

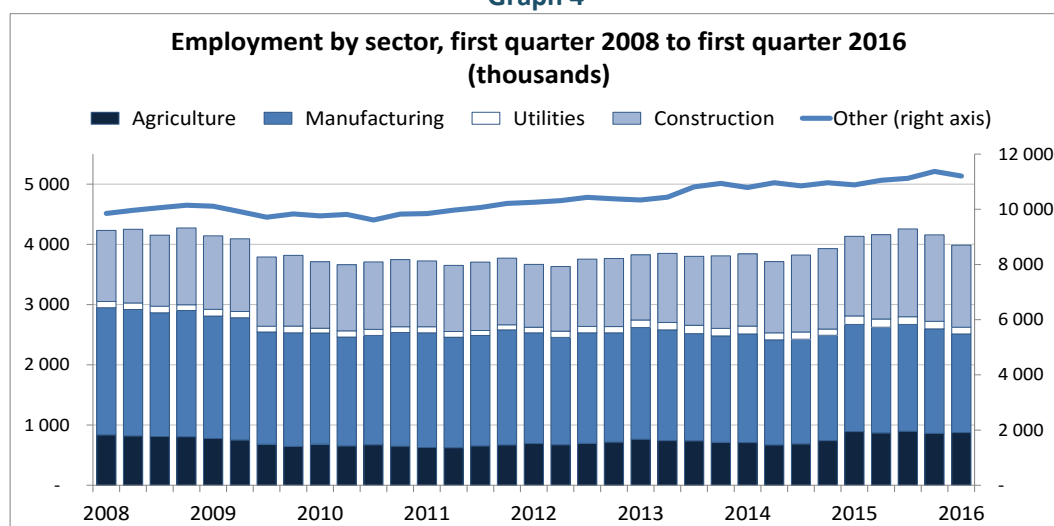
Employment

NOTE: Due to changes to the master sample used in the QLFS, employment data for the first quarter may include some temporary distortions. While the general direction of employment (jobs losses) is likely accurate, the exact figures may not be as accurate as other quarters. For more information, see TIPS Policy Brief: *The jobs bloodbath that wasn't – What happened to employment in the first quarter of 2016* (available at www.tips.org.za). For this reason, we only give data for the year-on-year change in employment by sector, which seems more reliable than the figures for the latest quarterly change.

In year-on-year terms, employment in the real economy contracted by 2,6%. In agriculture it reportedly shrunk by 1,7% and in manufacturing by 7,9%, while construction saw an increase of 3%. In the rest of the economy, employment expanded by 3%. In mining, using the employer survey (which is considered more reliable for this sector), employment fell by 5.9% from the last quarter of 2014 to the last quarter of 2015.

Graph 4 shows the change in employment year on year from the first quarter of 2008 to the first quarter of 2016.

