stats sa
Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa, ISIbalo House, Koch Street, Salvokop, Pretoria, 0002
www.statssa.gov.za, info@statssa.gov.za, Tel +27 12 310 8911

Volunteer Activities Survey

2024

Metadata

Statistical Release: P0211.3

Published by Statistics South Africa, Private Bag X44, ISIbalo House, Koch Street, Salvokop, Pretoria, 0002

Stats SA Library Cataloguing-in-Publication (CIP) Data
Volunteer Activities Survey 2024: Metadata/Statistics South Africa. Pretoria: Statistics South Africa, 2026
69p. [Statistical Release: P0211.3 (2024)]
ISBN: 978-1-83491-767-2

A complete set of Stats SA publications is available at Stats SA Library and the following libraries:

National Library of South Africa, Pretoria Division
National Library of South Africa, Cape Town Division
Library of Parliament, Cape Town
Bloemfontein Public Library
Natal Society Library, Pietermaritzburg
Johannesburg Public Library
Eastern Cape Library Services, King William's Town
Central Regional Library, Polokwane
Central Reference Library, Mbombela
Central Reference Collection, Kimberley
Central Reference Library, Mmabatho

This publication is available both in hard copy and on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.The Quarterly Labour Force Survey data and metadata are available as follows:

1. In a portable file format.
2. SuperWEB2: http://superweb.statssa.gov.za/webapi
3. ISIbalo data portal: https://isibaloweb.statssa.gov.za/idatweb.php

Stats SA also provides a subscription service for publications.

Enquiries:
User information services
012 310 8600
info@statssa.gov.za

METHODOLOGY

Introduction

The Volunteer Activities Survey (VAS) is a household survey conducted every four years as a module linked to the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS). The survey collects information on the volunteer activities (a maximum of three activities) of individuals 15 years and older in South Africa. VAS 2024 comprised two phases, where the first phase involves identifying individuals who were involved in volunteer activities, through the QLFS conducted in the third quarter of 2024 (Q3: 2024). Follow-up interviews were conducted during the second phase, with persons identified eligible for VAS 2024.

Similar with any survey, persons identified eligible for VAS 2024 did not all participate in the survey. This occurrence prompted an adjustment to account for the eligible persons for VAS 2024 who did not participate in the survey. Since the QLFS Q3: 2024 survey data formed the basis for the VAS 2024, the base weights for the VAS 2024 weighting were the final weights for the QLFS Q3: 2024.

Survey requirements and design

The Labour Force Survey frame has been developed as a general-purpose household survey frame that can be used by all other household surveys irrespective of the sample size requirement of the survey. The sample size for the QLFS is roughly 30 000 dwellings.

The sample is based on information collected during the 2001 Population Census conducted by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). In preparation for Census 2001, the country was divided into 80 787 enumeration areas (EAs). Some of these EAs are small in terms of the number of households that were enumerated in them at the time of Census 2001. Stats SA's household-based surveys use a Master Sample of primary sampling units (PSUs) which comprises EAs that are drawn from across the country. For the purposes of the Master Sample, the EAs that contained fewer than 25 households were excluded from the sampling frame, and those that contained between 25 and 99 households were combined with other EAs of the same geographic type to form primary sampling units (PSUs). The number of EAs per PSU ranges between one and four. On the other hand, very large EAs represent two or more PSUs.

The sample is designed to be representative at provincial level and within provinces at the metro/non-metro level. Within the metros, the sample is further distributed by geography type. The four geography types are: urban formal, urban informal, farms, and tribal. This implies that, for example, within a metropolitan area the sample is designed to be representative at the different geography types that may exist within that metro.

The current sample size is 3 080 PSUs. It is equally divided into four subgroups or panels called rotation groups. The rotation groups are designed in such a way that each of these groups have the same distribution pattern as that which is observed in the whole sample. They are numbered from one to four 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 redesigned Labour Force Survey is based on a stratified two-stage design with probability proportional to size (PPS) sampling of primary sampling units (PSUs) in the first stage, and sampling of dwelling units (DUs) with systematic sampling in the second stage.

Sample rotation

The sampled PSUs have been assigned to four rotation groups, and dwellings selected from the PSUs assigned to rotation group '1' are rotated in the first quarter. Similarly, the dwellings selected from the PSUs assigned to rotation group '2' are rotated in the second quarter, and so on. Thus, each sampled dwelling will remain in the sample for four consecutive quarters. It should be noted that the sampling unit is the dwelling, and the unit of observation is the household.

