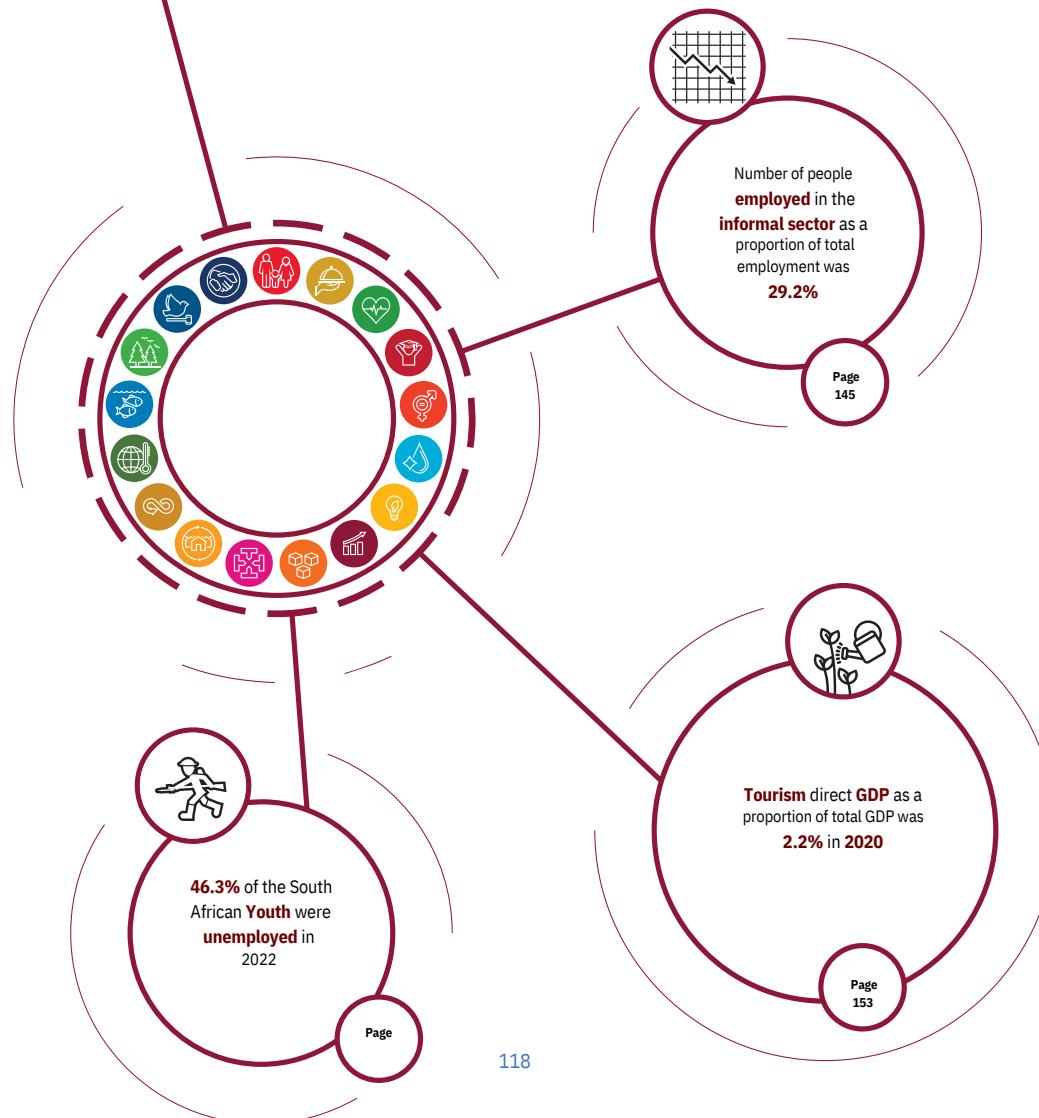




GOAL 8

PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH
FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL



4.8 SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

SDG 8 aims to address and enable the promotion of economic growth and decent employment by tracking performance and providing quantitative reporting of the country's economic activities to inform evidence-based policy formulation. The 2030 Agenda emphasises decent employment and economic growth as an encompassing measure of an economy's or region's progress. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita and the reduction of the rising standards of living continue to be fundamental to the SDGs, especially in middle-income countries such as South Africa. This section of the report looks at the progress made by South Africa in achieving the targets of SDG 8. Key challenges hindering the country's progress towards SDG 8 relate to subdued economic activity as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic leading to higher levels of unemployment, increased inflation, and a decline in investor confidence. Additionally, the global fuel crisis coupled with the country's power utility's failure to supply stable electricity to businesses and households across the country has had a negative impact.

