



REPUBLIC OF GHANA



ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND
EXPENDITURE SURVEY (AHIES)



GHANA ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SURVEY

Quarterly Labour Statistics (July Edition)



GHANA STATISTICAL SERVICE
JULY 2025

**GHANA ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND
EXPENDITURE SURVEY**

**QUARTERLY LABOUR STATISTICS
(JULY EDITION)**

**GHANA STATISTICAL SERVICE
JULY 2025**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Quarterly Labour Statistics (July Edition) presents a comprehensive overview of labour market dynamics in Ghana, drawing on data from the Annual Household Income and Expenditure Survey (AHIES) for the period 2023 Q4 – 2024 Q4. AHIES is Ghana's first nationally representative high-frequency household panel survey that gathers quarterly and annual data on household consumption expenditure alongside a broad range of demographic, economic, and welfare variables, including labour statistics, food security, multidimensional poverty. This bulletin provides disaggregated insights on key labour indicators, including employment, unemployment, underemployment, and labour underutilisation, as well as sectoral and demographic patterns. The findings serve as a valuable evidence base for policymakers, development partners, and researchers to design and monitor interventions aimed at promoting employment and decent work.

In 2024, the labour force averaged 14 million persons, with more than 85 percent employed in each quarter. Employment expanded steadily, with 409,000 more jobs in 2024 Q4 than in Q3. The Services sector remained the largest employer, followed by Agriculture and Industry. Female employment consistently exceeded male employment, with the gender gap widening from 632,000 in 2022 Q1 to 1.12 million in 2024 Q4. Urban employment grew faster (14.9%) than rural (11.8%) over the past three years. The labour force participation rate peaked at 73.0 percent in 2023 Q3 but averaged 70.2 percent in 2024, with about 60.0 percent of the working-age population employed.

The national unemployment rate declined from a peak of 14.9 percent in 2023 Q1 to 13.1 percent in 2024 Q4, though female unemployment remained higher than male unemployment, with the gender gap narrowing from 7.4 to 3.9 percentage points. Youth unemployment persisted as a major challenge: in 2024, the unemployment rate for ages 15-24 averaged 32.0 percent and for ages 15-35 averaged 22.5 percent, with seven in ten unemployed persons falling within the youth category. Long-term unemployment affected 29 percent of the unemployed in 2024 Q4, with 355,000 persons jobless for at least 12 months between 2022 Q1 and 2024 Q4. NEET (Not in Employment, Education, or Training) rates rose in 2024 Q4, reaching 25.8 percent for person 15-24 years and 22.4 percent for persons 15-35 years. Regional disparities persisted. Greater Accra, Ashanti, and Western reported higher employment shares, while Bono, Northern, and Upper West recorded rising unemployment despite national declines. In 2024 Q4, the highest unemployment was among persons 20-24 years (36.7%), and five regions (Eastern, Ahafo, Bono East, Oti, and Upper West) consistently recorded unemployment below the national average.

Underemployment remained an issue, particularly in rural areas, where time-related underemployment rates were consistently higher than in urban areas. The national rate declined for both sexes between 2023 Q4 and 2024 Q4, but rural-urban disparities persisted. Informality dominated the labour market, with over half of employed females self-employed without employees and men more likely to be in wage employment.

These findings have clear policy implications. Tackling youth and long-term unemployment, bridging regional disparities, formalising informal work, and aligning skills training with market needs remain urgent priorities. Expanding private-sector job creation, strengthening vocational and apprenticeship programmes, improving labour market intermediation, and promoting gender-inclusive employment policies are essential to ensure Ghana's labour market supports Sustainable Development Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	I
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	I
1. BACKGROUND	1
2. DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS	3
2.1 CONTRIBUTING FAMILY WORKER	3
2.2 ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION (LABOUR FORCE).....	3
2.3 EMPLOYED PERSONS.....	3
2.4 ABSORPTION RATE (EMPLOYMENT-TO-POPULATION RATIO)	3
2.5 LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE	4
2.6 PAID EMPLOYMENT.....	4
2.7 PERSONS OUTSIDE THE LABOUR FORCE.....	4
2.8 QUARTER-ON-QUARTER CHANGE	4
2.9 SELF-EMPLOYMENT	4
2.10 SELF-EMPLOYED WITHOUT EMPLOYEES (OWN-ACCOUNT WORKERS)	4
2.11 SHARE OF YOUTH NOT IN EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION OR TRAINING.....	5
2.12 UNEMPLOYED PERSONS.....	5
2.14 VULNERABLE EMPLOYMENT	6
2.15 WORK.....	6
2.16 WORKED BUT NOT EMPLOYED.....	7
2.17 YEAR- ON -YEAR CHANGE	7
2.18 LONG TERM UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	7
2.19 LONG TERM UNEMPLOYMENT SHARE.....	7
3. HIGHLIGHTS.....	8
4. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS.....	34
5. CONCLUSION	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
6. LINK FOR ACCESSING TABLES	37
7. LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS.....	38

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 3.1: Labour force status of persons 15 years and older, 2022 Q1 to 2024 Q4.....	8
Figure 3.2: Employed persons 15 years and older by sex, 2022 Q1 to 2024 Q4.....	8
Figure 3.3: Employed persons 15 years and older by type of locality, 2022 Q1 to 2024 Q4	9
Figure 3.4: Labour force participation and absorption rates, 2022 Q1 to 2024 Q4.....	9
Figure 3.5: Unemployment rate by sex, 2022Q1 to 2024Q4	10
Figure 3.6: Unemployment rate by type of locality, 2022Q1 to 2024Q4	10
Figure 3.7:Unemployment rate by region, 2022 Q1 to 2024 Q4.....	11
Figure 3.8: Unemployment, labour force participation and absorption rates by age group, 2024 Q4	12
Figure 3.9: Number of persons unemployed by age group from 2023 Q4 to 2024 Q4	13
Figure 3.10: Youth unemployment rate by age group, 2023 Q4 to 2024 Q4.....	13
Figure 3.11: Intensity of unemployment spell for unemployed persons,2024 Q4.....	14
Figure 3.12:Unemployment spell by sex, type of locality, education and age group, 2022 Q1- 2024 Q4.....	14
Figure 3.13:Reasons for being outside the labour force, 2023 Q4 to 2024 Q4.....	15
Figure 3.14:Year-on-year (2023 Q4, 2024 Q4) and quarter-on-quarter (2024 Q3, 2024 Q4) change in the number of employed persons by region.....	16
Figure 3.15:Year-on-year percentage change in number of persons employed by region and sex, 2023 Q4 to 2024 Q4	16
Figure 3.16:Quarter-on-Quarter percentage change in number of persons employed by region and sex 2024 Q3 to 2024 Q4	17
Figure 3.17:Year-on-year percentage change in number of employed persons by region and type of locality, 2023 Q4, 2024 Q4.....	17
Figure 3.18:Quarter-on-quarter percentage change in number of employed persons by region and type of locality, 2024 Q3 , Q4	18
Figure 3.19: Year-on-year percentage change in the number of unemployed persons by region, 2023 Q4 to 2024 Q4	18
Figure 3.20: Year-on-year percentage change in the number of unemployed persons by region and sex, 2023 Q4 TO 2024 Q4.....	19
Figure 3.21: Year-on-year percentage change in the number of unemployed persons by region and locality type, 2023 Q4 TO 2024 Q4	19
Figure 3.22:Quarter-on-quarter percentage change in the number of unemployed persons by region 2024 Q3 to 2024 Q4	20
Figure 3.23:Quarter-on-quarter percentage change in the number of unemployed persons by region and sex, 2024 Q3 TO 2024 Q4	20
Figure 3.24:Quarter-on-quarter percentage change in the number of unemployed persons by region and locality type, 2024 Q3 TO 2024 Q4	21
Figure 3.25: Status of employment by sex, 2023 Q4 to 2024 Q4	22
Figure 3.26: Main occupation of employed persons by sex, 2023 Q4 to 2024 Q4	23
Figure 3.27: Youth not in employment, education or training (neet) by age group, 2023 Q4 to 2024 Q4	24

Figure 3.28: Youth (15-24 years) not in employment , education or training (neet) region, 2023 Q4 to 2024 Q4.....	25
Figure 3.29: Youth (15-35 years) not in employment , education or training (neet) region, 2023 Q4 to 2024 Q4.....	26
Figure 3.30: Underutilised labour.....	27
Figure 3.31: Underemployment rate by sex and type of residence	27
Figure 3.32: Underemployment rate by region (2024 q3 – q4)	28
Figure 3.33: Long term unemployment rate	29
Figure 3.34: Long term unemployment share.....	29
Figure 3.35: Labour transitions across economic activity statuses for employed persons in 2024 Q4.....	30
Figure 3.36: Labour transitions across economic activity statuses for unemployed persons in 2024 Q4.....	31
Figure 3.37: Labour transitions across economic activity statuses for persons outside the labour force in 2024 Q4	32

1. BACKGROUND

The quality of labour supply and the corresponding demand are pivotal to transforming national and global economies. Key issues such as skills development, job creation, sector and status of employment, particularly among the youth, play a crucial role in shaping the growth and development trajectories of all economies. Other related issues include the quality of the education and training systems, their capacity to deliver skills aligned with the needs of a diversified and competitive economy, and a deeper understanding of how both the formal and informal sectors of the economy function.

Since Ghana's independence, only one stand-alone Labour Force Survey has been conducted, in 2015. However, questions relating to employment, unemployment, and other measures of labour underutilisation have been included in censuses and national surveys such as the Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS), which on average, are conducted at 10-year and 5-year intervals, respectively.

As a result, in-depth information on the labour force, critical for effective policy planning, is often lacking, particularly during inter-censal periods. Moreover, statistics on vulnerable employment and on individuals Not in Employment, Education, or Training (NEET), which are not normally collected during censuses and the GLSS, have not been available, limiting the evidence base for informed planning and policymaking.

To address these limitations, the Annual Household Income and Expenditure Survey (AHIES), introduced in 2022, was designed to produce frequent labour statistics on a quarterly basis to support policy planning, monitoring, evaluation, and decision-making. Additionally, the panel nature of AHIES enhances the frequency and depth of data on labour by providing insights into labour mobility across sectors and status of employment.

The availability of timely and disaggregated labour statistics is critical for tracking the effectiveness of national employment strategies such as the Agenda for Jobs II: Creating Prosperity and Equal Opportunity for All (2022–2025). This strategy prioritises the establishment of a comprehensive Ghana Labour Market Information Systems (GLMIS), the formalisation of the informal economy, and the promotion of skills development and training aligned with labour market demands.

In line with the Resetting Ghana Agenda, the government aims to strengthen the GLMIS by enhancing the collection, analysis, and dissemination of detailed labour market data. This includes data on unemployment rates, skill gaps, and sector-specific employment trends. The quarterly labour statistics generated from the AHIES will contribute significantly to this effort by providing timely disaggregated insights to support evidence-based decision-making and targeted employment interventions.

This bulletin presents quarterly labour force statistics for the population aged 15 years and older, derived from AHIES data spanning 2022Q1 to 2024Q4. It provides information on labour force mobility, unemployment spells, and annual and quarterly changes in employment and unemployment rates, among other key labour indicators. The statistics are disaggregated by sex, type of locality, region, and selected socio-economic characteristics.

2. DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS

2.1 Contributing Family Worker

A contributing family worker refers to a person who helps in running an economic enterprise operated by a member of his or her family without payment of wages or salary. Excluded from this category are family members who work for pay, which should be classified as employees.

2.2 Economically Active Population (Labour Force)

The economically active population comprises all persons 15 years and older who furnish the supply of labour for the production of economic goods and services. This covers persons 15 years and older who were either employed or unemployed seven days preceding the interview date.

2.3 Employed Persons

This refers to all persons 15 years and older, who engaged in any activity, for at least 1 hour, to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit (either in cash or in-kind) during the reference period. Within the reference period (7 days preceding the interview), these persons could be “at work” or “not at work” due to temporary absence.

Employed persons include those who during the reference period:

- Worked at least one hour in their paid job or business activity, including self-employment;
- Had a paid job or business but did not work due to temporary absence for reasons such as illness, personal or family responsibilities, vacation, etc., and would go back to this job after the period of absence;
- Was engaged in a family business for payment in cash or in kind.

2.4 Absorption Rate (Employment-to-Population Ratio)

Employment-to-population ratio (EPR) is the proportion of the population that is employed expressed as a percentage of the working-age population (15 years and older).

Method of computation

The employment-to-population ratio (EPR) is calculated as follows:

$$EPR = \frac{\text{Employed population 15 years and older}}{\text{Population 15 years and older}} \times 100$$

Interpretation:

The employment-to-population ratio provides information on the ability of the economy to create employment. A high ratio means that a large proportion of the country's population is employed, while a low ratio means that a large share of the population is not involved directly in market-related activities, because they are either unemployed or out of the labour force.

2.5 Labour force participation rate

Labour force participation rate (LFPR) is the proportion of the working age population (15 years and older) that is either employed or unemployed.

Method of computation

The employment-to-population ratio (EPR) is calculated as follows:

$$LFPR = \frac{\text{Employed population} + \text{Unemployed (15 years and older)}}{\text{Population 15 years and older}} \times 100$$

2.6 Paid Employment

Paid employment refers to work performed during the reference period for which wage or salary was received or expected to be received, either in cash or in kind. It includes persons who were temporarily not at work during the reference period but had work to return to and had received or expected to receive payment.

2.7 Persons Outside the Labour Force

This refers to persons aged 15 years and older who are neither employed nor unemployed (i.e., they are neither working nor available) during the reference period. There is a variety of reasons why some individuals do not participate in the labour force: such persons may be occupied with caring for family members; they may be retired, sick or disabled, or attending school; or they may simply not want to work.

2.8 Quarter-on-Quarter Change

Quarter-on-quarter change as used in this report refers to the difference in employment and unemployment between the third and second quarters of 2023.

2.9 Self-Employment

Self-employment refers to a situation in which persons operate their own enterprise (e.g., a farmer, kenkey seller, or carpenter working in his/her own enterprise). A self-employed person does not work for a specific employer who pays him/her a salary or wage.

2.10 Self-Employed Without Employees (Own-Account Workers)

Self-employed without employees, also known as own-account workers, are those workers who, working on their own account or with one or more partners, hold the type of jobs defined as "self-employment jobs", and have not engaged on a

continuous basis any employees to work for them. Own account workers are a sub-category of the "self-employed".

2.11 Share of Youth Not in Employment, Education or Training

(Youth NEET Rate)

The share of youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) conveys the proportion of young persons not in education, employment or training as a percentage of the total youth population. The NEET Rate provides a measure of youth who are outside the educational system, not in training and not in employment, and thus serves as a broader measure of potential youth labour market entrants than youth unemployment, since it also includes young persons outside the labour force not in education or training.

