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**Quarterly Labour Force Survey,
4th Quarter, 2015
(South Africa)**

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA)

CODEBOOK

SADA 0214

BIBLIOGRAPHIC CITATION

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STUDY DESCRIPTION

SADA 0214

TITLE: Quarterly Labour Force Survey, 4th Quarter, 2015

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Statistics South Africa (Stats SA)

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KEYWORDS: Employment; Unemployment; Household surveys; Housing; Informal sector; Labour supply.

SERIES DATA:

Series name:	Principal Investigator:	Currently available:
Labour Force Survey; February and September	Statistics South Africa	2000 – 2002
Labour Force Survey; March and September	Statistics South Africa	2003 – 2007
The South African Labour Force Survey Panel, 2006	Statistics South Africa	2006
Quarterly Labour Force Survey, 1 st Quarter – 4 th Quarter	Statistics South Africa	2008 – 2015

ABSTRACT:

The Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) is a household-based sample survey conducted by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). It collects data on the labour market activities of individuals aged 15 years or older who live in South Africa. Starting in 2005, Stats SA undertook a major revision of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) which was conducted twice per year since 2000. This revision resulted in changes to the survey methodology, the survey questionnaire, the frequency of data collection and data releases, and the survey data capture and processing systems. The redesigned labour market survey is the QLFS which is now the principal vehicle for disseminating labour market information on a quarterly basis.

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION: South Africa

IMPORTANT VARIABLES: Employment, unemployment, informal sector.

DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES: Age, gender, level of education, marital status, migration, use of health services, economic activity, unemployment, employment and self-employment.

UNIVERSE: Households in the nine provinces of South Africa

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION: Survey Questionnaire

SAMPLING:

The Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) uses the Master Sample frame which has been developed as a general-purpose household survey frame that can be used by all other Stats SA household surveys having design requirements that are reasonably compatible with the QLFS. The 2013 Master Sample is based on information collected during the 2011 Census conducted by Stats SA. In preparation for Census 2011, the

country was divided into 103 576 enumeration areas (EAs). The census EAs, together with the auxiliary information for the EAs, were used as the frame units or building blocks for the formation of primary sampling units (PSUs) for the Master Sample, since they covered the entire country and had other information that is crucial for stratification and creation of PSUs. There are 3 324 primary sampling units (PSUs) in the Master Sample with an expected sample of approximately 33 000 dwelling units (DUs). The number of PSUs in the current Master Sample (3 324) reflect an 8,0% increase in the size of the Master Sample compared to the previous (2008) Master Sample (which had 3 080 PSUs). The larger Master Sample of PSUs was selected to improve the precision (smaller coefficients of variation, known as CVs) of the QLFS estimates.

The Master Sample is designed to be representative at provincial level and within provinces at metro/non-metro levels. Within the metros, the sample is further distributed by geographical type. The three geography types are Urban, Tribal and Farms. This implies, for example, that within a metropolitan area, the sample is representative of the different geography types that may exist within that metro.

It is divided equally into four sub-groups or panels called rotation groups. The rotation groups are designed in such a way that each of these groups has the same distribution pattern as that which is observed in the whole sample. They are numbered from one (1) to four (4) and these numbers also correspond to the quarters of the year in which the sample will be rotated for the particular group.

The sample for the QLFS is based on a stratified two-stage design with probability proportional to size (PPS) sampling of PSUs in the first stage, and sampling of dwelling units (DUs) with systematic sampling in the second stage.

UNITS OF OBSERVATION: Households

DATE OF DATA COLLECTION: Oct – Dec, 2015.

EXTENT OF DATA COLLECTION: 1 data file in ASCII and machine-readable documentation.

FILE SPECIFICATIONS:

Part 1: Data File

Number of cases:	72 345
Number of records:	72 345
Number of records per case:	1
Logical Record Length:	275
Number of variables:	155
Number of kilobytes:	19 029 KB

PUBLICATIONS:

Statistics South Africa. 2016. Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Quarter 4, 2015. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa.

NOTES:

Most questions in the Labour Force Survey questionnaire are pre-coded, i.e. there is a set number of options from which one or more must be selected. For open-ended (write-in) questions, the description will note that post-coding occurred and explain how this was done. For most variables the coding is apparent from the questionnaire (available elsewhere in the documentation) and is not repeated in the variable description. Where the coding is not apparent, the description either provides the codes or indicates where code lists are to be found.

RESTRICTIONS:

Only available to bona fide researchers.

DATE STUDY ADDED:

20 May 2016