Despite the challenges some progress has been made in achieving SDG 8. These include an improvement in per capita GDP, increased resilience with regards to disaster management as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and a more comprehensive policy environment with aims and objectives in line with SDG 8.

4.8.1 Progress Per Target

Table 8.1: Targets for goal 8

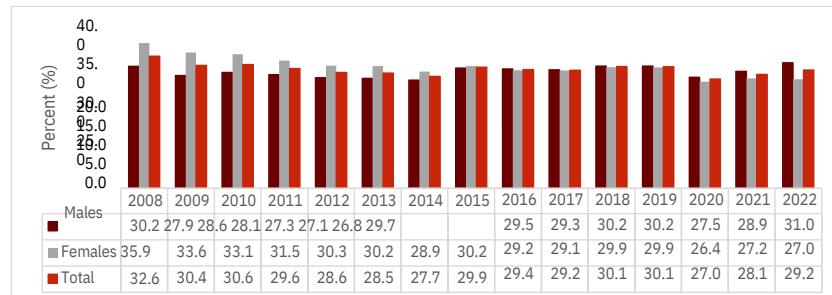
GOAL 8: PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

- 8.1** Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries
- 8.2** Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors
- 8.3** Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
- 8.4** Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead
- 8.5** By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value
- 8.6** By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training
- 8.7** Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms
- 8.8** Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment
- 8.9** By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
- 8.10** Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all

decline in employment levels, with the annual GDP growth rate per employed person peaking at 7.3% in 2021. However, the annual real GDP growth rate per employed person contracted by 3.7% in 2022.

Indicator 8.3.1: Proportion of informal employment in total employment by sector and sex

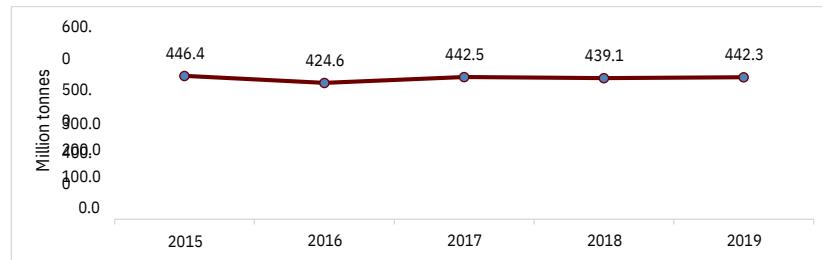
Figure 8.3.1: Proportion of informal employment in total employment by sex, 2008 – 2022



Source: Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) 2008–2022, Stats SA

Figure 8.3.1 shows the number of people employed in the informal sector as a proportion of total employment by sex. Between 2008 and 2014, the number of individuals informally employed as a percentage of the total employment, declined steadily before stabilising from 2015 to 2019. However, a 3.1 percentage point decrease from 2019 to 2020 was observed, while 2020 to 2021 and 2021 to 2022 saw an increase of 1.1%. **Indicator 8.4.1: Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP²**

Figure 8.4.1.1: Material footprint, million tonnes, 2015 – 2019



Source: 2015–2019, OECD

Figure 8.4.1.1, Material footprint, million tonnes, 2015 – 2019 illustrates South Africa's Material Footprint (MF) between 2015 and 2019. Based on the available data, South Africa's total MF exhibited a slight downward trend between 2015 and 2019, from 446.4 million tonnes (Mt) to 442.3 Mt. In 2015, South Africa registered a GDP growth rate of 1.2%, which declined to 0.4% in 2016. In 2017, GDP

² Indicator 8.4.1 also forms part of SDG 12 and more specifically, indicator 12.2.1.

