

E Cape suffers SA's highest unemployment

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Despite creating 80,000 jobs in the second quarter, the Eastern Cape continues to suffer the most jobs casualties in SA.

Unemployment in the province has crept to an alarming official high of 35.4%, but is higher if 366,000 discouraged work seekers are factored in.

This is according to the Statistics SA second quarter Quarterly Labour Force Survey released on Tuesday.

The national unemployment rate jumped to an 11-year high of 29% – the highest since 2008.

Limpopo recorded the lowest at 20.3%.

The Western Cape's unemployment rate is at 20.4%, and Gauteng is at 31.1%.

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In the Eastern Cape, 1.3 million people have jobs, but 760,000 are unemployed.

More than two million people in the province are not economically active and of these, the vast majority, 1.6 million live outside of the metro where 810,000 people have jobs, but work and live alongside 473,000 unemployed.

There were 150,000 new entrants into the job market nationally in the second quarter.

Les Holbrook, executive director of the Border-Kei Chamber of Business, said it would take two years before the province turned the tide.

He attributed the fluctuating statistics to the impact of part-time jobs, such as the Expanded Public Works Programme.

“The big thing we would like

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