Therefore, if a household moves out of a dwelling after being in the sample for, say two quarters, and a new household moves in, then the new household will be enumerated for the next two quarters. If no household moves into the sampled dwelling, the dwelling will be classified as vacant (unoccupied).

At the end of each quarter, a quarter of the sampled dwellings rotates out of the sample and are replaced by new dwellings from the same PSU or the next PSU on the list. A total of 3 080 PSUs were selected for the redesigned LFS, and 770 have been assigned to each of the four rotation groups.

Weighting

The sampling weights for the data collected from the sampled households are constructed so that the responses could be properly expanded to represent the entire civilian population of South Africa. The weights are the result of calculations involving several factors, including original selection probabilities, adjustment for non-response, and benchmarking to known population estimates from the Demography division of Stats SA.

The base weight is defined as the product of the provincial inverse sampling rate (ISR) and the three adjustment factors, namely adjustment factor for informal PSUs, adjustment factor for subsampling of growth PSUs, and an adjustment factor to account for small EAs excluded from the sampling frame (i.e. EAs with fewer than 25 households).

Non-response adjustment

In general, imputation is used for item non-response (i.e. blanks within the questionnaire), and edit failure (i.e. invalid or inconsistent responses). The eligible households in the sampled dwellings can be divided into two response categories: respondents and non-respondents, and weight adjustment is applied to account for the non-respondent households (e.g. refusal, no contact, etc.). The sampled dwellings with no eligible households, e.g. foreigners only, or no households (i.e. vacant dwellings), do not contribute to the survey.

The non-response adjusted weight is the product of the base weight with the non-response adjustment factor given above. If the PSU level non-response rate is too high, the non-response adjustment is applied at the VARUNIT level, where two VARUNITs have been created by grouping PSUs within strata. PSU level non-response adjustment is applied only if the corresponding adjustment factor is less than 1,5.

Final survey weights

The final survey weights are constructed using regression estimation to calibrate to the known population counts at the national level population estimates (which are supplied by the Demography division) cross-classified by 5-year age groups, gender and race, and provincial population estimates by broad age groups are used for calibration weighting. The 5-year age groups are: 0–4, 5–9, 10–14, 55–59, 60–64, and 65 and older. The provincial level age groups are: 0–14, 15–34, 35–64, and 65 years and older. The final weights are constructed in such a manner that all persons within a household would have the same weight.

Estimation

The final survey weights are used to obtain the estimates for various domains of interest, e.g. number of persons employed in agriculture in Western Cape, number of females employed in manufacturing, etc. The estimates of ratios are obtained as ratios of the estimated totals. Thus, survey estimates for any estimation domain can be computed using the set of final weights for the respondents in the domain of interest.

Reliability of the survey estimates

Because estimates are based on sample data, they differ from figures that would have been obtained from complete enumeration of the population using the same instrument. Results are subject to both sampling and non-sampling errors. Non-sampling errors include biases from inaccurate reporting, processing, and tabulation, etc. as well as errors from non-response and incomplete reporting.

These types of errors cannot be readily measured. However, to the extent possible, non-sampling errors can be minimised through the procedures used for data collection, editing, quality control, and non-response adjustment. The variances of the survey estimates are used to measure sampling errors. The variance estimation methodology is discussed in the next section.

Variance estimation

The most commonly used methods for estimating variances of survey estimates from complex surveys, such as the QLFS, are the Taylor Series Linearization, Jackknife Replication, Balanced Repeated Replication (BRR), and Bootstrap methods (Wolter, 2007).[1] We implemented the replication method for the QLFS mainly because of simplicity.[2] The QLFS sampled 3 080 PSUs by selecting an even number of four or more PSUs from within strata. The Jackknife method would be applicable for the sample design with more than two PSUs per stratum, but this would result in 3 080 replicates, which would be computationally very intensive. The Fay's BRR method on the other hand is applicable when two primary sampling units (PSUs) are sampled from each stratum. Therefore we decided to use Fay's BRR method by collapsing PSUs into two groups of PSUs within each stratum.