Africa's DMC has been declining since 2007, from 16.7 in 2007 tonnes per capita to 11.9 tonnes per capita in 2019. This indicator also covers **Indicator 12.2.2**.

Indicator 8.5.1D: Median monthly earnings of female and male employees by occupations

Table 8.5.1D: Median monthly earnings of female and male employees by occupations for the

years 2015-2020

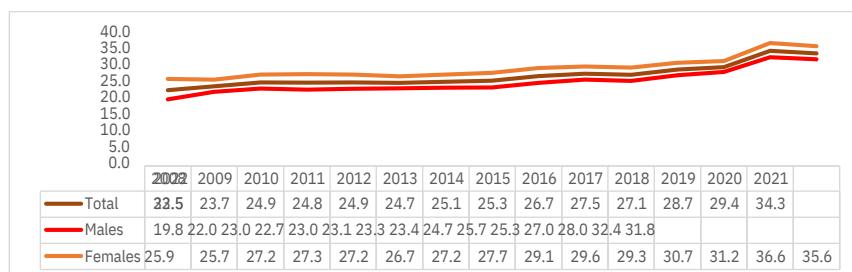
Occupation	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Male	Female										
Managers	R20 000	R15 000	R19 000	R17 000	R19 000	R17 000	R17 500	R19 000	R18 500	R20 000	R15 000	R15 000
Professionals	R21 000	R17 000	R20 000	R18 000	R20 000	R18 600	R21 000	R19 000	R24 000	R21 833	R15 413	R21 000
Technicians	R5 500	R7 000	R7 500	R7 000	R7 000	R6 000	R7 000	R7 000	R6 000	R7 104	R10 000	
Clerks	R4 800	R4 333	R5 430	R4 500	R6 000	R5 000	R5 000	R4 700	R5 000	R5 000	R6 500	R5 800
Sales	R3 500	R2 653	R3 800	R2 800	R3 900	R2 900	R4 000	R3 000	R4 100	R3 500	R4 500	R3 500
Skilled Agriculture	R2 500	R1 213	R2 200	R2 000	R2 200	R1 200	R2 426	R1 800	R3 100	R2 000	R3 250	R1 733
Craft	R3 780	R2 800	R3 683	R3 200	R4 333	R3 100	R4 222	R3 500	R4 333	R3 700	R5 000	R3 900
Operators	R3 600	R2 790	R3 900	R2 800	R4 116	R3 250	R4 000	R3 033	R4 100	R3 500	R5 200	R3 900
Elementary	R2 400	R2 000	R2 600	R2 080	R2 700	R2 166	R2 800	R2 200	R3 033	R2 500	R3 328	R3 000
Domestic workers	R1 500	R1 500	R1 500	R1 500	R1 700	R1 733	R1 500	R1 950	R2 000	R2 000	R2 340	R2 166

Source: Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) 2015-2020, Stats SA

Table 8.5.1D shows a moderate increase in median monthly earnings for most occupation groups from 2015 to 2020. The data indicates that the gap in income, with regard to gender, has narrowed for most occupation groups. This may be due to an increase in the median monthly earnings for female employees. At the same time, males experienced a slight decline in median monthly earnings for occupations such as managers and professionals. However, in seven of the ten occupations, females still earn less than their male counterparts.

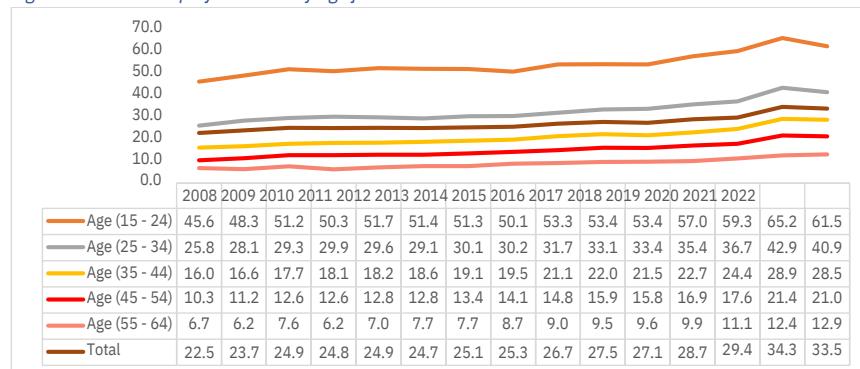
Indicator 8.5.2: Unemployment rate by sex, age, and persons with disabilities