Method of computation

NEET Rate

$$= \frac{\text{Youth popn} - \text{Youth in employment} - \text{Youth not in employment but in education or training}}{\text{Youth population}} \times 100$$

Interpretation:

Measures youth labour underutilisation:

A high NEET rate suggests engagement in household chores, care activities and signifies strong institutional barriers to access employment or training opportunities. The NEET also informs policymakers on youth not gaining professional experience in employment and not furthering their skills in education.

2.12 Unemployed Persons

Unemployed persons refer to all persons 15 years and older, who in the seven days preceding the interview date:

Did not work and did not have work to go back to; and were available to work.

This report uses the broad unemployment definition which relaxes the requirement that the person must be available and actively looking for work. This is because, in Ghana, as in many developing economies, work opportunities are limited, and potential workers may give up after unsuccessful periods of looking for work.

2.13 Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed persons 15 years and older divided by the economically active population 15 years and older multiplied by 100. This is different from the proportion of the population unemployed which is computed using the entire population 15 years and older (within and outside the labour force).

Method of computation

The unemployment rate (UR) is calculated as follows:

$$UR = \frac{\text{Persons unemployed}}{\text{Persons employed} + \text{Persons unemployed}} \times 100$$

Interpretation:

It reflects the inability of an economy to generate employment for those persons who want to work but are not doing so, even though they are available. A high ratio means that a large proportion of the country's population is unemployed, while a low ratio means that a large share of the population is involved directly in market-related activities, because they are employed.

2.14 Vulnerable Employment

Vulnerable employment is defined as the sum of the employment status groups of own-account workers and contributing family workers. They are less likely to have formal work arrangements, lack decent working conditions, adequate social security and "voice" through effective representation by trade unions and similar organisations. Vulnerable employment is often characterised by inadequate earnings, low productivity and difficult conditions of work that undermine workers' fundamental rights.

Note: Employees are referred to as employed persons with paid employment jobs under employment status category and are usually identified with more job security and better working conditions in general, whereas own-account workers and contributing family workers form two employment status categories regarded as vulnerable employment.

While this is true in general terms, it is important to note that not all employees have basic elements of decent work such as coverage of social security and/or social dialogue just as not all own-account workers and contributing family workers are in a precarious or vulnerable situation. Thus, while the share of own-account workers and contributing family workers is a valuable and reasonable proxy to measure vulnerability, it is nevertheless an imperfect one.

2.15 Work

Work refers to any activity performed by a person 15 years and older to produce goods and services for use by others or for their own use. That is, the engagement in work is associated with the production of goods and services regardless of whether the work done was voluntary, non-voluntary, apprenticeship or for one's own final use or not. This could be an activity that the person was remunerated for or otherwise within the reference period (7 days preceding the interview).

2.16 Worked but not employed

This refers to an activity within the reference period, performed by persons 15 years and older to produce goods and services for use by others or for their own use without pay or profit.

2.17 Year- on -Year Change

Year-on year change as used in this report refers to the difference in employment and unemployment between the third quarter of 2022 and the third quarter of 2023.

2.18 Long term unemployment rate

Long-term unemployment rate refers to the percentage of persons 15 years and older who have been unemployed for a continuous period of 12 months or more, while still being available for work. Thus,

$$\text{Long term unemployment rate} = \frac{\text{Number of persons unemployed for 12 months or more}}{\text{Total labour force}} * 100$$

2.19 Long term unemployment share

Long-term unemployment share refers to the proportion of unemployed persons who have been unemployed for 12 months or more, expressed as a percentage of the total number of unemployed persons. Thus,

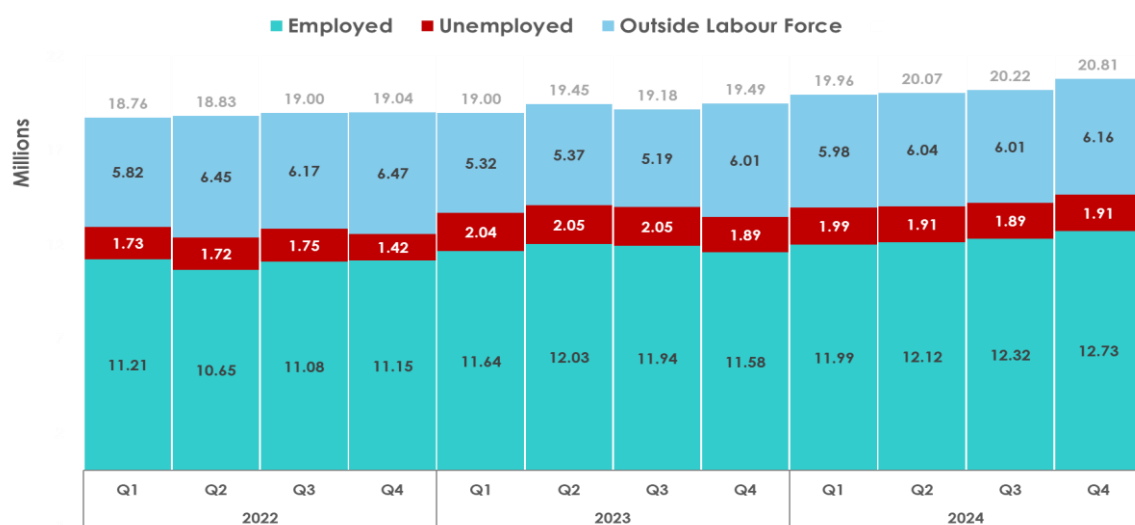
$$\text{Long term unemployment share} = \frac{\text{Number of persons unemployed for 12 months or more}}{\text{Total number of unemployed persons}} * 100$$

3. HIGHLIGHTS

The labour force comprises all persons aged 15 years and older who are either employed, meaning they engaged in any activity to produce goods or provided services for pay or profit during the reference period, or unemployed, defined as those who did not work, had no job to return to, and were available to work in the seven days prior to the interview.

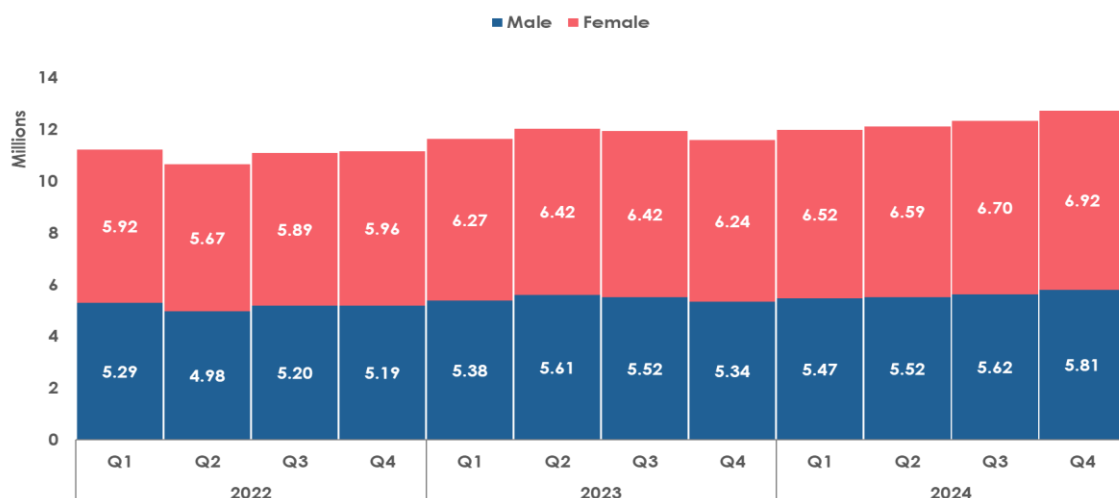
In each quarter of 2024, about 14 million persons constituted the labour force, with more than 85.0 percent of them employed. here were about 409,000 more people employed in 2024 Q4 than in 2024 Q3.

FIGURE 3.1: LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF PERSONS 15 YEARS AND OLDER, 2022 Q1 TO 2024 Q4



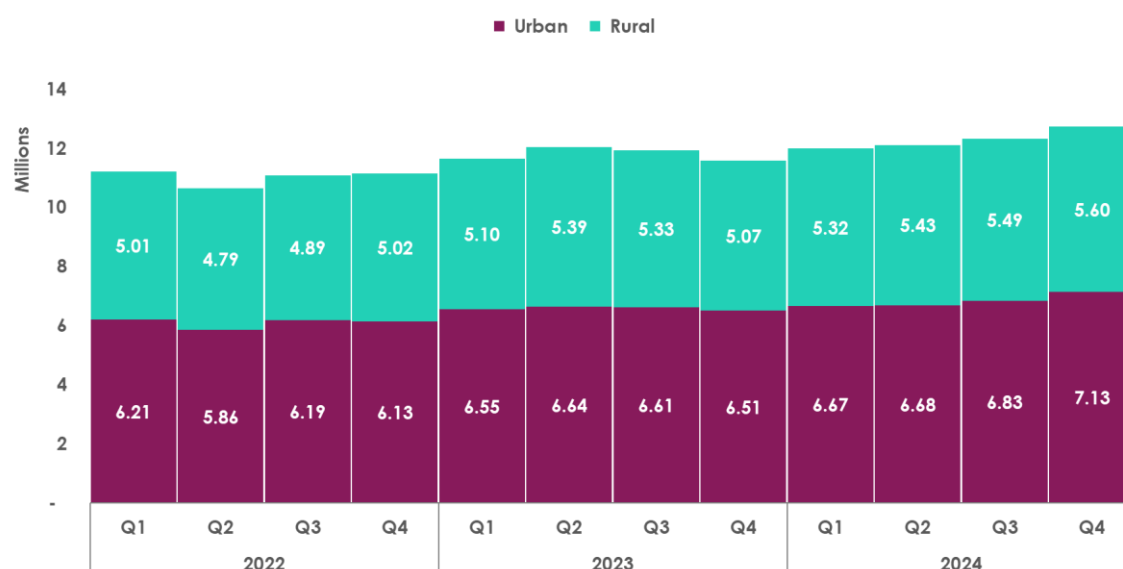
Throughout the period, more females than males have consistently been employed, with the sex difference increasing from about 632,000 in 2022 Q1 to 1.12 million in 2024 Q4.

FIGURE 3.2: EMPLOYED PERSONS 15 YEARS AND OLDER BY SEX, 2022 Q1 TO 2024 Q4



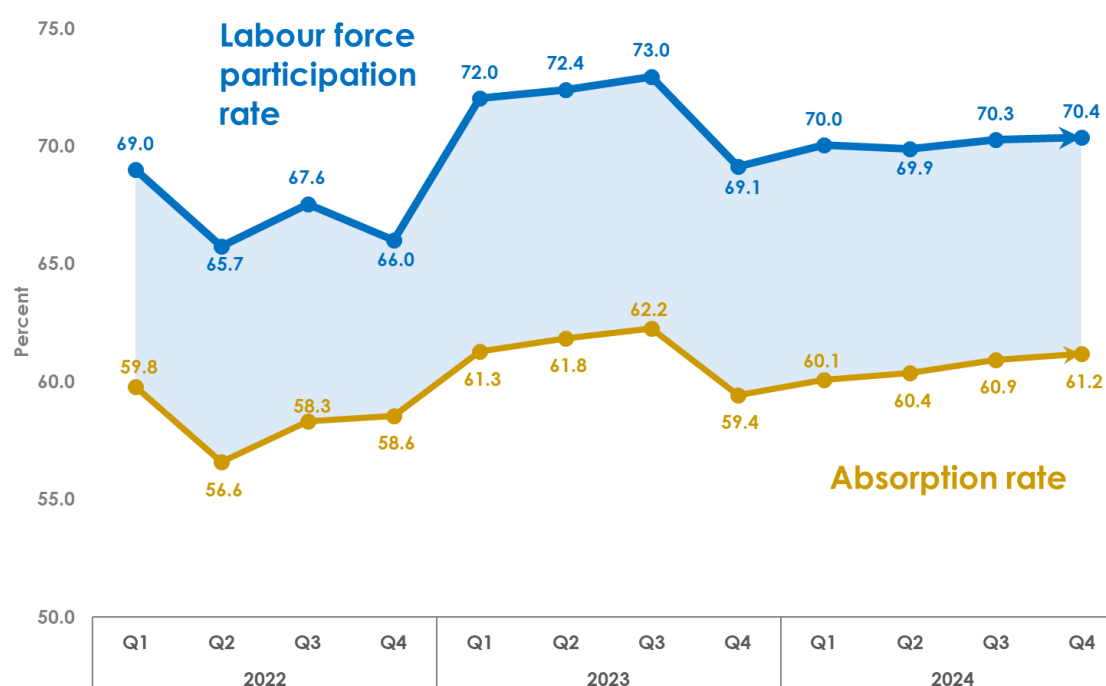
Over the past three years, the number of employed persons increased by 11.8 percent in rural areas compared to a 14.9 percent in urban areas.

FIGURE 3.3: EMPLOYED PERSONS 15 YEARS AND OLDER BY TYPE OF LOCALITY, 2022 Q1 TO 2024 Q4



The labour force participation rate peaked at 73.0 percent in the third quarter of 2023 but declined to an average of 70.2 percent in 2024. Over the past three years, about 60 percent of the working-age population (15 years and older) has been employed on average.

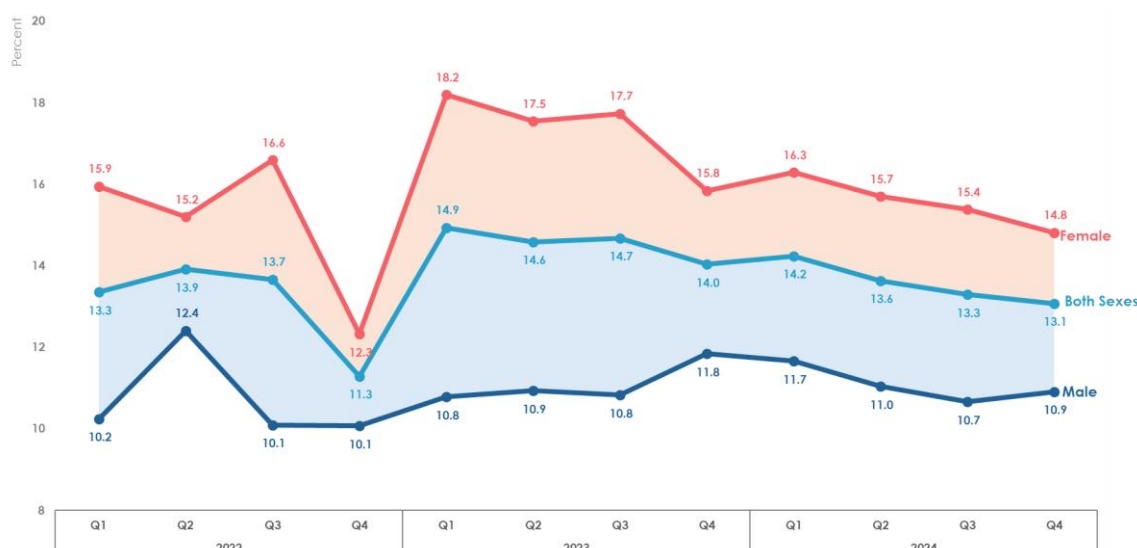
FIGURE 3.4: LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION AND ABSORPTION RATES, 2022 Q1 TO 2024 Q4



Unemployment rate peaked at 14.9 percent in 2023 Q1 but declined to 13.1 percent by 2024 Q4.

