

UNEMPLOYMENT IN SA'S MAJOR CITIES

Unemployment figures released by StatsSA's 2019 Q4 show unemployment raising at an average growth of 1% in the past 5 years. In order to guide our actions in tackling this issue, it is important to understand the profile of the working aged in cities, and then zoom further into Durban's unique profile.

What is the employment profile of 15 – 64 year olds?

Average employment profile of the working aged across SA's major cities

- Half (50%) of all working aged people in four of South Africa's major cities (Johannesburg, Cape Town, Ekurhuleni and Tshwane), are employed.
- Almost a quarter (21%) are unemployed and looking, meaning that they still believe that they have hope of finding employment (including self-employment).
- 26% are not economically active, and only 3% have given up hope of finding a job.
- These are average results over four quarters from 2019 Q1 to 2019 Q4.

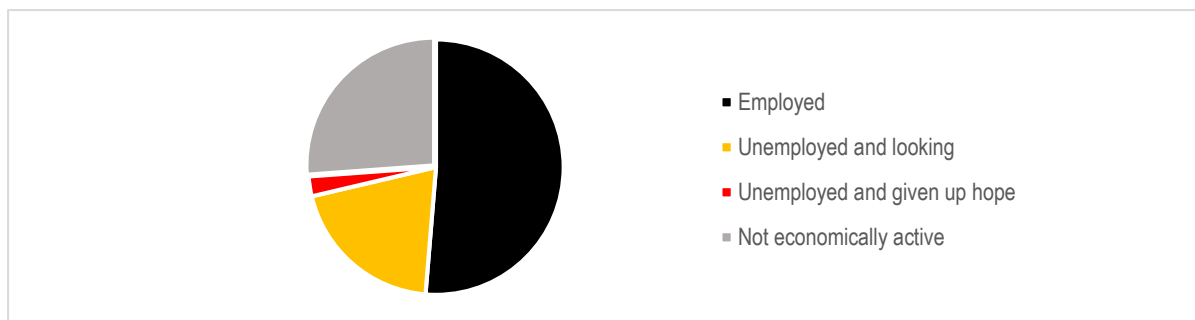


Figure 1- Profile of SA Major Cities' 15-64 Year Olds (Less EThekweni) Q1 2019 – Q4 2019

Average employment profile of Durban's working aged population

- Durban's profile is slightly different; there appear to be less employed people per capita than in other cities. 48% of the working aged are employed, compared to 50% in other major cities.
- There are also twice the number of discouraged work seekers than in other cities (6% compared to 3%).
- There are more working aged people who chose not to or cannot join the labour-market. Almost a third (32%) of all working aged people in Durban are not economically active, compared to only a quarter (26%) in other major cities.
- These are average results over four quarters from 2019 Q1 to 2019 Q4.

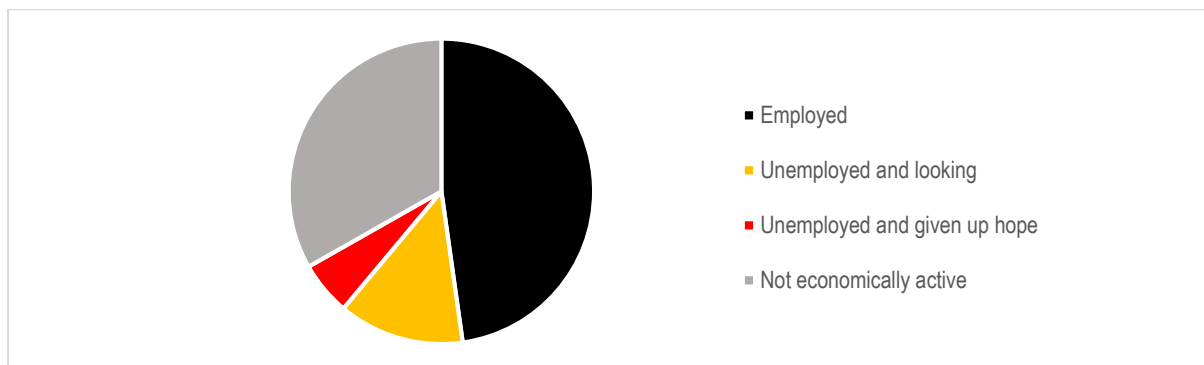


Figure 2- Profile of Durban's 15-64 Year Olds Q1 2019 – Q4 2019

Today's employment profile of the working aged across SA's major cities

- When looking the Q4 QLFS, only Johannesburg and Durban recorded growth in employment figures.
- The number of unemployed people actively looking for work has decreased by 3%
- The number of people who are not economically active, has increased by 1%
- The proportion of discouraged work seekers has stayed the same (3% of all working aged people).