Figure 8.5.2.1: Unemployment rate by sex for 2008 – 2022



Source: Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) 2008-2022, Stats SA

Figure 8.5.2.2: Unemployment rate by age for 2008 – 2022

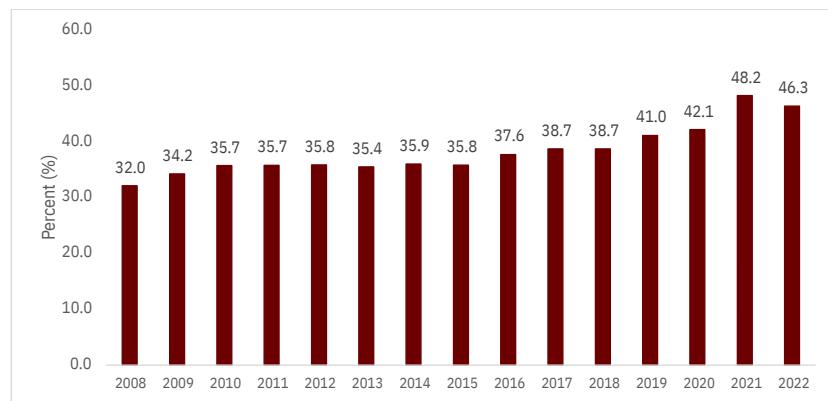


Source: Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) 2008-2022, Stats SA

As shown in Figure 8.5.2.1, the female unemployment rate increased from 25.9% in 2008 to 35.6% in 2022, while the male unemployment rate increased from 19.8% to 31.8% over the same period. As is evident in Figure 8.5.2.2, unemployment remains a burden for South African youth (aged 15-24 and 25-34) with an unemployment rate of 61.5% and 40.9%, respectively.

Indicator 8.5.2A: Youth (aged 15-34 years) unemployment rate

Figure 8.5.2A: Youth (aged 15-34 years) unemployment rate, 2008 – 2022



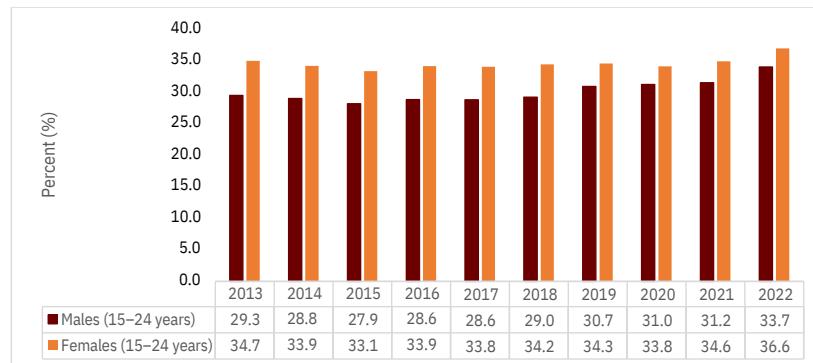
Source: Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) 2008-2022, Stats SA

Figure 8.5.2A, shows that youth unemployment rate increased from 32.0% in 2008 to 48.2% in 2021. This marked a record-high unemployment rate, with almost 50.0% of the youth in the labour force being unemployed.