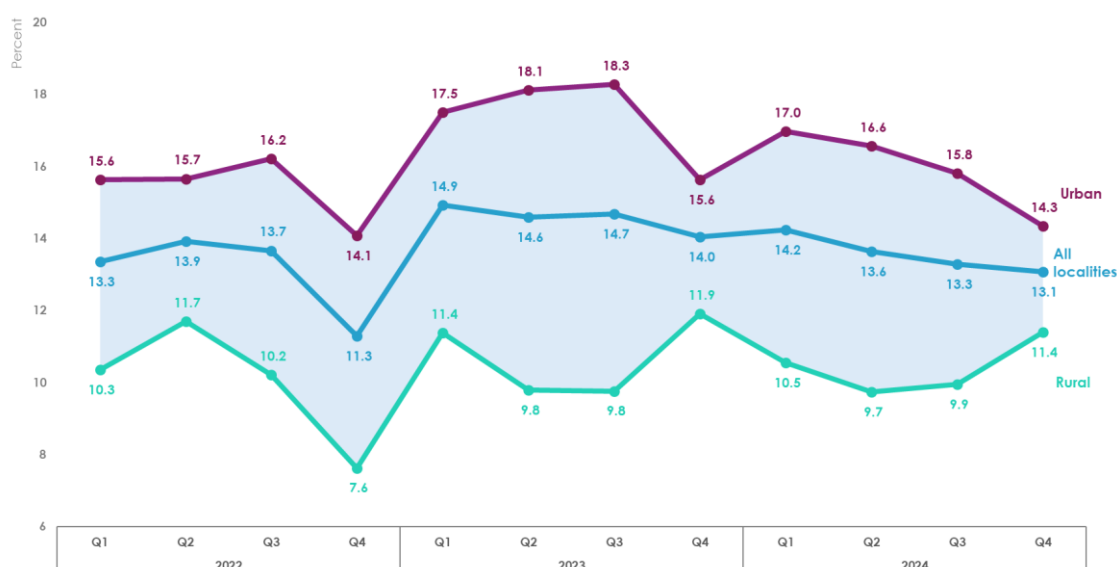
Unemployment rate has consistently been higher among females than males, although the gap has narrowed from a peak of 7.4 percentage points in 2023 Q1 to 3.9 percentage points in 2024 Q4.

FIGURE 3.5: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY SEX, 2022Q1 TO 2024Q4



Unemployment rates remain lower in rural areas compared to urban areas. In 2024, the unemployment rate averaged 15.9 percent in urban areas, which is 5.5 percentage points higher than the rural average of 10.4 percent. However, between Q2 and Q4 of 2024, the unemployment rate in urban areas declined by 2.3 percentage points, while it increased by 1.7 percentage points in rural areas.

FIGURE 3.6: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY TYPE OF LOCALITY, 2022Q1 TO 2024Q4



Across the quarters, five regions (Eastern, Ahafo, Bono East, Oti, and Upper West) consistently recorded unemployment rates below the national average. In contrast, the Greater Accra and Ashanti regions persistently recorded unemployment rates above the national level.

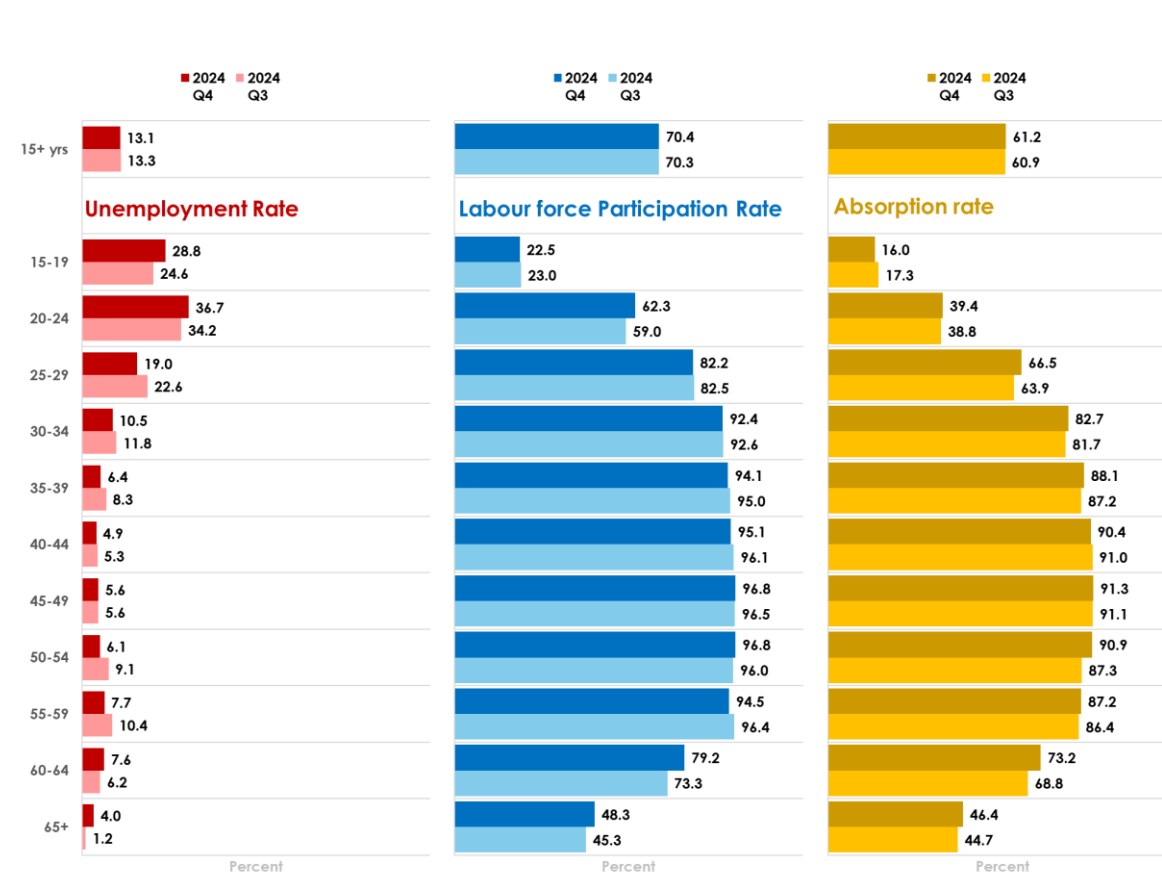
However, in 2024, four regions experienced a steady rise in unemployment across the quarters, diverging from the national trend of decline. These were Bono (rising from 6.3% in Q1 to 6.9% in Q4), Northern (9.5% in Q1 to 11.8% in Q4), Upper West (7.6% in Q1 to 11.2% in Q4), and Eastern (8.1% in Q1 to 12.3% in Q4).

FIGURE 3.7: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY REGION, 2022 Q1 TO 2024 Q4



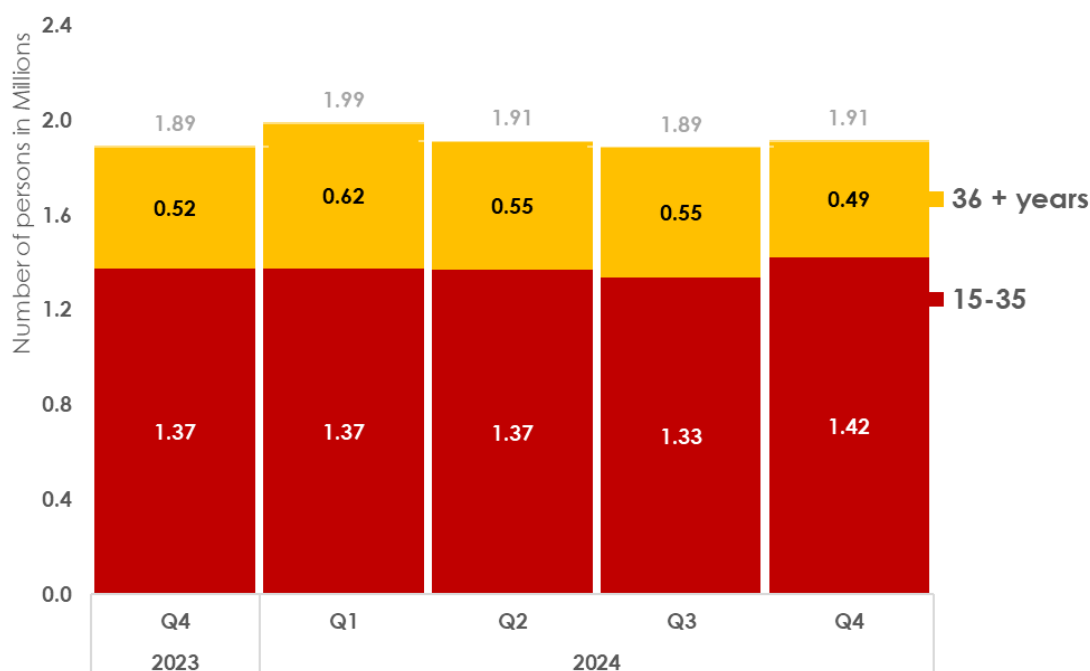
In 2024 Q4, labour force participation (96.8%) and absorption (91.1%) rates were highest among persons aged 45-49 years. Conversely, the highest unemployment rate was recorded among those aged 20-24 years recorded the highest at 36.7 percent.

FIGURE 3.8: UNEMPLOYMENT, LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION AND ABSORPTION RATES BY AGE GROUP, 2024 Q4



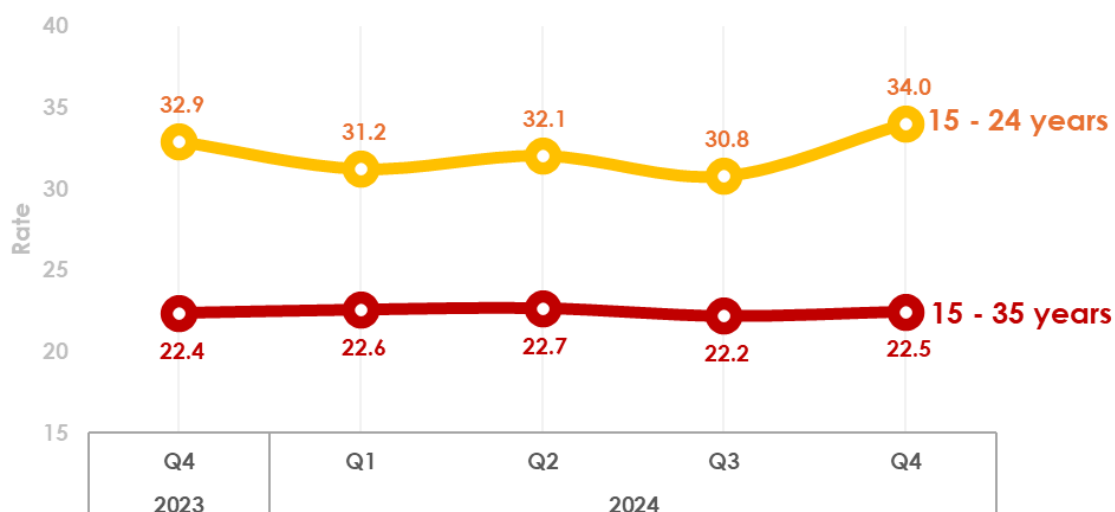
In each quarter of 2024, seven out of every ten unemployed persons were aged 15-35 years.

FIGURE 3.9: NUMBER OF PERSONS UNEMPLOYED BY AGE GROUP FROM 2023 Q4 TO 2024 Q4



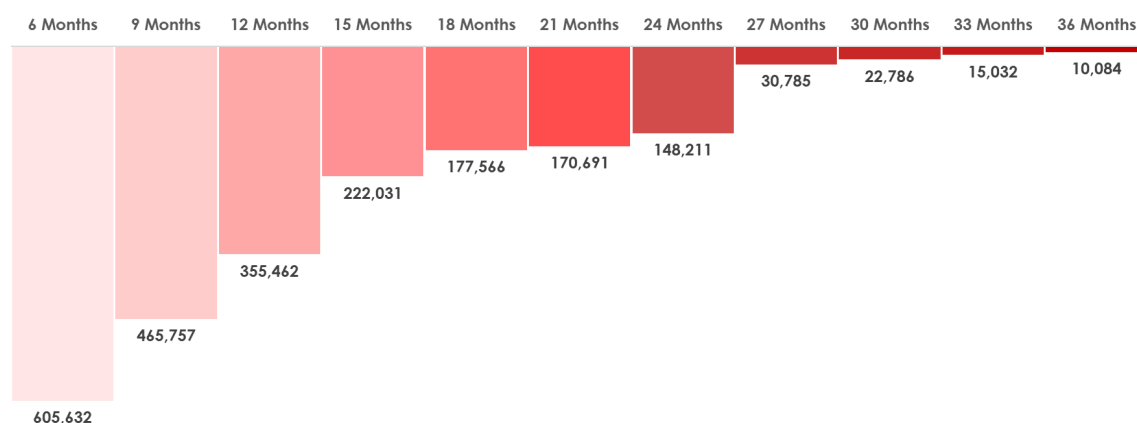
Youth unemployment rate is consistently higher than the overall unemployment rate, with an average rate of 32.0 percent among persons aged 15-24 years and 22.5 percent for those aged 15-35 years in 2024.

FIGURE 3.10. YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY AGE GROUP, 2023 Q4 TO 2024 Q4



More than 355,000 persons experienced an unemployment spell of at least 12 months between 2022 Q1 and 2024 Q4.

