

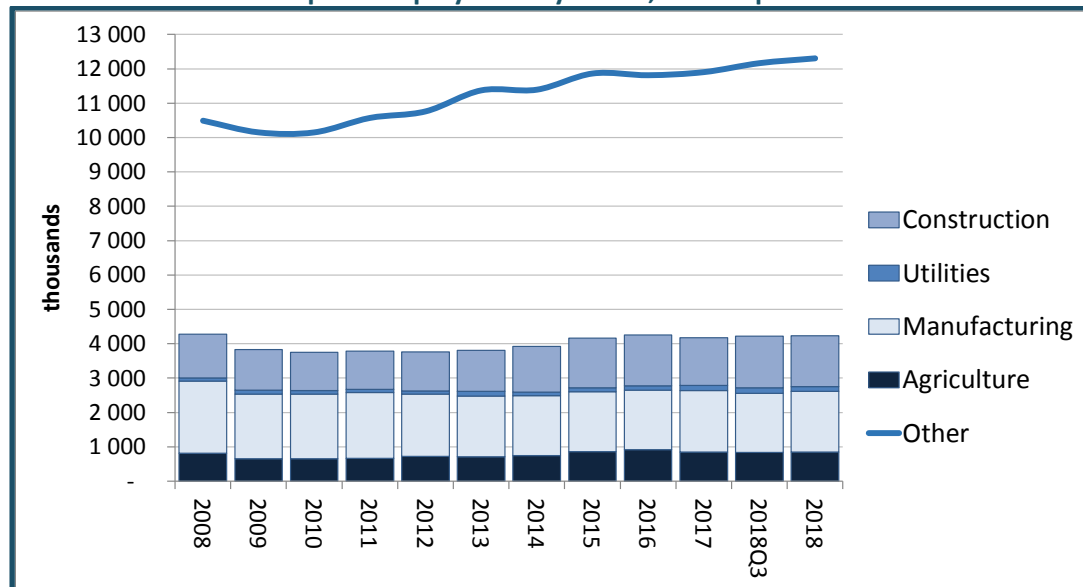
## Employment

The economy as a whole generated 360 000 jobs in the year to the fourth quarter of 2018, mostly in the informal sector and domestic work. Employment in manufacturing, mining and agriculture remained essentially flat, while construction reportedly created 90 000 mostly informal jobs over the year.

Employment continued on an upward trend despite slow economic growth. These data are not seasonally adjusted, however, which makes it difficult to interpret quarter-on-quarter changes.

In the year to the fourth quarter of 2018, the economy as a whole gained 360 000 jobs, almost entirely in business services (mostly cleaning and security) and domestic work. As shown by Graph 7, employment in manufacturing, agriculture, construction and utilities has remained almost unchanged over the past four years. Only construction experienced significant employment growth, with some 90 000 new jobs – but they were entirely in the informal sector.