Indicator 8.6.1: Percentage of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment, or training

(NEET)

Figure 8.6.1: Percentage of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment, or training
(NEET), 2013 – 2022

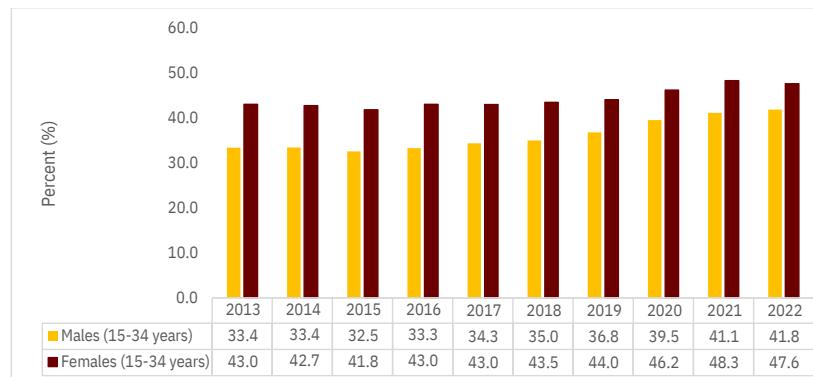


Source: Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) 2013-2022, Stats SA

The NEET rate for youth (aged 15 to 24 years) has remained relatively constant from 2013 to 2022.

The female youth NEET rate increased slightly from 34.7% in 2013 to 36.6% in 2022. The NEET rate for male youth increased somewhat from 29.3% in 2013 to 33.7% in 2022. **Indicator 8.6.1A: Percentage of youth (15–34 years) not in education, employment, or training**

Figure 8.6.1A: Percentage of youth (15–34 years) not in education, employment, or training, 2013 – 2022



Source: Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) 2013-2022, Stats SA

Figure 8.6.1A illustrates the NEET rate for youth (aged 15 to 34 years). As seen for the broader age group, the trend indicates a slight increase over the same period.

4.8.2 Summary of Progress towards Goal 8

SDG Indicator Tracking table						
Target	Indicator	Disaggregation and unit of measure	Baseline value	2019 (or nearest year) value	Latest available value	Status
Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all						
Target 8.1	Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries	Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita	GDP per capita	-0,2 (2015)	-1,2 (2019)	0,8 (2022)
Target 8.2	Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors	The annual growth rate of real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita, expressed as the annual percentage change in current prices	Annual growth rate	(2015) ⁵	(2019) ⁵	(2022) ⁷
Target 8.3	Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services	Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex	Total informal employment	Males 29,7 (2015) Females 30,2 (2015) total 29,8 (2015)	30,2 (2019) 29,9 (2019) 30,1 (2019)	31,0 (2022) 27,0 (2022) 29,2 (2022)
Target 8.4	Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to couple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead	Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP	Material footprint (Tonnes, Millions)	446,5 (2015)	442,5 (2017)	442,3 (2019)
8.4.1			Material footprint per capita (Kilograms in thousands)	8,1 (2015)	7,8 (2017)	7,6 (2019)
8.4.2	Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per GDP, and domestic material consumption per capita		DMC tonnes (Tonnes)	709,2 (2015)	721,5 (2017)	695,4 (2019)
Target 8.5	By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value	Median monthly earnings of female and male employees by occupations	Managers	Males 16 500 (2014) Females 16 000 (2014)	19 000 (2017) 17 013 (2020)	15 000 (2020) 15 413
8.5.10			Professionals	Males 5 850 (2014) Females 5 000 (2014)	7 000 (2017) 6 930 (2020)	7 104 (2020) 7 020
			Technicians	Males 5 000 (2014) Females 3 500 (2014)	6 000 (2017) 3 900 (2017)	6 500 (2020) 4 500
			Clerks	Males 2 383 (2014) Females 2 000 (2014)	2 200 (2017) 1 200 (2017)	3 250 (2020) 1 733
			Sales	Males 3 500 (2014) Females 3 500 (2014)	4 333 (2017) 4 333 (2017)	5 000 (2020) 5 000
			Skilled Agricultures	Males 3 683 (2014) Females 2 200 (2014)	4 116 (2017) 2 700 (2017)	5 200 (2020) 3 328
			Craft,	Males 2 200 (2014) Females 1 200 (2014)	2 700 (2017) 1 700 (2017)	3 328 (2020) 2 340
			Operators	Males 1 400 (2014) Females 23,4 (2015)	1 733 (2017) 27,0 (2019)	2 166 (2020) 31,8 (2022)
			Elementary	Males 27,7 (2015) Females 25,3 (2015)	30,7 (2019) 28,7 (2019)	35,6 (2022) 33,5
			Domestic workers	Males 35,6 (2015) Females (2015)	41,0 (2019)	46,3 (2022)
8.5.2	Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	Males				
		Females				
		Total				
8.5.2A	Youth (aged 15 -34 years) unemployment rate.					

