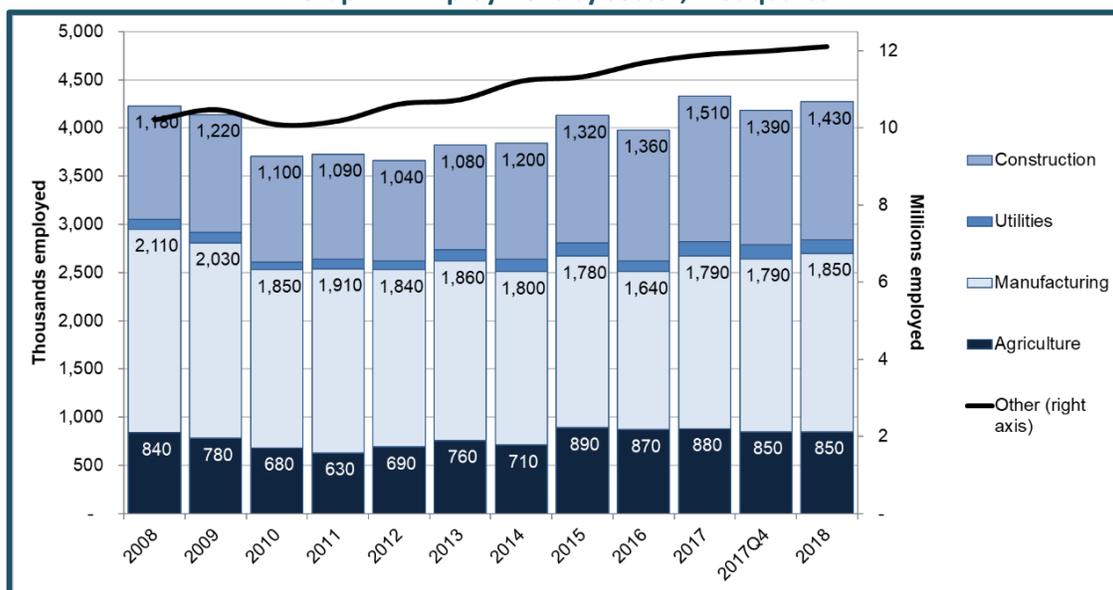


Employment

Employment in the real economy declined by 1.1% between the first quarters of 2017 and 2018, although total employment climbed by 1.2%. Manufacturing employment expanded, but agriculture, construction, utilities saw losses in employment compared to a year earlier.

Employment in the real economy (excluding mining which is captured in a different series) grew by 2% (90 000 jobs) from 4.18 million jobs to 4.27 million jobs between the fourth quarter of 2017 and the first quarter of 2018. Employment in the real economy was nonetheless 40 000 lower in the first quarter of 2018 than it was in the first quarter of 2017 (see Graph 7).

Graph 7: Employment by sector, first quarter

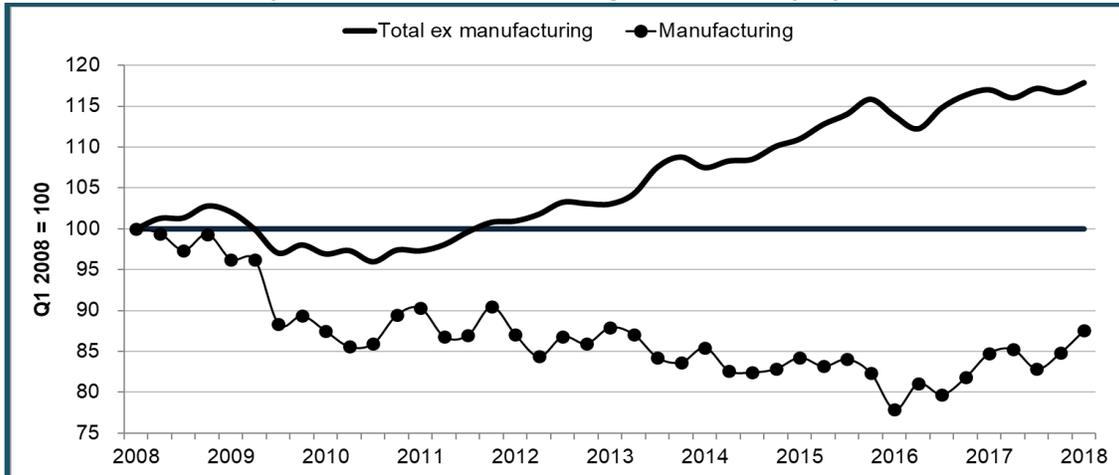


Source: StatsSA. QLFS trends 2008 - 2018Q1. Downloaded from www.statssa.gov.za in May 2018.

In the last quarter, manufacturing and construction employment each increased by 3% (58 000 jobs in manufacturing and 40 000 in construction). In contrast, agricultural and utilities employment declined by 0.3% (3 000 jobs) and 4% (6 000 jobs), respectively. These developments appear to be seasonal, with similar patterns in the first quarter of 2017. From quarter one in 2017 to 2018, agriculture declined by 3% (28 000 jobs); manufacturing increased by 3% (59 000 jobs); utilities declined by 2% (2 000 jobs); and construction declined by 5% (75 000 jobs).