FIGURE 3.11: INTENSITY OF UNEMPLOYMENT SPELL FOR UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, 2024 Q4



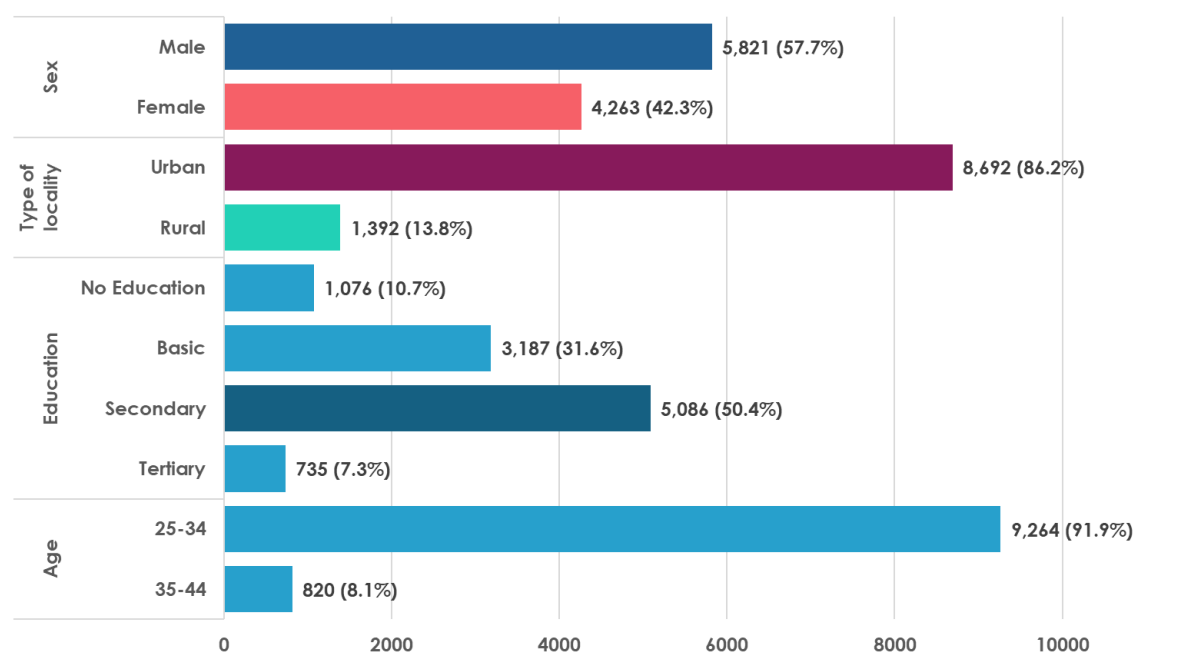
****Note:** The chart above was generated using a balanced panel data from 2022 Q1 to 2024 Q4

Out of the 10,084 persons who remained unemployed for the last 12 quarters, 86.2 percent (8,692) were in urban areas.

Over 5,800 males remained unemployed for the last 12 quarters, which is 1,558 more than females in the same situation.

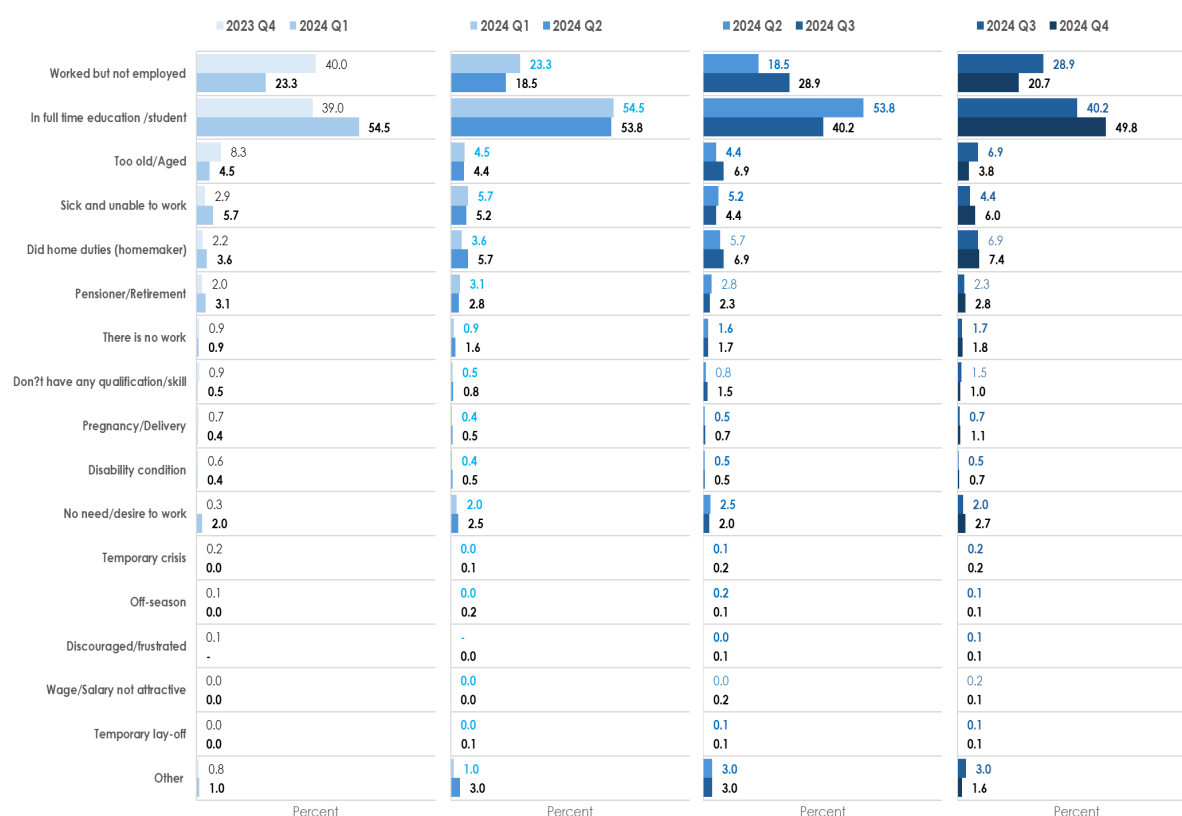
Individuals with tertiary education (735) represented the smallest group among those who have remained unemployed over the past 12 quarters.

FIGURE 3.12: UNEMPLOYMENT SPELL BY SEX, TYPE OF LOCALITY, EDUCATION AND AGE GROUP, 2022 Q1 - 2024 Q4



Persons outside the labour force cite full-time education as their main reason for non-participation, with proportion increasing by 15.5 percentage points from 2023 Q4 to 2024 Q1 and 9.6 percentage points from 2024 Q3 to 2024 Q4. The percentage of persons who worked but were not classified as employed decreased by 8.2 percentage points between 2024 Q3 and Q4.

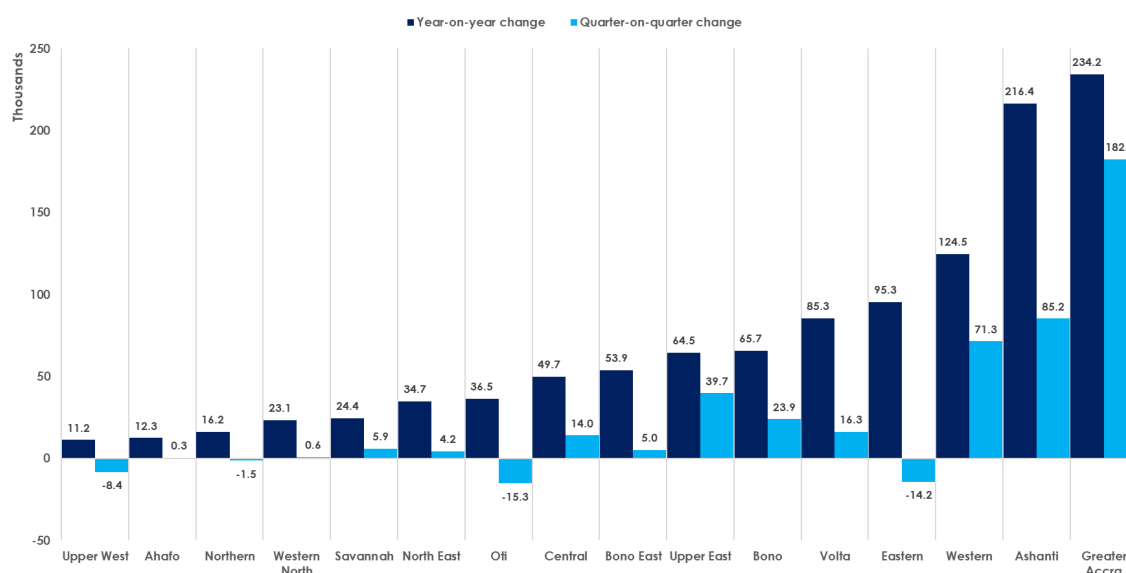
FIGURE 3.13: REASONS FOR BEING OUTSIDE THE LABOUR FORCE, 2023 Q4 TO 2024 Q4



****Note: Worked but not employed are persons who did some work but the work performed is not classified as employment work since they did not receive any remuneration for work done.**

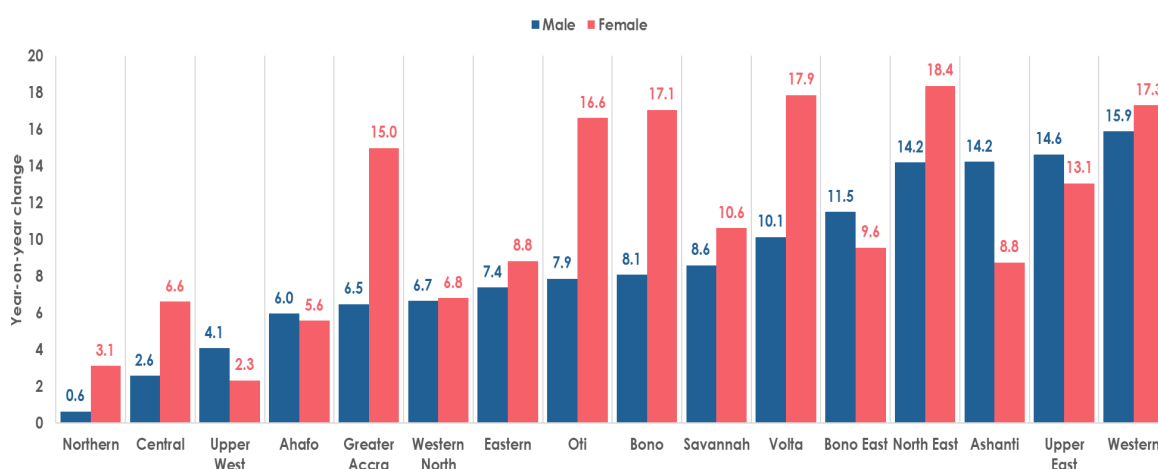
Greater Accra Region recorded the highest year-on-year (234,200) and quarter-on-quarter (182,500) increase in employment.

FIGURE 3.14: YEAR-ON-YEAR (2023 Q4, 2024 Q4) AND QUARTER-ON-QUARTER (2024 Q3, 2024 Q4) CHANGE IN THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYED PERSONS BY REGION



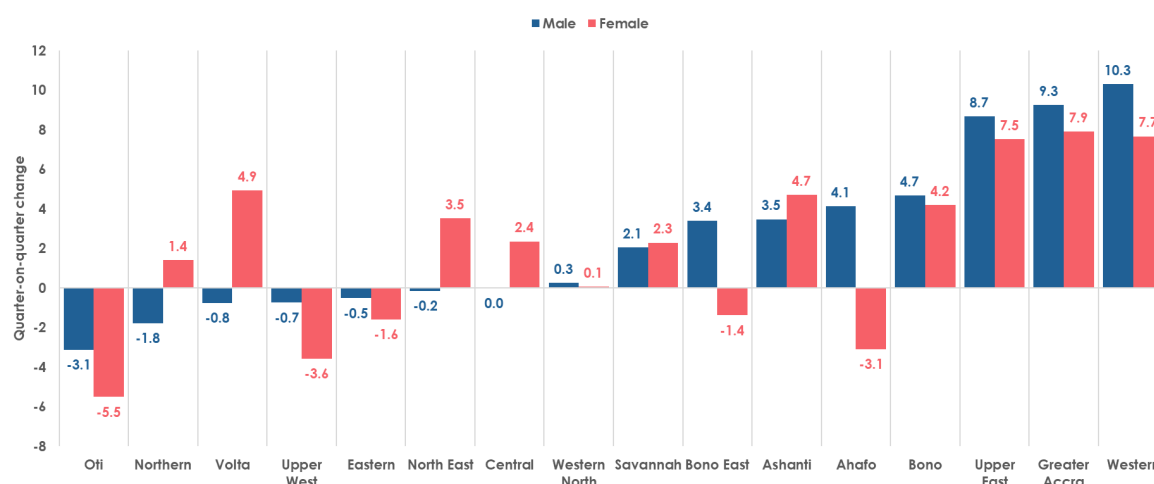
Northern and Upper West regions recorded the lowest year-on-year percentage increase in employment for males (0.6%) and females (2.3%) respectively, while Western and North-East regions had the highest year-on-year percentage increases for males (15.9%) and females (18.4%), respectively.

FIGURE 3.15: YEAR-ON-YEAR PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED BY REGION AND SEX, 2023 Q4 TO 2024 Q4



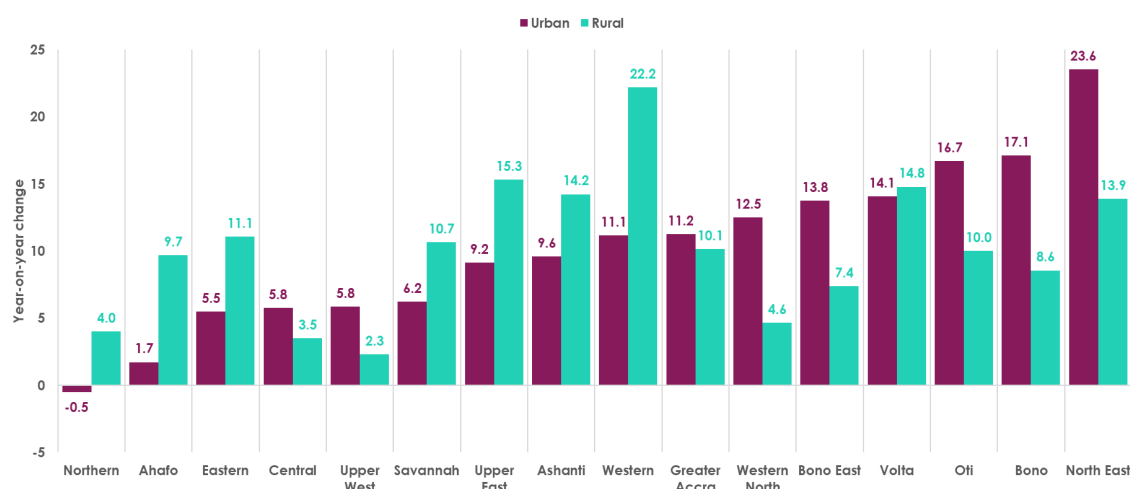
Oti Region recorded the highest quarter-on-quarter percentage decrease in employment for both males (3.1%) and females (5.5%). Western and Greater Accra regions had the highest quarter-on-quarter percentage increase in employment for males (10.3%) and females (7.9%), respectively.