SDG Indicator Tracking table							
Target	Indicator	Disaggregation and unit of measure	Baseline	2019 (or nearest value)	Actual Value	Status	
Target 8.6	<i>By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training</i>						
8.6.1	Percentage of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment or training (NEET)	Total	30,5 (2015)	32,5 (2019)	35,2 (2022)		
8.6.1A	Percentage of youth (15–34 years) not in education, employment or training	Total	37,1 (2015)	40,4 (2019)	44,7 (2022)		
Target 8.7	<i>Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms</i>						
8.7.10	Percentage of children aged 7–17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age	Males	6,7 (2010)	5,3 (2015)	4,9 (2019)		
		Females	7,4 (2010)	5,0 (2015)	5,1 (2019)		
		Total	7,0 (2010)	5,2 (2015)	5,0 (2019)		
Target 8.8	<i>Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment</i>						
8.8.1	Fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries per 100,000 workers, by sex and migrant status	Fatal	47,3 (2017)	29,93 (2019)	31,27 (2021)		
		Non - fatal	4 835,47 (2017)	4 961,83 (2019)	4 654,35 (2021)		
8.8.2	Level of national compliance with labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on regional labour standards and national legislation, by sex and migrant status	Extended Collective Agreements	32 (2015)	34 (2019)	26 (2021)		
		Total number of TUI's membership	190 (2015)	218 (2019)	1 245 (2020)		
		Registrations of Employers' Organisations	914 (2015)	529 (2019)	4 075 (2020)		
		Registered Employers' Organisations Membership	86 087 (2015)	88 087 (2019)	645 (2020)		
		Registered Employers' Organisations figures			95 576 (2020)		
Target 8.9	<i>By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products</i>						
8.9.1	Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate	As proportion of total GDP of growth rate	2,9 (2016)	2,7 (2018)	2,2 (2020)		
Target 8.10	<i>Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all</i>						
8.10.1	Number of commercial bank branches per 100 000 adults and ATMs per 100 000 adults	Commercial bank branches per 100 000 population ATMs per 100 000 population	11,7 (2014)	10,9 (2018)	10,9 (2018)		
Target 8.b.1	<i>Existence of a developed and operationalized national strategy for youth employment, as a distinct strategy or as part of a national employment strategy</i>						
8.b.1	Existence of a developed and operationalized national strategy for youth employment, as a distinct strategy or as part of a national employment strategy			(2020) ^X	(2022) ^X		

 Progress  Stagnant/No change  No Progress  Insufficient/No data

4.8.3 Synthesis

South Africa has made limited progress toward SDG 8. There has been an improvement in access to banking, insurance, and financial services. Furthermore, South Africa has an established and regulated financial sector, with a diverse range of financial products and services typically offered and supported via a national network of an ever-expanding network of access points of service. This provides a solid foundation for advancing financial inclusion sustainably and beneficially.

When considering South Africa's policy environment, the country has the prerequisite policies and strategies that provide an enabling environment for the achievement of SDG 8. These policies are complemented with the appropriate programmes that can yield the desired results if correctly

implemented. Unfortunately, some targets lack measurable indicators, making tracking progress difficult.

Key challenges related to SDG 8 have been the global energy crisis coupled with South Africa's ongoing struggle to achieve a sustained electricity supply. This has had numerous negative impacts on overall economic conditions and productivity, government ineffectiveness across all spheres of government, specifically concerning coordinated policy implementation. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic was linked to a significant decline in employment opportunities and subdued economic activity. Positive outcomes of these challenges have included increased awareness of the necessity of disaster management plans and policies within government to deal with future crises and unforeseen disasters, as well as the increased urgency to move towards alternative energy sources such as renewables. These challenges can potentially contribute to new pathways for economic growth and sustainable employment.