Other measures of precision

In practice, the sampling variance itself is hardly ever reported. Instead, users find it more useful to rely on one of the derivatives of the sampling variance, such as the standard error, the coefficient of variation, the margin of error, or the confidence interval. These are all related expressions, and it is quite easy to go from one to the other using simple mathematical operations.

Standard error

The standard error of an estimator is the square root of its sampling variance. This measure is easier to interpret since it provides an indication of sampling error using the same scale as the estimate, whereas the variance is based on squared differences. If $\hat{\theta}$ is the estimate of a given population parameter θ (e.g. true employment but unknown) and $v(\hat{\theta})$ is the corresponding estimate of its variance, then the standard error of the estimate is defined as $se\left(\hat{\theta}\right)=\sqrt{v\left(\hat{\theta}\right)}.$

Coefficient of variation

It is more useful in many situations to assess the size of the standard error relative to the magnitude of the characteristic being measured. The coefficient of variation (cv) provides such a measure. It is the ratio of the standard error of the survey estimate to the value of the estimate itself expressed as a percentage. It is very useful in comparing the precision of several different survey estimates, where their sizes or scale differ from one another.

Confidence intervals

The 95% confidence interval is such that there is a 95% probability (chance of 19 out of 20) of the unknown population parameter θ being within the interval. The 95% confidence interval is given by $\hat{\theta}\pm 1.96\times se\left(\hat{\theta}\right).$ The lower limit of the interval is $\hat{\theta}-1.96\times se\left(\hat{\theta}\right),$ and the upper limit of the interval is $\hat{\theta}+1.96\times se\left(\hat{\theta}\right).$ The width $1.96\times se\left(\hat{\theta}\right)$ is known as half-width of the 95% confidence interval. The smaller the half-width of the confidence interval, the more precise is the survey estimate.

[1] Wolter KM, 2007. *Introduction to Variance Estimation, 2nd Edition*. New York: Springer-Verlag
[2] Note that variance estimation methodology was not implemented for the LFS

Design effects

Most surveys are based on complex designs involving stratification and clustering due to multi-stage designs. Moreover, the weighting involves non-linear adjustments (e.g. non-response and weight calibration adjustments, etc.). It is crucial that these features of the complex survey design be accounted for in the variance estimation (Choudhry and Valliant, 2003). The design effect compares the variance of the estimate from the sample design that was actually implemented to the variance of the estimate that would have been obtained from a simple random sample (SRS) design. Design effect is another way to evaluate the efficiency of a sample design and the procedure used to develop the survey estimates. Design effect is defined as the ratio of the variance of an estimate for a complex sample design and the variance of the estimate under the SRS design with the same sample size. Kish (1965)[3] introduced the concept of design effect to deal with complex sample designs involving stratification and clustering. Stratification generally leads to a gain in efficiency over simple random sampling, but clustering leads to deterioration in the efficiency of the sample design due to positive intra-cluster correlation among units in the cluster (PSUs in the case of QLFS). To determine the total effect of any complex design on the sampling variance in comparison to the alternative simple random sample design, the design effect $(deff)$ is defined as:

$$Deff = \frac{sampling\ \ variance\ \ of\ \ a\ \ complex\ \ sample\ \ design}{sampling\ \ variance\ \ of\ \ simple\ \ random\ \ sample\ \ design}$$

A design effect can be derived for any sampling design and estimator, provided we can compute a sampling variance. It is important to note that the design effect is associated with both the design and the estimator. Therefore, for a given survey, the design effect can vary substantially from one variable to another.

Effective sample size

Another concept that is often used is effective sample size defined as the actual sample size that was selected for the complex design divided by the corresponding design effect. The effective sample size can be interpreted as the sample size that would be needed for an SRS design to obtain the same variance as that obtained with the complex design (i.e. the design that was actually implemented).

Table (i): Response rate by province

Province	Jul – Sep 2024
	Percentages (%)
South Africa	**99.25**
Western Cape	100.00
Eastern Cape	100.00
Northern Cape	100.00
Free State	100.00
KwaZulu-Natal	100.00
North West	100.00
Gauteng	99.26
Mpumalanga	96.40
Limpopo	98.79

The data file

The data file contains the following information for each variable:

Description of variables

Descriptive name: This is a short description of the variable with the variable name in brackets.

[3] Kish L, 1965. Survey Sampling. John Wiley & Sons.