Manufacturing employment continued to recover after hitting a low point in the first quarter of 2016, as Graph 8 shows. In the two years to the first quarter of 2018 it climbed by 138 000 jobs, partially reversing the loss of 470 000 jobs from 2010 to 2016. In the year to first quarter 2018 manufacturing employment increased by 3%, or 59 000 jobs.

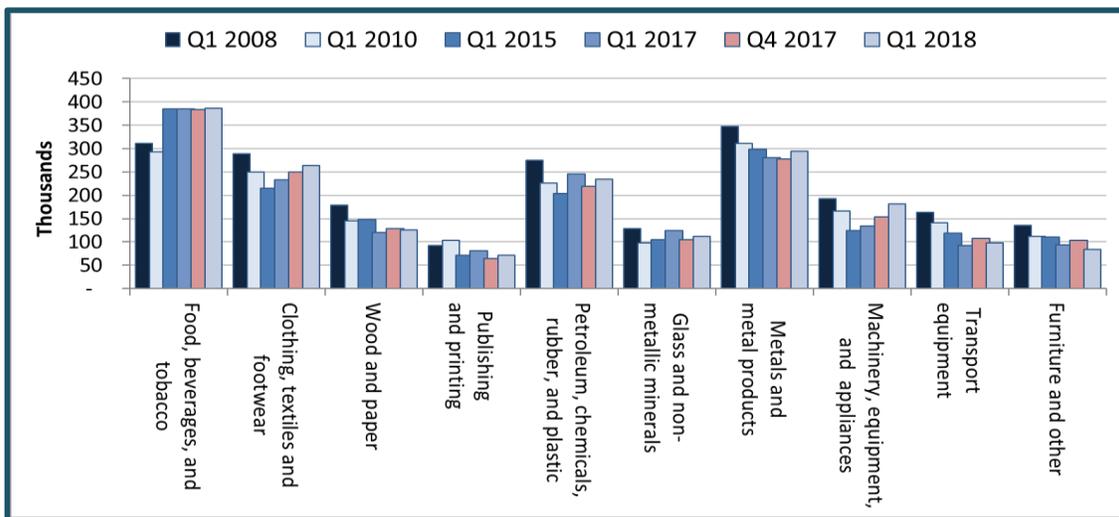
Graph 8: Index of manufacturing and other employment



Source: StatsSA. QLFS trends 2008 - 2018Q1. Downloaded from www.statssa.gov.za in May 2017.

Graph 9 disaggregates employment by manufacturing subsector. In the year to the first quarter of 2018, the bulk of new employment emerged in machinery and equipment and clothing, textiles and footwear. Together, these industries generated almost 80 000 net new jobs in the year to March 2018, continuing a three-year recovery. Metals and metal products saw a small uptick after years of shrinking employment, while furniture remained in a long-term decline. The other manufacturing industries were essentially stable.

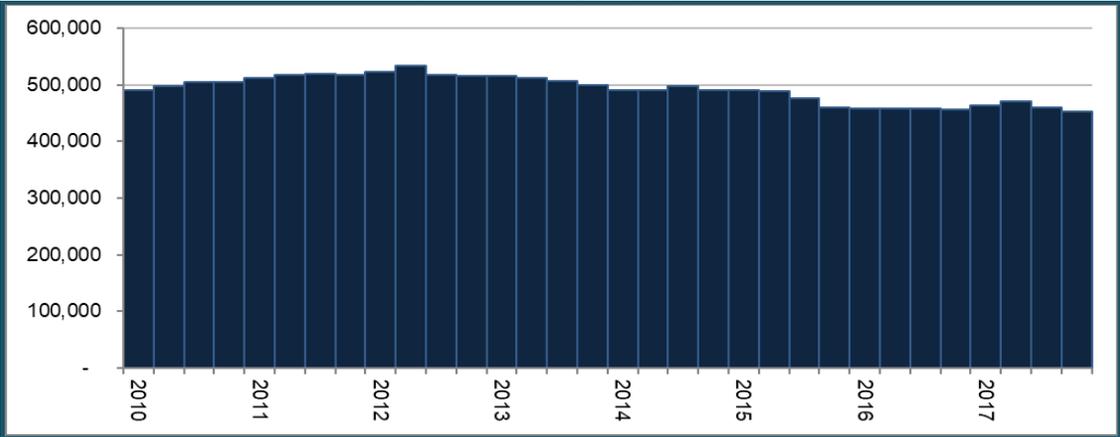
Graph 9: Manufacturing employment by industry



Source: StatsSA. QLFS trends. Electronic database. Downloaded from www.statssa.gov.za in May 2018

Mining employment fell for the final six months of 2017 (see Graph 10). It reached a 2017 peak at 471 000 jobs in the second quarter, but subsequently declined to 453 000 jobs in the final quarter. For the entire year, this represented a net loss of 11 000 jobs in 2017, or a decline of 2%.

Graph 10: Mining Employment



Source: Statistics South Africa. Quarterly Employment Statistics.