Graph 4

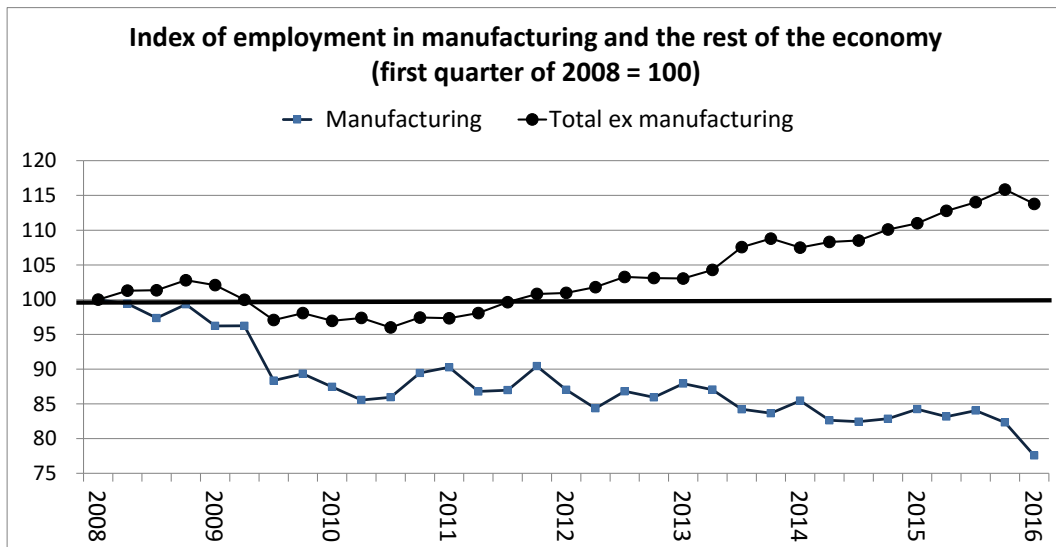


Source: Statistics South Africa. Quarterly Labour Force Survey. Trends from 2008. Excel spreadsheet. Downloaded in June 2016.

The data indicate continued job losses in manufacturing, continuing a long-term trend from 2008 (Graph 5).

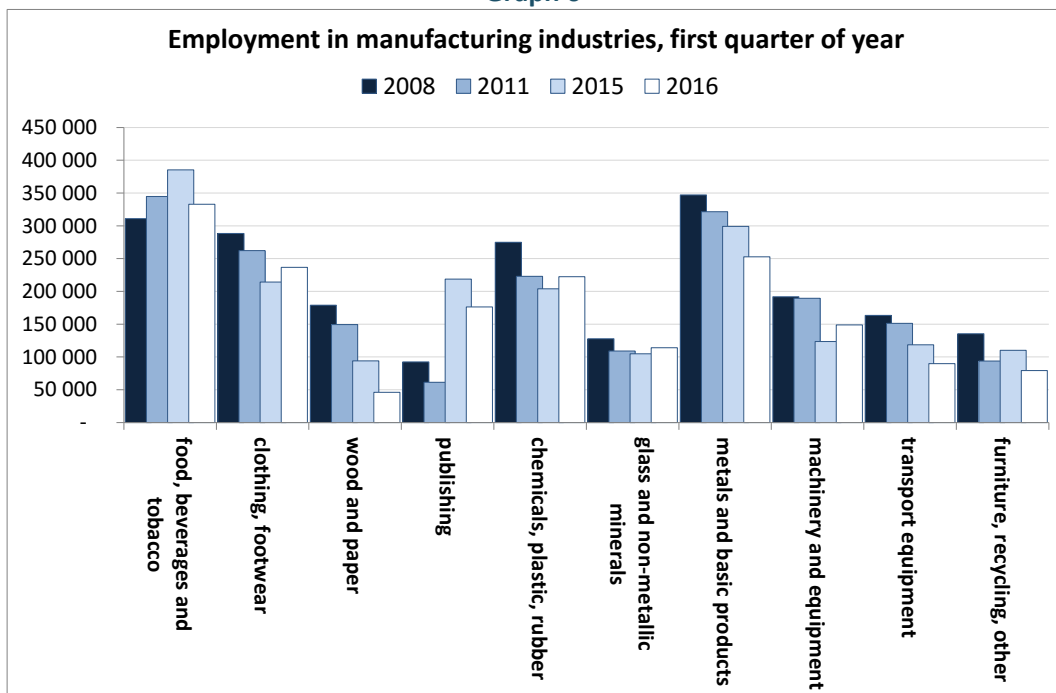
By subsector within manufacturing, machinery and equipment reportedly experienced the strongest year-on-year employment growth, closely followed by clothing and footwear. In contrast, the metals and basic metals products sector reportedly shed 46 000 jobs over the course of the year to date, reflecting the combination of lower export prices for refineries and the challenges in the steel industry. Furthermore, food, beverages and tobacco lost over 50 000 jobs. The sector has been the largest employment generator in manufacturing in recent years, but it suffered a significant slowdown in the past quarter, presumably due to the drought (Graph 6).

Graph 5



Source: Statistics South Africa. Quarterly Labour Force Survey. Trends from 2008. Excel spreadsheet. Downloaded in June 2016.

Graph 6



Source: Calculated from Statistics South Africa. Quarterly Labour Force Survey for relevant quarter. Electronic database. Series on industry.