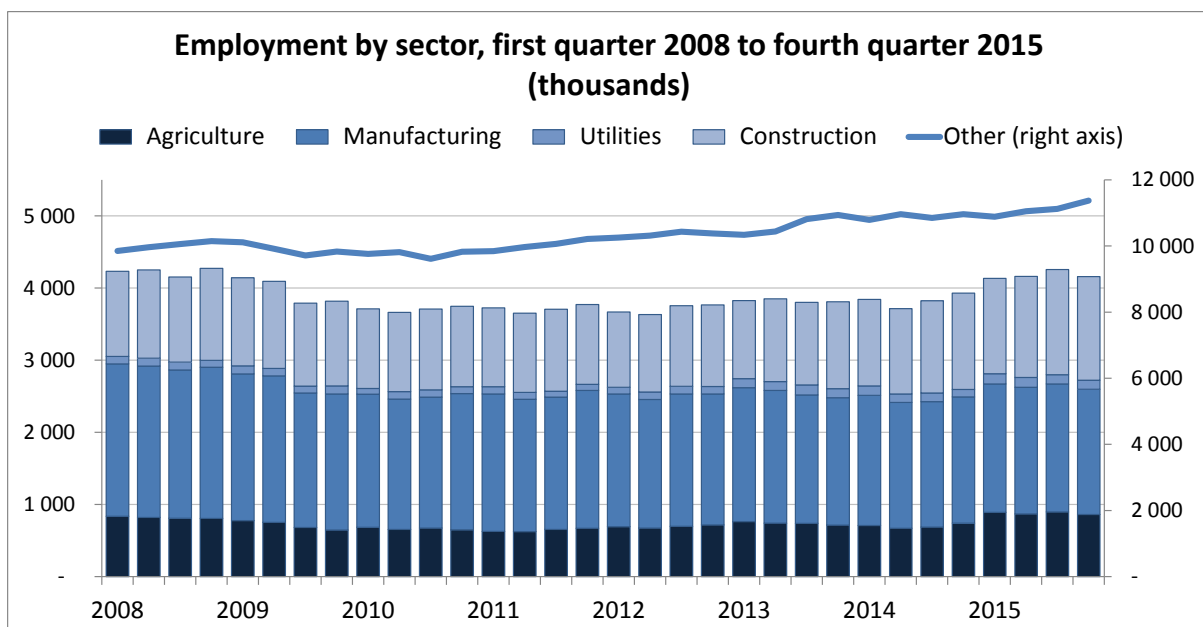


Employment

After falling fairly steadily from 2008, manufacturing employment levelled out in 2015. Total employment climbed by 700 000 over the year, with the bulk of net new jobs emerging in public, private and domestic services and retail. Still, the global slowdown, drought and pressure on mining and heavy industry led to widespread anticipation of job losses in the coming months, at least in agriculture, mining and metals production.

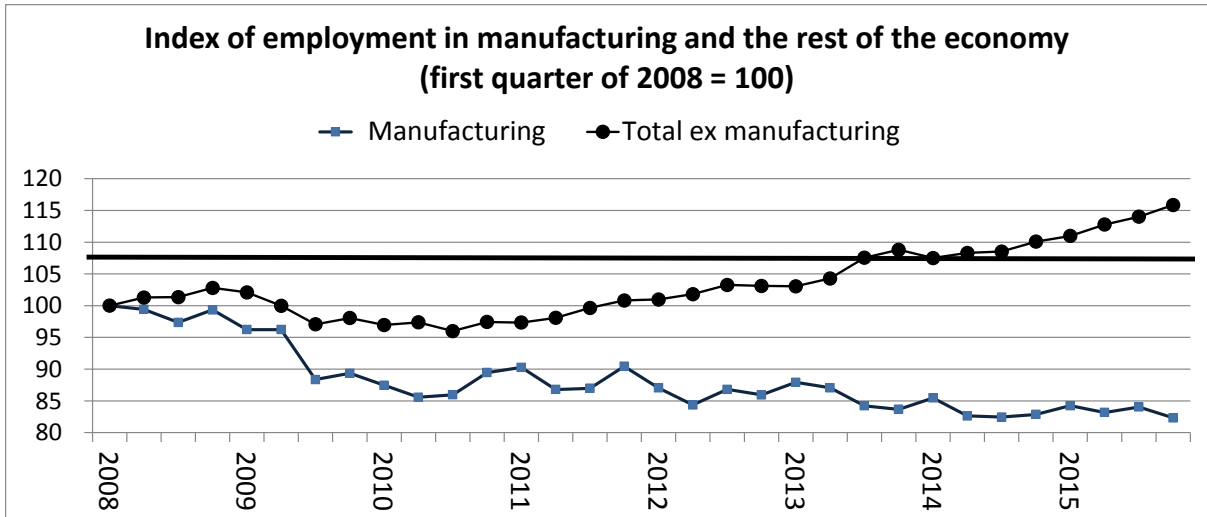
Employment in productive sectors account for just under a third of total employment in South Africa, with the bulk of the remaining jobs in private, public and domestic services plus retail. The Quarterly Labour Force Survey provides data for employment by sector and subsector, but the figures are not seasonally adjusted. Moreover, the survey returns for mining are not reliable for technical reasons, so figures from the Quarterly Employment Survey are used instead.

As the following chart shows, employment in the productive sectors excluding mining dipped in 2015, even though the rest of the economy continued to show growing numbers of jobs.



After increasing fairly steadily during the commodity boom from around 2002 to 2011, mining employment began to decline from 2012. It fell from a peak of 525 000 in 2012 to 477 000 in the third quarter of 2015, for a total loss of around 50 000 jobs.

As the following chart shows, manufacturing employment did not reflect the recovery in job creation from 2010 following the global financial crisis. Still, it stabilised to a degree from 2014, although the last quarter showed a decline.



By subsector within manufacturing, substantially different trends have emerged. Food, beverages and tobacco has seen relatively strong growth since 2010, and is now the largest employer in manufacturing. Virtually every other major subsector has seen a steady decline over this period, as the following chart indicates.