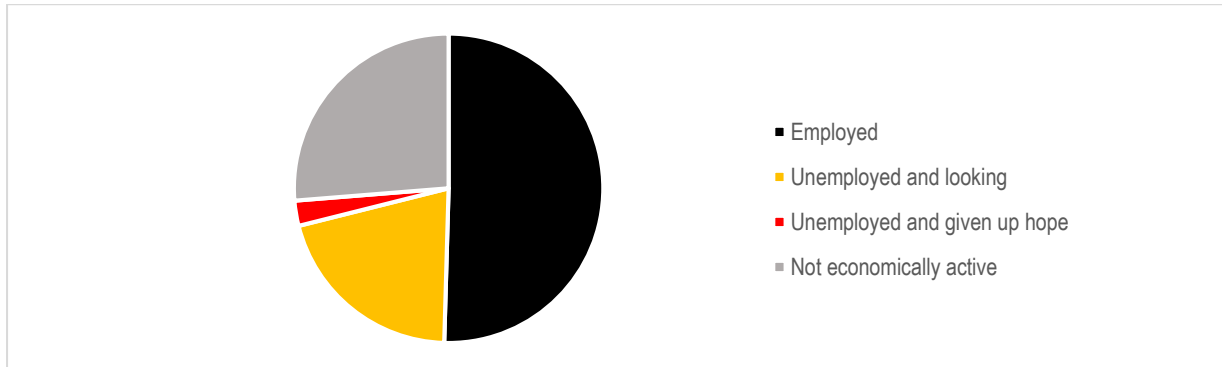


Figure 3- SA Cities Average (Less EThekweni) Q4 2019

Today's employment profile of Durban's working aged population

- Also looking the QLFS's most recent results (2019 Q4 only) the situation in Durban is slightly better than other cities.
- 1% (7 300 people) more working aged people are employed in Durban.
- The proportion of unemployed people actively looking for work has remained the same, at 13% (although the number has decreased). There is a significantly smaller proportion of people actively looking for work in Durban, compared to other major cities (13% vs. 21%).
- The proportion of people that have given up hope of finding a job in Durban, has increased by 3% (or 5 100 people).

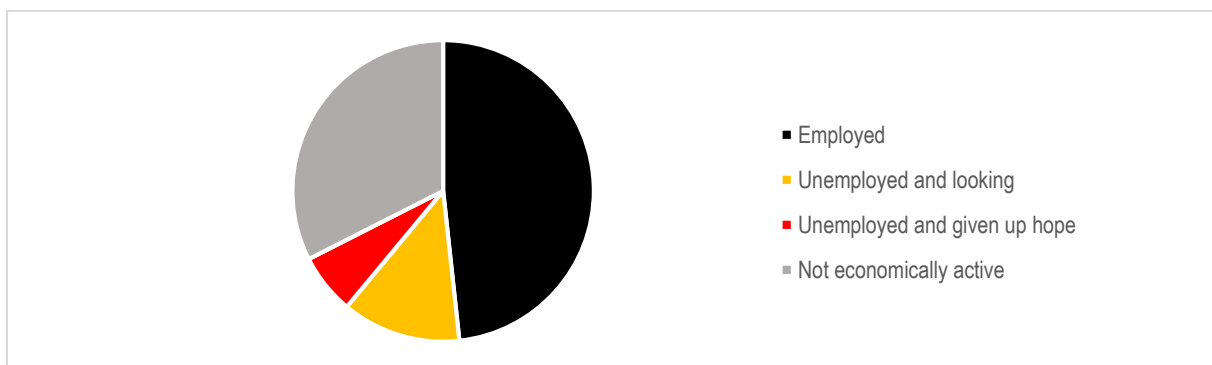


Figure 4- Profile of Durban's 15-64 Year Olds Q4 2019

Conclusion

- Unemployment is one of the key concerns across the country. However, Durban is slightly improving its employment profile compared to the country's four other major metros.
- Durban is slightly improving its quarter on quarter employment growth compared to other major cities; however it still employs a smaller proportion of people, and there is a higher percentage of people that are not economically active.
- It is important to start investing more in the human capital, and to provide more employment incentives. This would mean that the primary solution lies in skills development.