FIGURE 3.16: QUARTER-ON-QUARTER PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED BY REGION AND SEX 2024 Q3 TO 2024 Q4



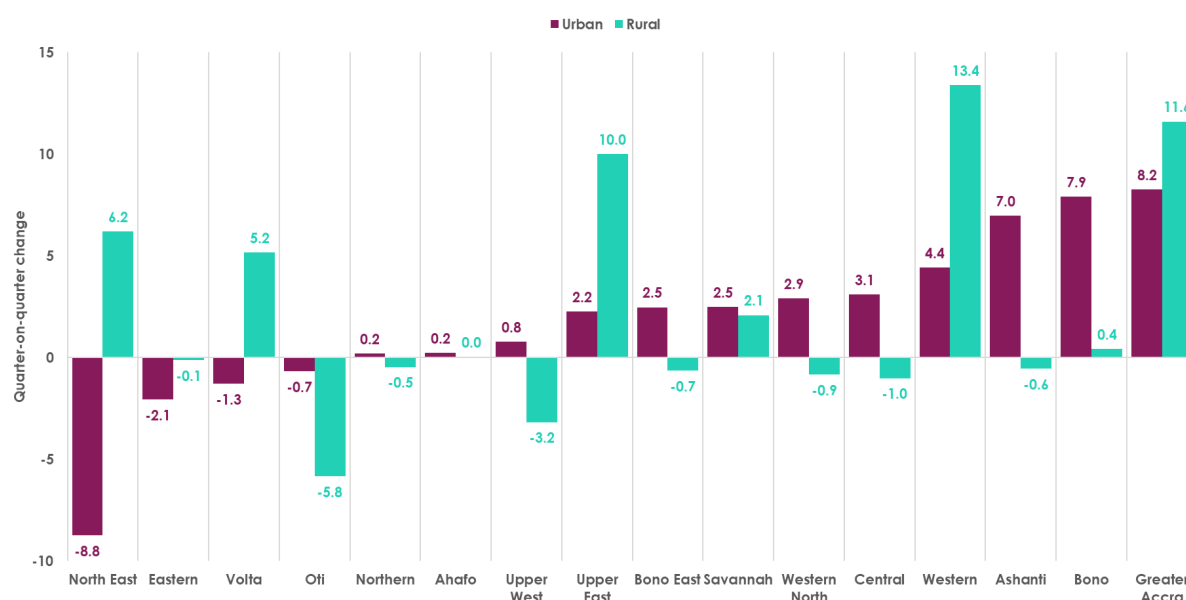
North East Region had the highest year-on-year percentage change (23.6%) in urban employment, while Western Region recorded the highest year-on-year percentage increase (22.2%) in rural employment.

FIGURE 3.17: YEAR-ON-YEAR PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN NUMBER OF EMPLOYED PERSONS BY REGION AND TYPE OF LOCALITY, 2023 Q4, 2024 Q4



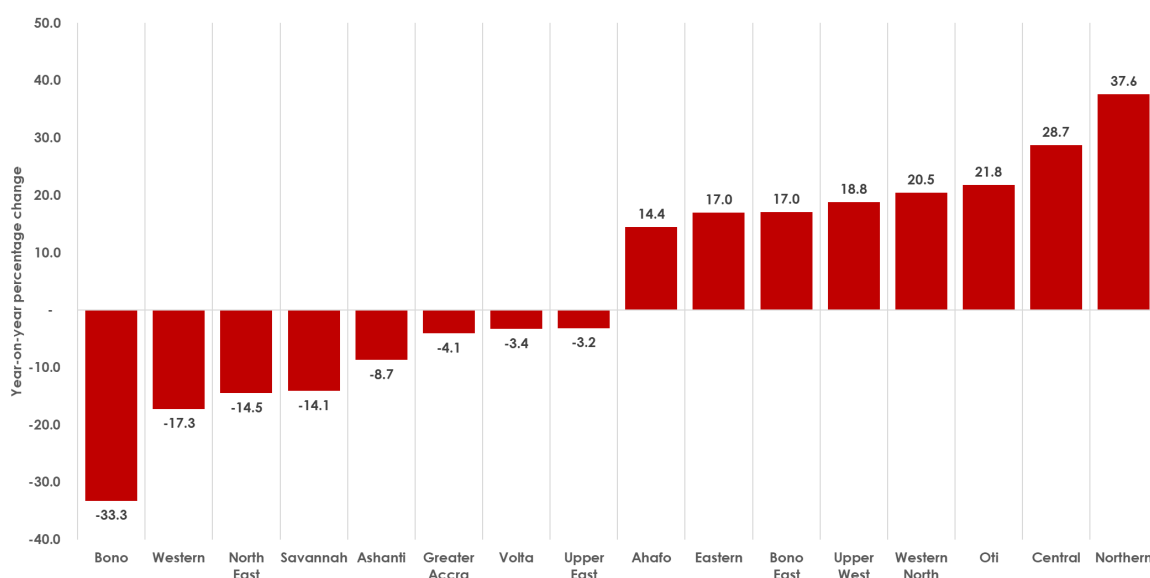
Eastern (Urban: 2.1% and Rural: 0.1%) and Oti (Urban: 0.7% and Rural: 5.8%) regions recorded quarter-on-quarter percentage declines in both urban and rural employment. Greater Accra and Western regions had the highest quarter-on-quarter percentage increase in urban (8.2%) and rural (13.4%) employment, respectively.

FIGURE 3.18: QUARTER-ON-QUARTER PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN NUMBER OF EMPLOYED PERSONS BY REGION AND TYPE OF LOCALITY, 2024 Q3 , Q4



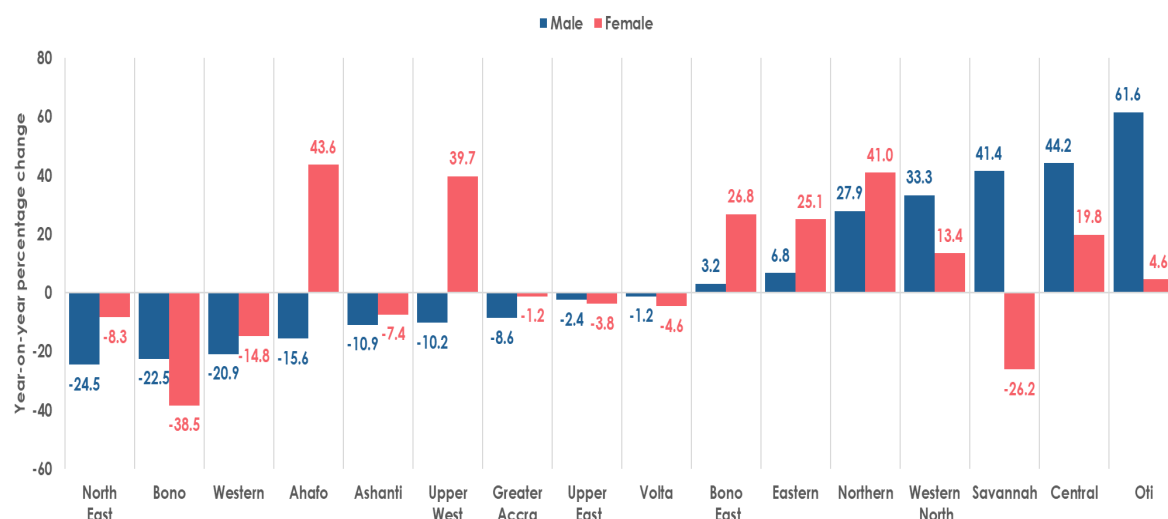
Northern Region recorded the highest year-on-year percentage increase (37.6%) in the number of unemployed persons while Bono Region saw the highest year-on-year percentage decrease (33.3%).

FIGURE 3.19: YEAR-ON-YEAR PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY REGION, 2023 Q4 TO 2024 Q4



Seven regions experienced year-on-year percentage decreases in both unemployed males and females, with Bono Region recording the highest decrease for females (38.5%) and North East Region showing the highest decline for males (24.5%).

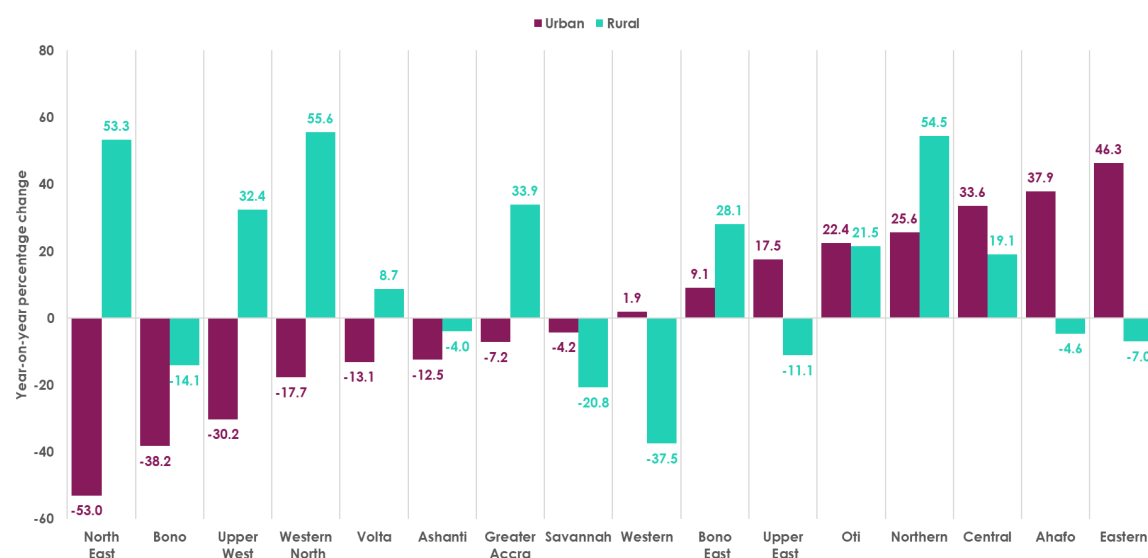
FIGURE 3.20: YEAR-ON-YEAR PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN THE NUMBER OF UMEPLOYED PERSONS BY REGION AND SEX, 2023 Q4 TO 2024 Q4



Eastern and Northern regions experienced the highest year-on-year percentage increases in urban (46.3%) and rural (54.5%) unemployment, respectively.

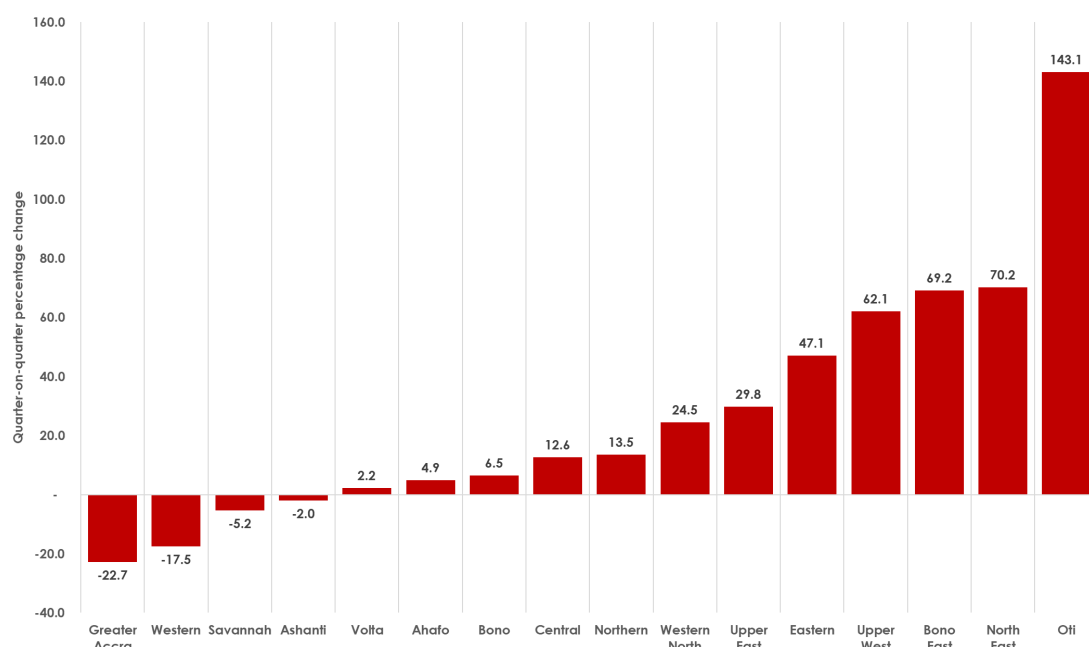
Three regions experienced a year-on-year percentage decline in both rural (Bono: 14.1%, Ashanti: 4.0%, Savannah: 20.8%) and urban (Bono: 38.2%, Ashanti: 12.5%, Savannah: 4.2%) unemployment.

FIGURE 3.21: YEAR-ON-YEAR PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY REGION AND LOCALITY TYPE, 2023 Q4 TO 2024 Q4



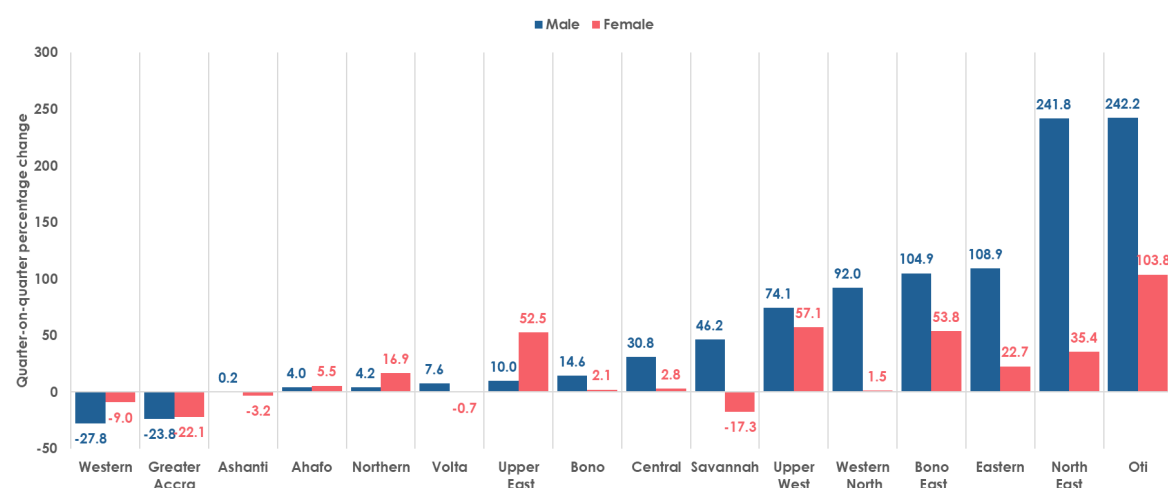
Four regions recorded a quarter-on-quarter percentage decrease in the number of unemployed persons, with the Greater Accra Region experiencing the highest decrease (22.7%). Oti Region (143.1%) recorded the highest quarter-on-quarter percentage increase in the number of unemployed persons.