**Graph 1. Employment by sector, fourth quarter**

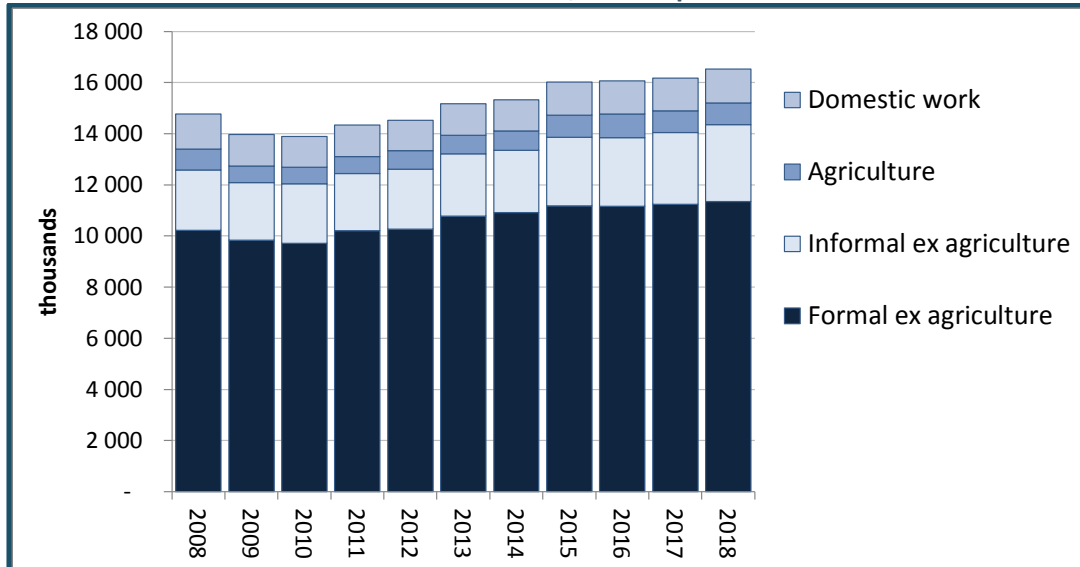


Source: Stats SA. QLFS trends 2008 - 2018Q4. Downloaded from [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za) in February 2019.

Since 2015, the bulk of reported employment growth has taken place in the informal sector. From the December 2010 to December 2015, formal and informal jobs expanded at around the same rate, totalling 15% over the five years; agriculture grew 30%; and domestic work, 7%. Over the three years to December 2018, in contrast, formal employment grew just 1%, but the informal sector reportedly saw a 12% increase in employment and domestic work climbed 3%. From December 2017 to December 2018, the informal sector and domestic work, which together account for a quarter of total employment, reportedly contributed 71% of the growth in employment.

The data suggest they added some 255 000 jobs, compared to just 100 000 in the much larger formal sector of the economy (see Graph 2). This anomalous situation may arise at least in part because of the often fluctuating and imprecise nature of employment relations in informal and domestic work, which may affect the reliability of findings (which derive from a large household survey).

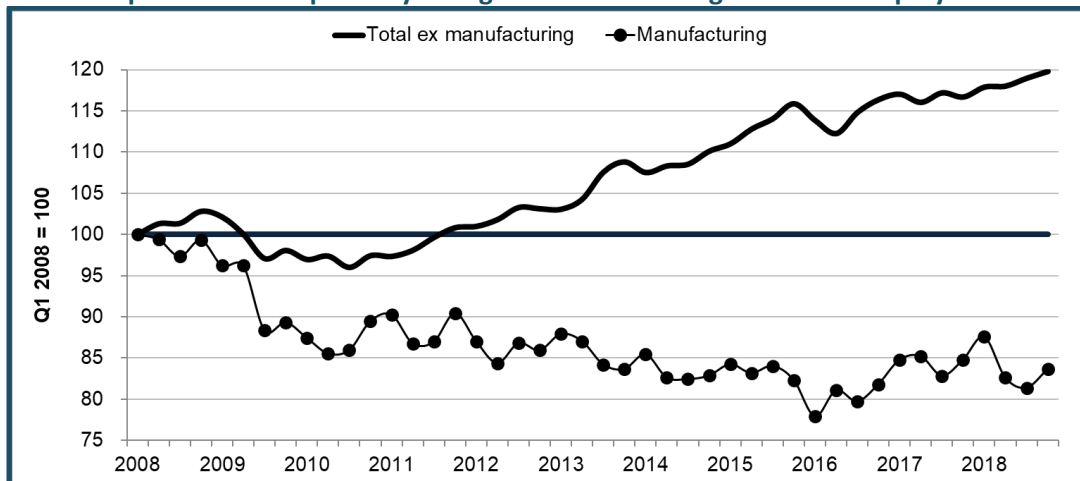
**Graph 2. Employment in the formal and informal sector, agriculture and domestic work, fourth quarter**



Source: Stats SA. QLFS trends 2008 - 2018Q4. Downloaded from [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za) in February 2019.

As Graph 9 indicates, employment in manufacturing as a whole ticked up in the last quarter of 2018, which is in line with normal seasonal trends. Virtually all the reported growth took place in informal manufacturing, with no significant job creation in formal manufacturing. Overall, manufacturing employment has fluctuated around 1.5 million since 2010.

