**Memorandum from the Parliamentary Office**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION 1623**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION OF INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 09/06/2017**

**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER 21 OF 2017)**

**Prof B Bozzoli (DA) to ask the Minister of Higher Education and Training:**

What is the current (a) overall graduate unemployment rate and (b) out of the overall specified rate, what is the percentage of graduates (i) holding a university degree and (ii) holding a college diploma?

**NW1829E**

**REPLY:**

According to the latest Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) Quarterly Labour Force Survey (2017, Quarter 1):

1. The overall graduate unemployment rate currently stands at 17.8%. This figure refers to persons aged 15 – 64 years, who have a tertiary qualification[[1]](#footnote-1), and who are unemployed[[2]](#footnote-2).

(b) (i) 7.3% of persons aged 15 – 64 years, who have a university degree, are unemployed.

(ii) In relation to diplomas, Stats SA does not disaggregate information between Universities or Technical and Vocational Education and Training colleges. 11% of persons aged 15 – 64 years, who have a diploma, are unemployed.

COMPILER/CONTACT PERSONS:

EXT:

DIRECTOR – GENERAL

STATUS:

DATE:

QUESTION 1623 APPROVED/NOT APPROVED/AMENDED

Dr BE NZIMANDE, MP

MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING

STATUS:

DATE:

1. Stats SA defines **Tertiary** to refer to: NATED N4, N5 and N6 part-qualifications (or the older NTC 4, NTC 5, NTC 6); Diploma with less than Grade 12/STD 10; Certificate with Grade 12/STD 10; Diploma with Grade 12/STD 10, Higher Diploma, Post higher diploma (Masters, Doctoral Degree), Bachelors Degree, Bachelors Degree and Post Graduate Diploma, Honours Degree, Higher Degree (Masters/PHD). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Stats SA defines **Unemployed persons** as those (aged 15–64 years) who: a) Were not employed in the reference week; and b) Actively looked for work or tried to start a business in the four weeks preceding the survey interview; and c) Were available for work, i.e. would have been able to start work or a business in the reference week; or d) Had not actively looked for work in the past four weeks but had a job or business to start at a definite date in the future and were available. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)