FIGURE 3.22: QUARTER-ON-QUARTER PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY REGION 2024 Q3 TO 2024 Q4



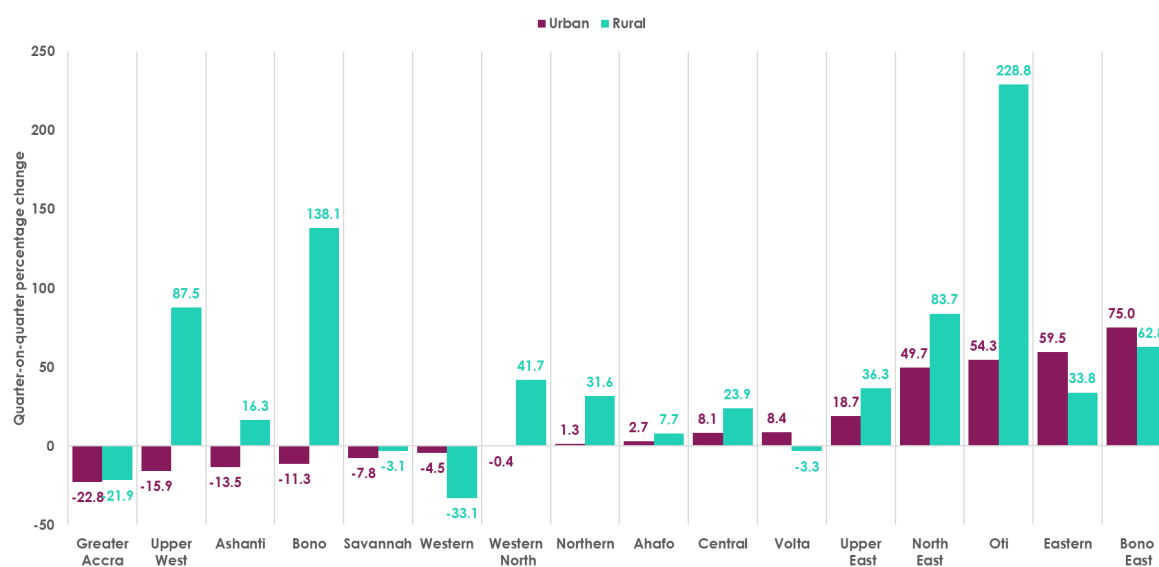
Western and Greater Accra regions recorded a quarter-on-quarter percentage decrease in the number of unemployed persons for both males (Western Region: 27.8%, Greater Accra Region: 23.8%) and females (Western Region: 9.0%, Greater Accra Region: 22.1%).

FIGURE 3.23: QUARTER-ON-QUARTER PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS BY REGION AND SEX, 2024 Q3 TO 2024 Q4



Greater Accra, Savannah, and Western regions recorded a quarter-on-quarter percentage decrease in the number of unemployed persons in both urban and rural areas with Greater Accra and Western regions experiencing the highest decline in urban (22.8%) and rural (33.1%) unemployment, respectively.

FIGURE 3.24: QUARTER-ON-QUARTER PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN THE NUMBER OF UMEPLOYED PERSONS BY REGION AND LOCALITY TYPE, 2024 Q3 TO 2024 Q4



Across all quarters, more than half of employed females were self-employed without employees, with the highest proportion recorded in 2024 Q1 (62.2%).

In each quarter of 2024, the proportion of males who were paid employees was at least 12.5 percentage points higher than that of females.

FIGURE 3.25: STATUS OF EMPLOYMENT BY SEX, 2023 Q4 TO 2024 Q4

Both Sexes	2022				2023				2024			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Non-agriculture self-employed without employee	30.0	29.5	27.5	25.9	29.6	28.8	28.2	27.7	29.8	28.9	29.8	27.9
Agriculture self-employed without employees	19.8	22.1	22.5	25.0	22.3	24.3	25.4	25.2	26.0	23.3	25.5	24.8
Paid employee	21.5	21.3	22.2	21.3	21.2	21.1	21.1	22.4	20.0	25.4	20.8	23.0
Agriculture contributing family worker	13.5	13.2	13.4	13.4	11.2	11.8	11.9	10.3	10.1	12.6	10.7	11.1
Casual worker	4.0	4.2	4.7	4.3	5.7	5.2	5.3	5.0	4.9	2.1	5.6	5.7
Non-agriculture self-employed with employees	4.0	4.0	3.5	3.2	3.5	3.4	3.0	3.3	3.4	2.3	3.0	3.3
Non-agriculture contributing family worker	3.5	2.8	2.8	3.7	3.7	3.2	3.0	3.2	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.3
Agriculture-self-employed with employees	1.8	1.5	1.9	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.6	1.6	1.1	1.0	0.9
Unpaid apprentice	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.3
Paid apprentice	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.3	0.3
Domestic workers	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.9	1.2	0.8	0.2	0.2
Other	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2

Male	2022				2023				2024			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Agriculture self-employed without employees	26.0	28.7	28.4	31.3	28.5	30.8	32.1	31.9	33.1	27.9	32.5	31.4
Paid employee	28.3	28.8	30.0	29.1	27.9	28.3	28.3	28.9	26.8	33.0	27.8	30.2
Non-agriculture self-employed without employee	17.3	15.8	14.2	12.6	15.7	14.4	14.2	14.5	14.9	15.7	15.1	13.7
Casual worker	5.9	6.7	7.4	6.7	8.7	7.9	7.9	7.3	7.3	2.7	8.6	8.9
Agriculture contributing family worker	10.7	9.9	10.2	10.3	8.9	9.6	9.5	8.1	8.6	12.9	8.5	8.8
Non-agriculture self-employed with employees	4.6	4.4	3.9	3.6	4.3	3.9	3.5	3.3	3.6	1.8	3.5	3.5
Agriculture-self-employed with employees	2.8	2.3	2.5	2.2	2.0	1.8	1.6	2.2	2.2	1.7	1.6	1.3
Non-agriculture contributing family worker	2.2	1.6	1.7	2.4	2.3	2.1	1.8	2.5	1.9	2.1	1.2	1.1
Paid apprentice	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.5
Unpaid apprentice	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.4	0.4
Domestic workers	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.7	1.0	0.9	0.2	0.1
Other	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1

Female	2022				2023				2024			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Non-agriculture self-employed without employee	41.3	41.5	39.3	37.5	41.6	41.4	40.2	39.0	42.2	39.9	42.1	39.9
Agriculture self-employed without employees	14.3	16.2	17.4	19.5	17.1	18.6	19.6	19.5	20.0	19.4	19.6	19.2
Paid employee	15.5	14.7	15.4	14.4	15.4	14.8	14.9	16.8	14.3	19.1	15.0	16.9
Agriculture contributing family worker	15.9	16.1	16.2	16.2	13.2	13.8	13.9	12.2	11.5	12.3	12.6	13.1
Non-agriculture contributing family worker	4.7	3.8	3.8	4.9	5.0	4.1	4.1	3.9	3.3	3.3	3.7	3.3
Non-agriculture self-employed with employees	3.4	3.7	3.1	2.9	2.8	3.0	2.7	3.2	3.2	2.7	2.6	3.1
Casual worker	2.3	2.0	2.3	2.3	3.1	2.9	3.1	3.0	2.9	1.6	3.1	3.1
Agriculture-self-employed with employees	1.0	0.8	1.5	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.8	1.1	1.1	0.6	0.6	0.6
Unpaid apprentice	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.3
Domestic workers	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.3	1.1	1.3	0.7	0.2	0.2
Paid apprentice	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.1
Other	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2

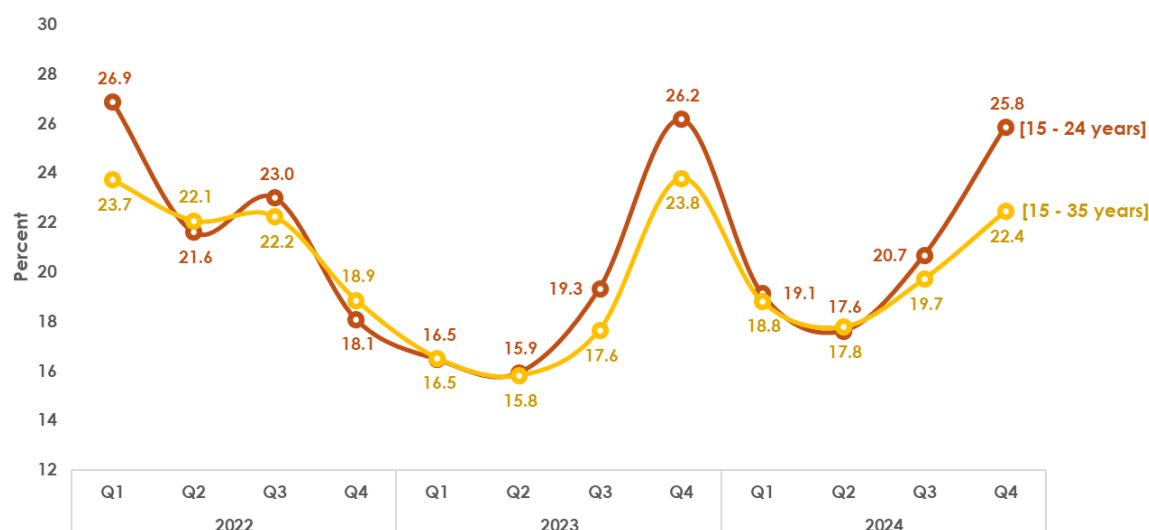
Males predominantly worked as skilled agricultural workers, with proportions ranging from 40.5 percent to 43.6 percent, while most females worked as service and sales workers with proportions varying from 38.0 percent to 43.2 percent.

FIGURE 3.26: MAIN OCCUPATION OF EMPLOYED PERSONS BY SEX, 2023 Q4 TO 2024 Q4

	2022				2023				2024			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Both Sexes												
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery	35.2	36.7	39.3	39.0	33.9	36.8	38.2	36.9	36.8	36.0	37.4	36.6
Service and sales workers	27.5	27.0	25.7	25.6	27.8	27.0	25.9	28.5	29.6	30.7	26.3	27.2
Craft and related trades workers	14.2	14.2	13.0	13.3	14.8	13.8	13.4	13.3	13.4	13.5	13.8	12.6
Elementary occupations	7.1	6.6	6.1	6.2	6.9	6.5	6.1	5.7	5.4	5.2	6.5	7.2
Professionals	5.7	5.8	5.9	6.1	6.1	5.8	6.0	5.9	5.5	5.4	6.1	6.1
Plant and machine operators, and assembly	4.9	4.7	4.8	4.7	5.6	5.1	5.1	4.7	4.8	4.6	4.9	4.6
Managers	2.0	1.5	2.0	1.7	1.5	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.0
Clerical support workers	1.8	1.7	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.8
Technicians and associate professionals	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.7
Other	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Male												
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fisheries	40.5	41.6	44.0	44.2	39.7	42.6	44.1	42.9	43.0	42.1	43.6	41.8
Craft and related trades workers	16.5	15.9	14.9	14.1	15.9	14.6	14.1	14.1	14.3	14.6	15.2	14.4
Service and sales workers	11.5	11.8	10.8	11.4	11.6	11.6	10.9	13.6	14.6	15.9	10.7	11.9
Plant and machine operators, and assembly	10.0	9.7	9.8	9.7	11.7	10.7	10.6	9.8	10.1	9.6	10.1	9.6
Elementary occupations	7.6	7.6	6.7	7.2	7.6	7.2	6.8	6.5	5.9	5.7	7.5	8.4
Professionals	6.4	6.7	6.9	7.0	6.9	6.6	6.9	6.7	6.2	6.1	6.6	6.9
Technicians and associate professionals	2.6	2.9	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.7
Managers	2.6	1.6	2.3	1.7	1.8	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.3	2.3
Clerical support workers	2.3	2.1	1.7	1.9	2.0	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.8
Other	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3
Female												
Service and sales workers	41.8	40.3	38.9	38.0	41.7	40.4	38.9	41.2	42.2	43.2	39.4	40.0
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fisheries	30.5	32.3	35.2	34.5	28.8	31.7	33.2	31.7	31.5	30.9	32.2	32.3
Craft and related trades workers	12.0	12.7	11.3	12.5	13.8	13.1	12.7	12.5	12.6	12.6	12.5	11.2
Elementary occupations	6.6	5.7	5.5	5.4	6.3	5.8	5.5	5.1	4.9	4.8	5.6	6.2
Professionals	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.4	5.4	5.1	5.2	5.2	4.9	4.8	5.6	5.4
Clerical support workers	1.4	1.5	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.8
Managers	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.2	1.2	1.6	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.8	1.8
Technicians and associate professionals	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8
Plant and machine operators, and assembly	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.4
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

The proportion of Youth Not in Employment, Education, or Training (NEET) increased consistently in the last two quarters of 2024, reaching 25.8 percent for the 15-24 age group and 22.4 percent for the 15-35 age group in 2024 Q4.

FIGURE 3.27: YOUTH NOT IN EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION OR TRAINING (NEET) BY AGE GROUP, 2023 Q4 TO 2024 Q4

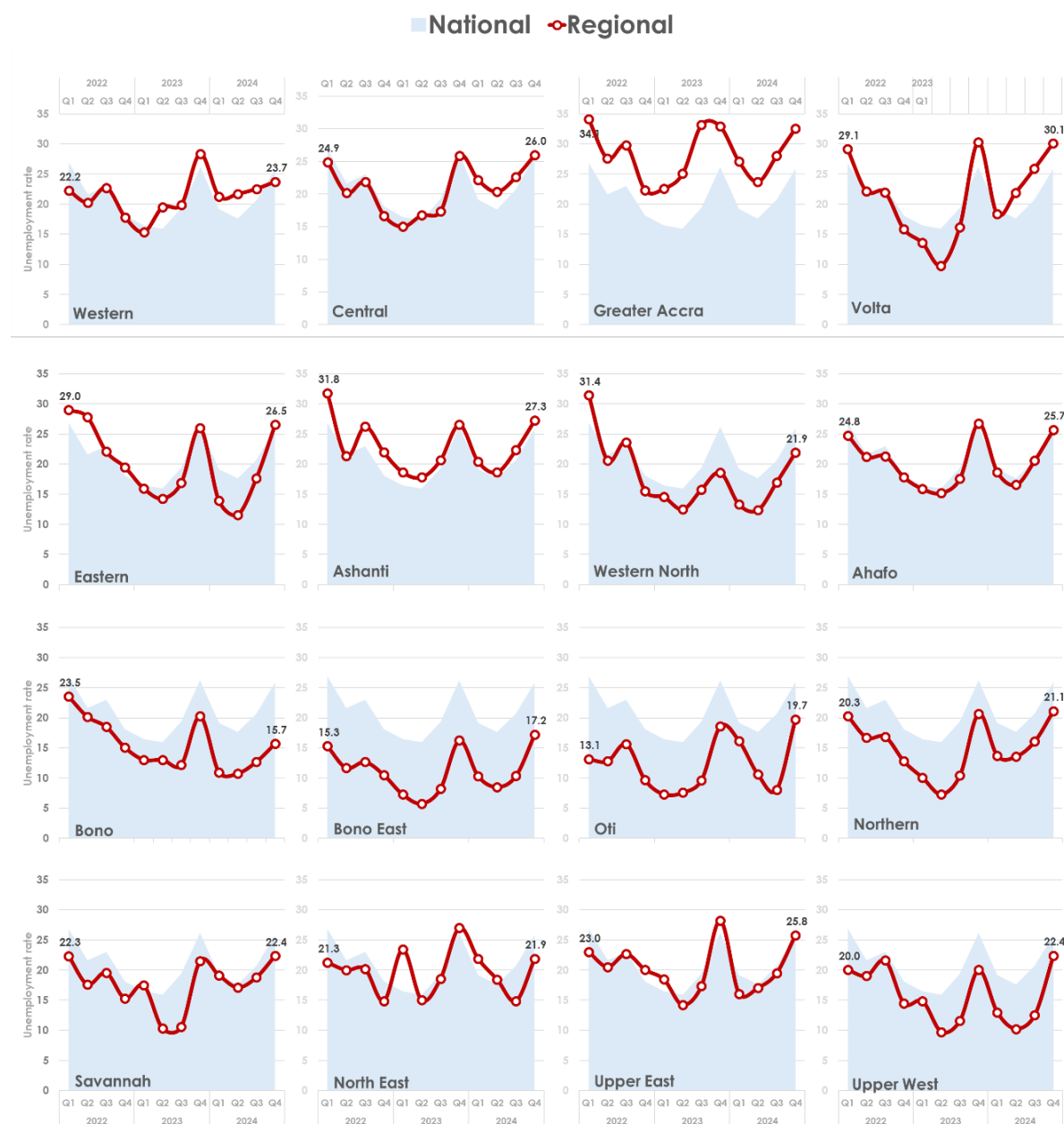


****Note:**

1. Youth NEET (15-24 years) refers to the proportion of young persons, 15 to 24 years, not in education, employment or training as a percentage of the total youth population.
2. Youth NEET (15-35 years) refers to the proportion of young persons, 15 to 35 years, not in education, employment or training as a percentage of the total youth population.