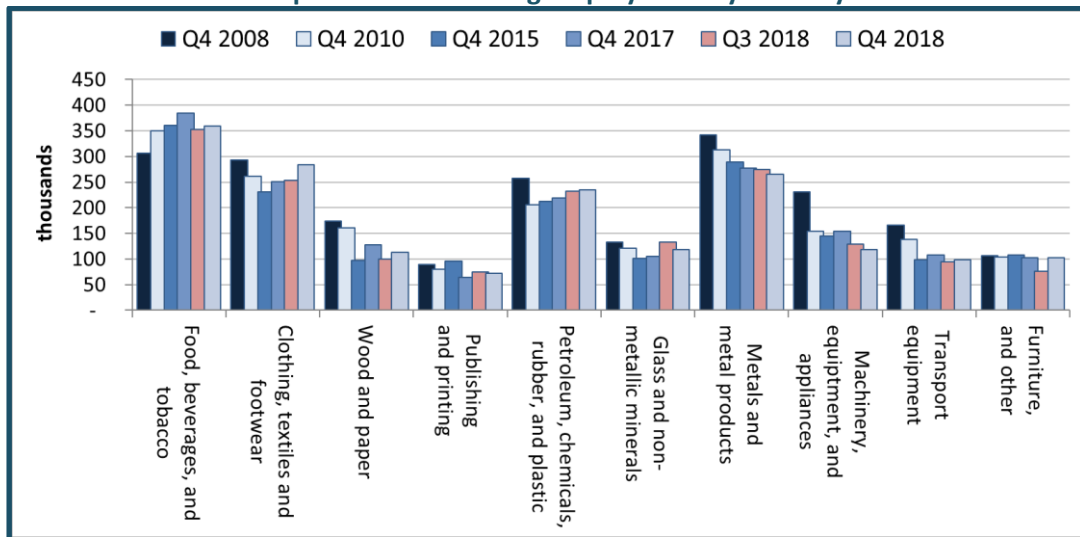
**Graph 3. Index of quarterly change in manufacturing and other employment**



Source: Stats SA. QLFS trends 2008 - 2018Q2. Downloaded from [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za) in October 2018.

In the year to December 2018, employment growth in most of manufacturing remained largely unchanged. Clothing saw some growth, with a reported gain of over 30 000 jobs; food and machinery each lost around the same number (Graph 10).

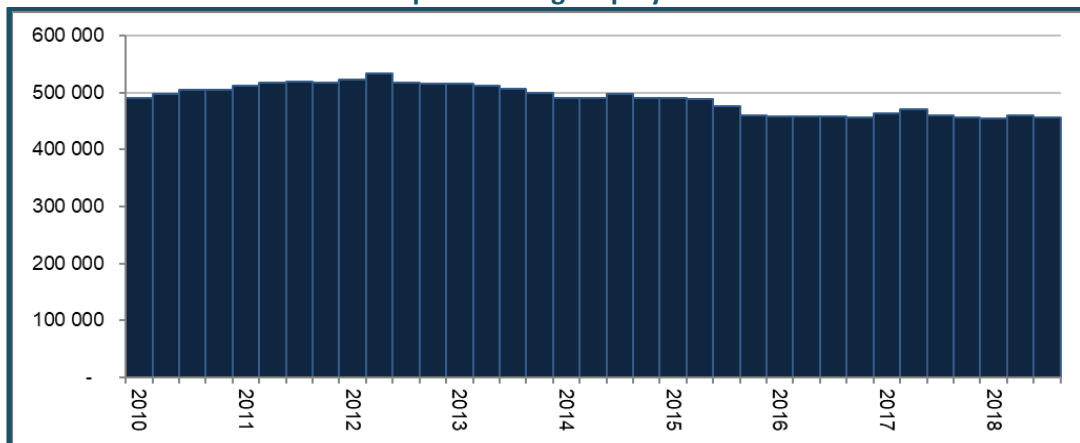
**Graph 4. Manufacturing employment by industry**



Source: Stats SA. QLFS trends. Electronic database. Downloaded from [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za) in October 2018.

An employer survey, the Quarterly Employment Survey, is considered more reliable for mining, but it provides figures only through the third quarter of 2018. As Graph 11 shows, in the year to September 2018, employment in mining remained virtually unchanged at just under 460 000. The industry has lost 65 000 jobs, or almost 15% of the total, since the end of the global commodity boom in 2011/12.

**Graph 5. Mining employment**



Source Stats SA. Quarterly Employment Statistics. October 2018.