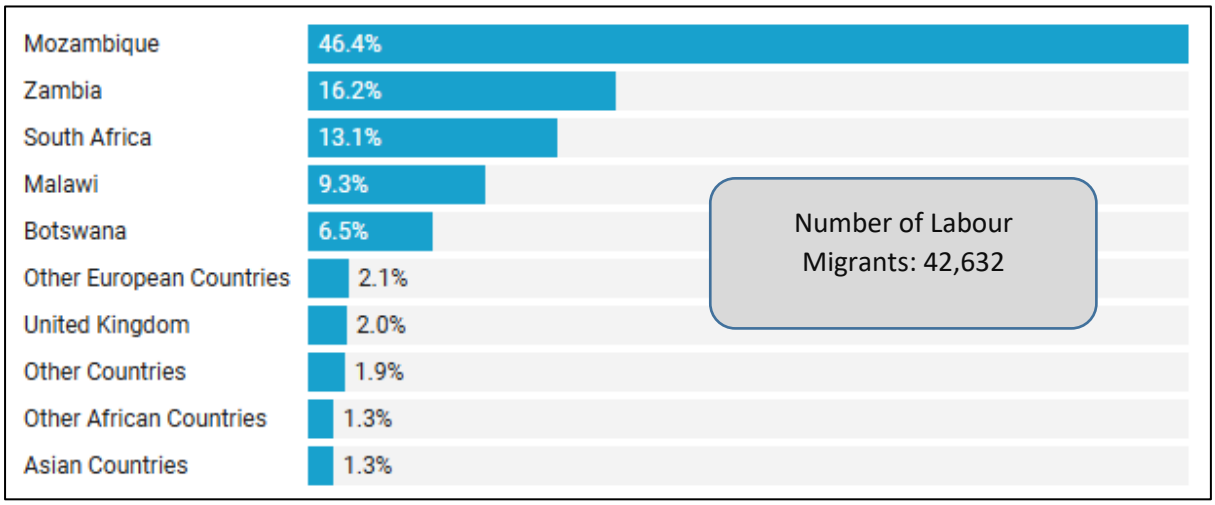
Figure 30: Distribution of Labour Migrants in Zimbabwe by Country of Origin, 2nd Quarter 2025