Greater Accra Region is the only region that has consistently recorded NEET rates higher than the national average for the 15-24 age group.

FIGURE 3.28: YOUTH (15-24 YEARS) NOT IN EMPLOYMENT , EDUCATION OR TRAINING (NEET) REGION, 2023 Q4 TO 2024 Q4



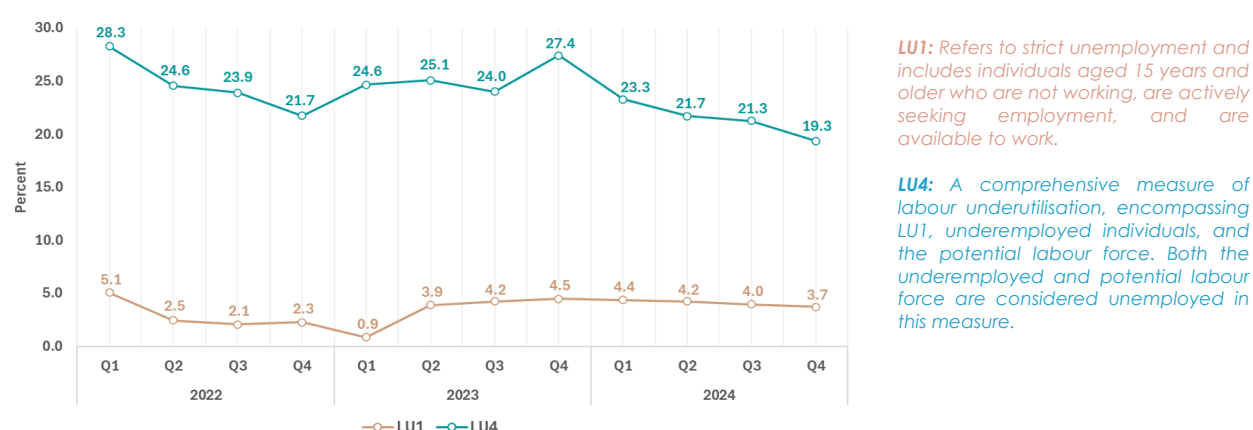
Western Region recorded declines in the NEET rate for the 15-35 age group in the last three quarters of 2024 (from 22.1% in Q2 to 19.9% in Q4), contrary to the national trend.

FIGURE 3.29: YOUTH (15-35 YEARS) NOT IN EMPLOYMENT , EDUCATION OR TRAINING (NEET) REGION, 2023 Q4 TO 2024 Q4



Labour underutilisation is a critical economic indicator that measures the extent to which available labour resources are not being fully employed. Figure 3.30 outlines two key measures of labour underutilisation (LU1 and LU4). Figure 3.30 contrasts the narrowest and broadest measures of labour underutilisation, demonstrating the extent to which broader indicators capture hidden labour market slack beyond standard unemployment. The significant difference between LU1 and LU4 (e.g., 3.7% → 19.3% in 2024 Q4) demonstrates that traditional unemployment metrics (LU1) capture only a portion of total labour market slack. This reinforces the importance of using broader measures like LU4 to reflect underemployment and the untapped potential of the labour force.

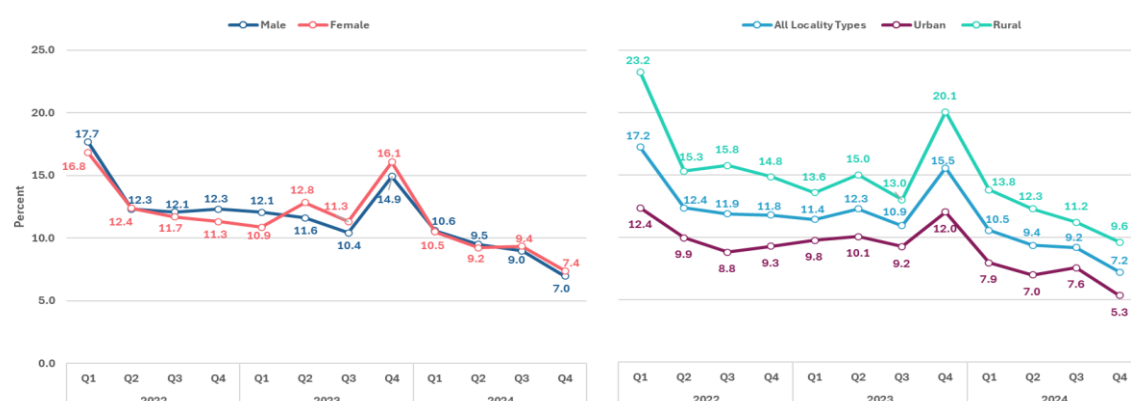
FIGURE 3.30: UNDERUTILISED LABOUR



There is no clear difference in the trend of time-related underemployment among males and females. The trends however have been consistently declining for both sexes from Q4 of 2023 to Q4 of 2024, with the rate for males declining by about eight percentage points and that of females by about nine percentage points.

Time-related underemployment is consistently higher among populations in rural areas than those in urban areas. The urban-rural gap has fluctuated over time, with the highest disparity observed during Q1 of 2022 (10.9 percentage points) and the lowest in Q3 of 2023 (3.7 percentage points).

FIGURE 3.31: UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE BY SEX AND TYPE OF RESIDENCE



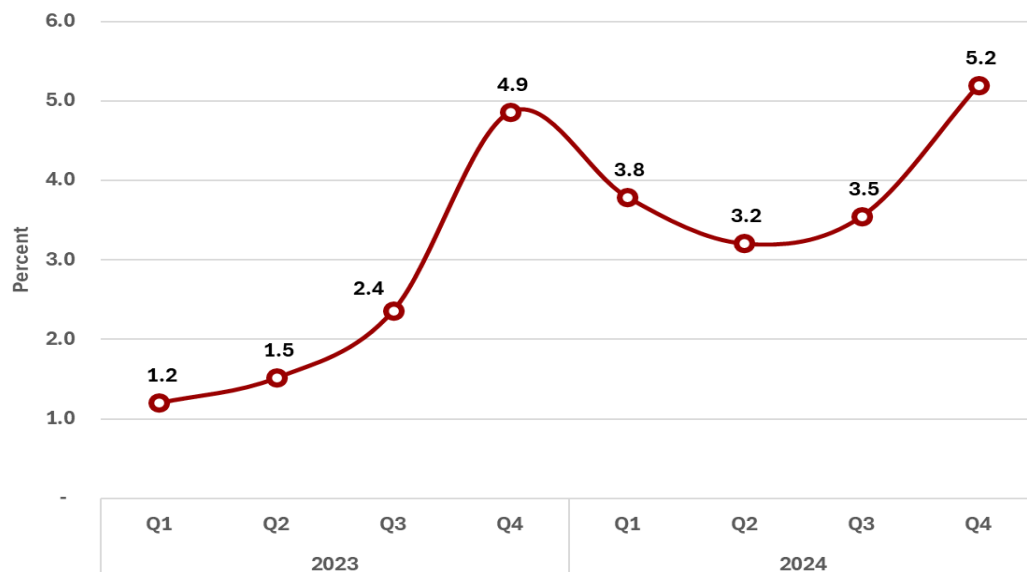
The data reveals persistent regional disparities, with North East, Upper East, Upper West, Bono, Bono East, Western North, and Volta regions consistently reporting underemployment rates above the national average across both quarters.

FIGURE 3.32: UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE BY REGION (2024 Q3 – Q4)



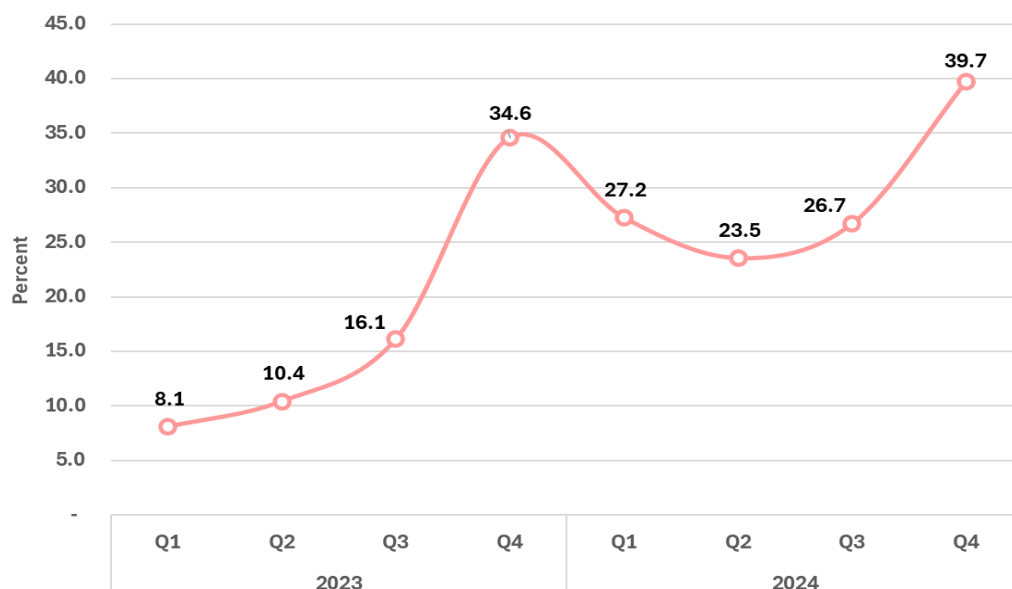
Long term underemployment rate increased from an average of 2.5 percent in 2023 to 3.9 percent in 2024.

FIGURE 3.33: LONG TERM UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



In 2024 Q4, about 4 in every 10 unemployed persons have been unemployed for at least 1 year.

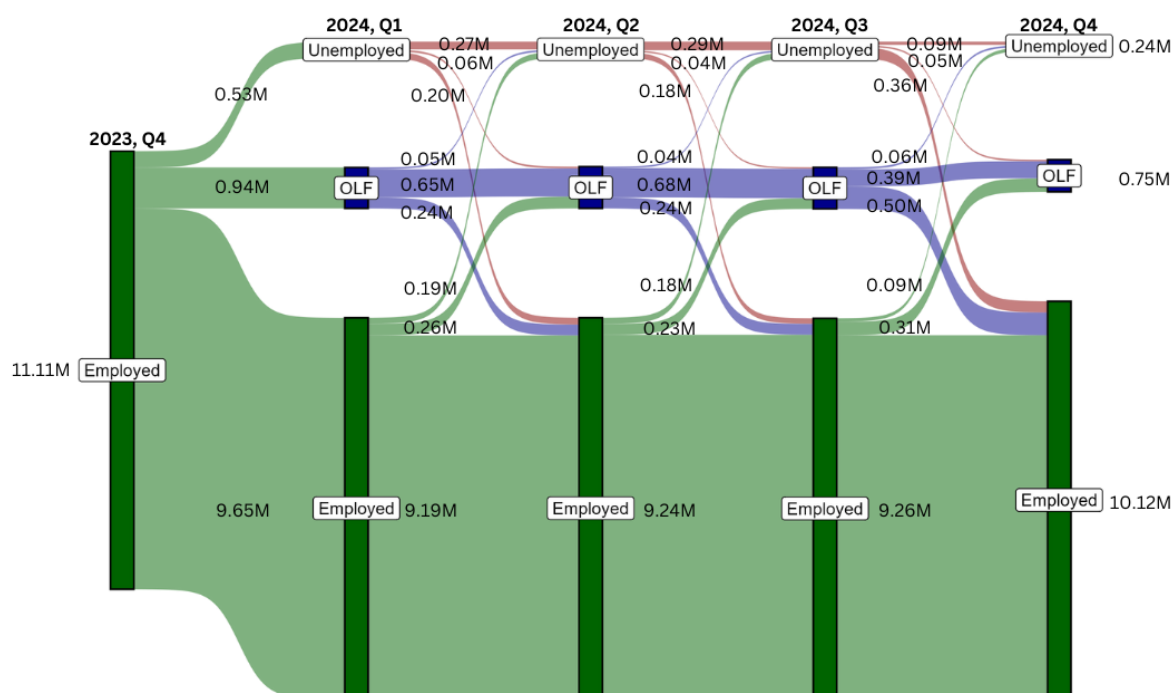
FIGURE 3.34: LONG TERM UNEMPLOYMENT SHARE



For persons who were employed in 2023 Q4 (11.11 million), 9.26 million (83.3%) maintained their employment status by 2024 Q4 while about two percent (240,000) have become unemployed.

More than 700,000 persons who were employed in 2023 Q4 exited the labour force by 2024 Q4.

FIGURE 3.35: LABOUR TRANSITIONS ACROSS ECONOMIC ACTIVITY STATUSES FOR EMPLOYED PERSONS IN 2024 Q4



****Note:**

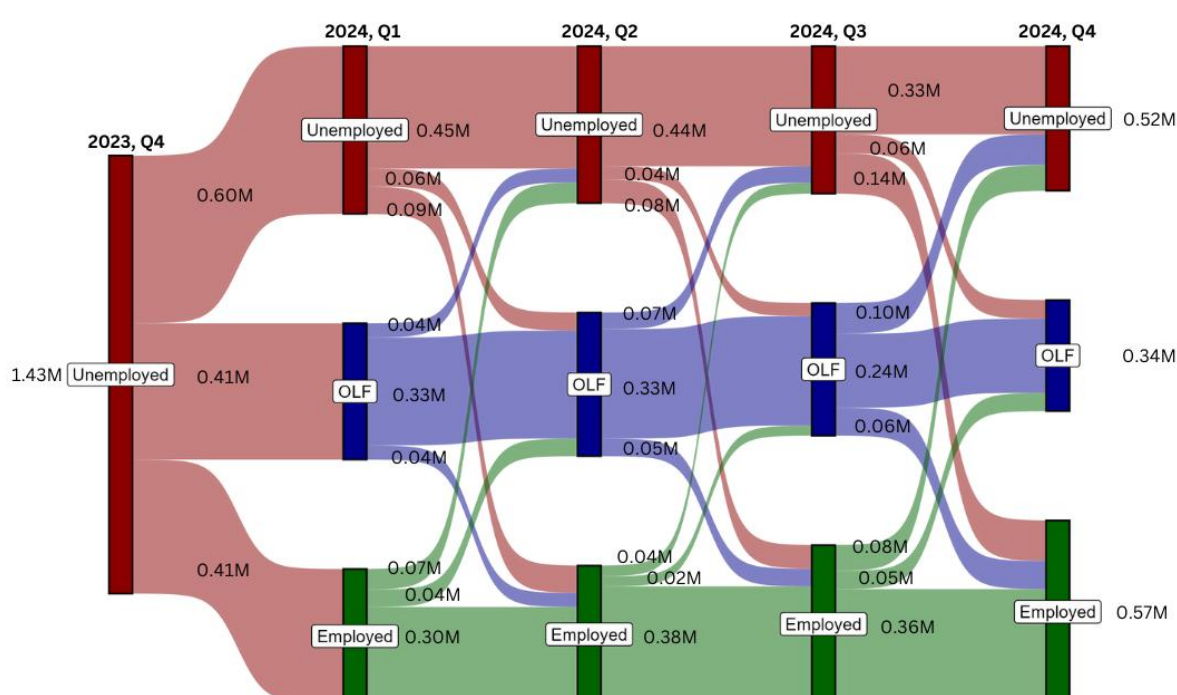
1. The chart was generated using a balanced panel data from 2023 Q4 to 2024 Q4
2. OLF denotes Outside Labour Force

More than a third (570,000) of persons who were unemployed in 2023 Q4, gained employment as of 2024 Q4.

In 2024, at least 14 percent of persons unemployed in each quarter gained employment in the next quarter.

The number of persons who remained unemployed for at least two quarters decreased from 600,000 in 2024 Q1 to 330,000 in 2024 Q4.

FIGURE 3.36: LABOUR TRANSITIONS ACROSS ECONOMIC ACTIVITY STATUSES FOR UNEMPLOYED PERSONS IN 2024 Q4



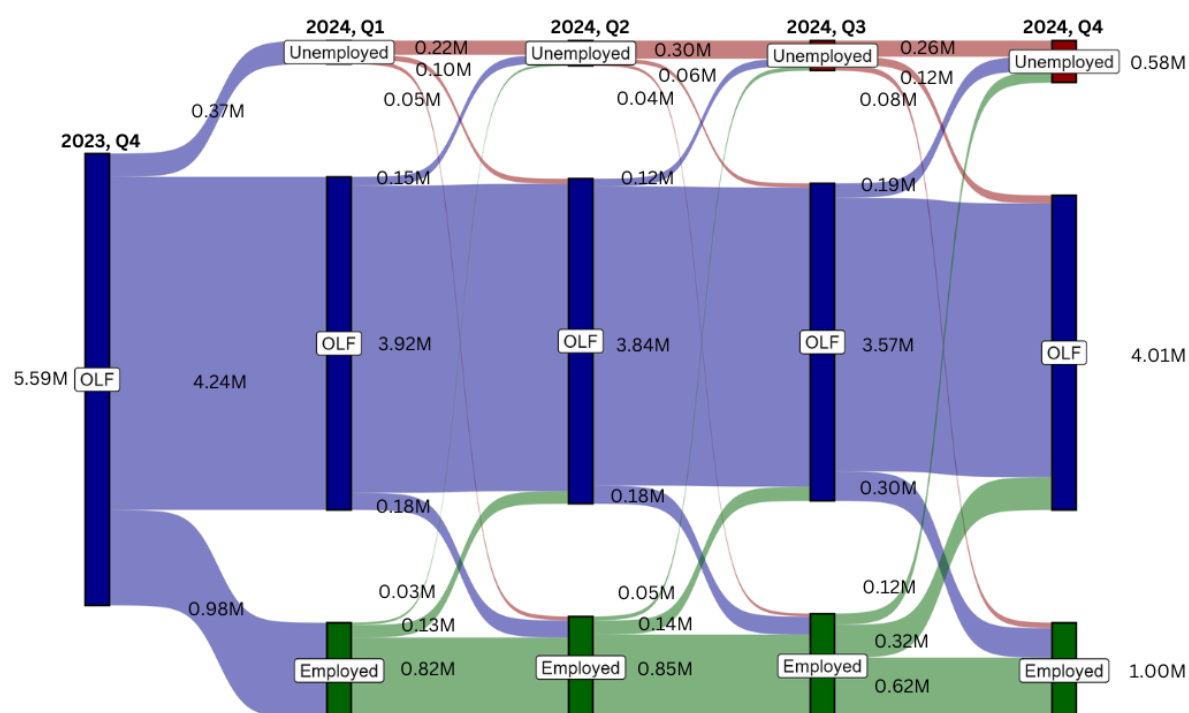
****Note:**

1. The chart was generated using a balanced panel data from 2023 Q4 to 2024 Q4
2. OLF denotes Outside Labour Force

Out of the 1.35 million persons who transitioned into the labour force between 2023 Q4 and 2024 Q1, 980,000 (72.6%) gained employment status.

More than a quarter (28.3%) of persons outside the labour force in 2023 Q4, participated in the labour force by 2024 Q4, with close to two-thirds (63.3%) of them in employment.

FIGURE 3.37: LABOUR TRANSITIONS ACROSS ECONOMIC ACTIVITY STATUSES FOR PERSONS OUTSIDE THE LABOUR FORCE IN 2024 Q4



****Note:**

1. The chart was generated using a balanced panel data from 2023 Q4 to 2024 Q4
2. OLF denotes Outside Labour Force

4. CONCLUSION

The Quarterly Labour Report (July Edition) offers a comprehensive view of Ghana's employment dynamics over the past three years, highlighting both positive momentum and persistent structural challenges. While overall employment has grown and more people have entered the labour force, disparities in participation, unemployment, and job quality reveal that the benefits are unevenly distributed across gender, age, region, and sector.

Overall employment has grown steadily, with the labour force averaging 14 million in 2024 and more than 85 percent employed. Gains are visible in both urban and rural areas, employment rose by 14.9 percent and 11.8 percent respectively. Female participation continues to expand faster than male participation, widening the gender gap in employment to 1.12 million by the end of 2024. Yet, vulnerabilities remain, particularly among youth. Nearly seven in ten unemployed persons are aged 15-35, and unemployment among those aged 15-24 averages 32 percent, peaking at 36.7 percent in Q4 of 2024. Although overall unemployment declined from 14.9 percent in 2023 Q1 to 13.1 percent in 2024 Q4, regional disparities persist. While Eastern, Ahafo, Bono East, Oti, and Upper West consistently perform better than average, regions such as Greater Accra and Ashanti struggle with high unemployment. Some regions, Bono, Northern, Upper West, and Eastern, diverged from the national trend, recording rising unemployment throughout 2024.

Long-term unemployment is an additional concern. Over 355,000 individuals have faced joblessness lasting at least a year since 2022, and by 2024 Q4, four in ten unemployed persons fell into this category. Urban areas bear the brunt, hosting 86 percent of the long-term unemployed, suggesting systemic barriers to job creation and retention. The report also highlights issues of job quality and participation. Women are more likely to be self-employed without employees, while men dominate wage work. Males are concentrated in skilled agriculture, while females dominate service and sales. Time-related underemployment has fallen since 2023 but remains higher in rural areas, with North East, Upper East, and Volta consistently exceeding the national average. Meanwhile, NEET (youth not in employment, education, or training) rates climbed in late 2024, reaching 25.8 percent for those aged 15–24.

Ghana's labour market reflects a dual reality: employment growth and rising female participation point to resilience, but persistent youth unemployment, regional disparities, and long-term joblessness expose structural weaknesses. Sustaining momentum will require targeted, evidence-driven interventions to support young people, women, and lagging regions, ensuring inclusive and equitable labour market outcomes.

5. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2024 labour statistics reveal critical patterns in employment, unemployment, labour force participation, and labour underutilisation across various demographic and regional segments. These findings offer valuable evidence for designing effective, inclusive, and forward-looking labour market policies. This section presents policy implications aimed at improving employment outcomes, reducing disparities, and fostering inclusive economic growth. The recommendations are grouped under four main stakeholder categories: Government, Households/Individuals, and Businesses/Private Sector.

1. Government

a. Strengthen National Job Creation Programs

The continued expansion of employment, especially the net gain of over 409,000 jobs in Q4 of 2024, presents an opportunity to deepen investments in national employment initiatives. Programs such as the Youth Enterprise Support (YES) and the 24-hour Economy policy should be scaled up and targeted at high-growth sectors and vulnerable populations, including youth and women.

b. Tackle Youth and Long-Term Unemployment

The persistent concentration of unemployment among young people, coupled with a significant share experiencing long-term joblessness, signals a deeper structural issue that requires urgent and targeted intervention. These may include subsidised apprenticeships, public works programs, expanded graduate support schemes, and job placement services. Rising NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) rates, particularly in urban areas like Greater Accra, also demand renewed focus on vocational training, re-integration pathways, and early school leaver recovery initiatives.

c. Reduce Regional Labour Market Disparities

The consistent rise in employment in regions like Greater Accra and Western, contrasted with increasing unemployment in others such as Bono and Northern, underscores the need for more balanced regional development. Labour mobility schemes, regional infrastructure investments, and industrial zoning should be prioritised to foster equitable access to jobs across all districts.

2. Households/Individuals

a. Encourage Learning and Career Readiness

Households and individuals have a responsibility to invest in lifelong learning and career readiness. Participation in government-subsidised vocational and digital training programs can equip workers with skills relevant for both formal and informal sectors. Early career guidance for young people is especially important in reducing NEET rates. Parents and guardians can play an active role in supporting children to remain in school or pursue technical and vocational education.

b. Support Labour Force Transitions and Reduce Informality

In the span of a year, approximately 700,000 individuals exited the labour force, while one-third of previously unemployed persons transitioned into employment. Individuals should take advantage of portable skills certification schemes and simplified registration processes to formalise household enterprises. Households engaged in self-employment should also consider joining cooperatives or associations that provide access to microfinance, markets, and business development services, reducing vulnerability to informality.

Promote Gender-Inclusive Labour Market Policies

Although women constitute a majority of employed persons, they face higher unemployment and remain concentrated in low-paying informal activities. At the household level, supporting female members to pursue higher education, technical skills, or STEM careers can help break structural barriers. Sharing household responsibilities more equitably between men and women will also allow female members greater participation in economic activities.

3. Businesses/Private Sector

a. Engage Employers in Workforce Development

The growing labour supply, especially among youth and women, presents an opportunity for employers to widen recruitment strategies. Businesses should be encouraged to invest in internships, mentorship, and graduate training programs. The government should collaborate with the private sector and development partners to support microenterprise growth, particularly for self-employed persons without employees, and help formalise informal businesses through partnerships and financing options.

b. Align Academic Programs with Labour Market Needs

Private sector actors should partner with universities, polytechnics, and TVET institutions to ensure curricula reflect market demands. Embedding employability modules,

supporting digital and trade skills, and offering internship placements can ensure graduates enter the labour force with practical, marketable skills. Establishing vocational training centres in underserved regions will help narrow regional labour market disparities.

c. Support Evidence-Based Interventions and Advocacy

Development partners and industry associations should partner with the GSS and research institutions to produce regular labour market statistics and also analyse employment trends and evaluate the effectiveness of labour market interventions. Whether through digital inclusion programs, youth livelihood schemes, or entrepreneurship training, interventions should be evidence-based and tailored to demographic and regional realities. Development partners should support the building of local capacities for employment planning, data monitoring, and program evaluation.

6. LINK FOR ACCESSING TABLES

Detailed tables on the quarterly labour statistics can be accessed from <https://statsghana.gov.gh/ahies/page/ahies.html> or by scanning the QR code below:



7. LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Name and Contact	Email	Institution	Role
Dr. Alhassan Iddirisu	alhassan.iddirisu@statsghana.gov.gh	Ghana Statistical Service	Government Statistician and National Project Director
Dr. Faustina Frempong-Ainguah	faustina.frempong-ainguah@statsghana.gov.gh	Ghana Statistical Service	Deputy Government Statistician
Mr. Francis Bright Mensah	francis.mensah@statsghana.gov.gh	Ghana Statistical Service	Project Coordinator
Dr. Owusu Kagya	owusu.kagya@statsghana.gov.gh	Ghana Statistical Service	Subject Matter Specialist
Mr. Anthony Oduro-Denkyirah	anthony.oduro@statsghana.gov.gh	Ghana Statistical Service	Subject Matter Specialist
Mr. Felix K. Debrah	felix.debrah@statsghana.gov.gh	Ghana Statistical Service	Subject Matter Specialist
Dr. Linda Akoto	linda.akoto@statsghana.gov.gh	Ghana Statistical Service	Subject Matter Specialist
Dr. Johnson Worlanyo Ahiadorme	Johnson.ahiadorme@statsghana.gov.gh	Ghana Statistical Service	Subject Matter Specialist
Mrs. Jacqueline Anum	jacqueline.anum@statsghana.gov.gh	Ghana Statistical Service	Chief Data Analyst
Mr. Simon Tichutab Onilimor	Simon.onilimor@statsghana.gov.gh	Ghana Statistical Service	Data Analyst
Mr. Peter Yeltume Mwinlaaru	Peter.mwinlaaru@statsghana.gov.gh	Ghana Statistical Service	Data Analyst
Mr. Kwamena Leo Arkafra	Kwamena.arkafra@statsghana.gov.gh	Ghana Statistical Service	CAPI Expert
Mr. Selaseh Akaho	selasehakaho@gmail.com	Ghana Statistical Service	Data Visualisation
Mr. Felix Adjei	felix.adjei@statsghana.gov.gh	Ghana Statistical Service	Graphic Design
Regina Arcton	Regina.arcton@statsghana.gov.gh	Ghana Statistical Service	Report Editor