Position of the variable: The position of a variable within a record is recorded in the format (@xxx y.). '@xxx' indicates that the variable starts at position (i.e. column) xxx, and 'y' indicates the length of the field.

Final code list: The range of valid values for variables. For continuous variables it only reflects the upper and lower limits.

Not applicable: The code for 'missing' values is given for each variable (□ = Not applicable).

Note to users: Additional information for further clarity on questions.

DATA FILE

Unique number (UQNO) *(@ 1 18.)*

Unique household identifier allocated to each household.
Valid range: 160100900000008901 – 987105900000009201

Person number (PERSONNO) *(@19 2.)*

Person (respondent) number
Valid range: 01 – 17
This section covers particulars of each person in the household.

Gender (Q13GENDER) *(@21 1.)*

1.3	**Is ……. a male or a female?** 1=MALE 2=FEMALE	□ □

Note to users
This question was asked for all household members, to determine their gender. Enumerators were instructed not to assume the gender of household members by just looking at people's names or physical appearances. In this instance, they had to ask the respondent the gender of each member of the household without any assumptions.

Universe
Every person who had stayed in the households in selected dwelling units at least four nights a week in the four weeks prior to the interview.

Final code list
1 = Male
2 = Female

Age (Q14AGE) *(@22 2.)*

1.4	**What is …….'s date of birth and age in completed years?** Day of birth Months of birth Year of birth Age	

Derived variable
This is a derived variable indicating the age of the household member. Age of the household member was derived from question 1.4 of the questionnare.

This question was asked for each member of the household. The instruction was to write the age in completed years to the nearest whole numbers and not in words. Thus, if a person was two years and six months, the instruction was to write the two completed years. For children aged less than a year, the instruction was to write 000.

Universe
Every person who had stayed in the households in selected dwelling units at least four nights a week in the four weeks prior to the interview.

Final code list
Valid range: 15 – 87

Population group (Q15POPULATION) *(@24 1.)*

1.5	**What population group does ..... belong to?** 1=AFRICAN/BLACK 2=COLOURED 3=INDIAN/ASIAN 4=WHITE 5=OTHER, specify	

Note to users
This question was asked to determine the population group of persons from the selected dwelling units. The respondent had to answer for each member and the enumerator was not to make any assumptions. The enumerator was also instructed not to come to any conclusions, which may be influenced by his observation or using people's names during the interview. This question may seem very sensitive to some respondents, especially in this post-apartheid era, but it is important to find out the composition of the South African population.

Universe
Every person who had stayed in the households in selected dwelling units for at least four nights a week in the four weeks prior to the interview.

Final code list
1 = African/Black
2 = Coloured
3 = Indian/Asian
4 = White

Marital status (Q16MARITALSTATUS) *(@25 1.)*

1.6	**What is ….'s present marital status?** 1=MARRIED 2=LIVING TOGETHER WITH A PARTNER 3=WIDOW/WIDOWER 4=DIVORCED OR SEPARATED 5=NEVER MARRIED	

Note to users
This question is about the marital status of the members of the household. There are different kinds of marriages in South Africa, even if a couple is living together as husband and wife they are regarded to be married. Both modern and traditional marriages are considered in this question.

Universe
Every person who has stayed in the households in selected dwelling units at least four nights a week in the four weeks prior to the interview.

Final code list
1 = Married
2 = Living together like husband and wife
3 = Widow/widower
4 = Divorced or separated
5 = Never married

Highest education level (Q17EDUCATION) *(@26 2.)*

1.7	**What is the highest level of education that …… has successfully completed?** 98 = NO SCHOOLING 00 = GRADE 0 01 = GRADE 1/ SUB A/ CLASS 1 02 = GRADE 2 / SUB B/ CLASS2 03 = GRADE 3/STANDARD 1 / ABET 1 (KHA RI GUDE, SANLI) 04 = GRADE 4/ STANDARD 2 05 = GRADE 5/ STANDARD 3/ AET 2 06 = GRADE 6/STANDARD 4 08 = GRADE 7/STANDARD 5/ AET 3 08 = GRADE 8/STANDARD 6/FORM 1 09 = GRADE 9/STANDARD 7/FORM 2/AET 4 10 = GRADE 10/ STANDARD 8/ FORM 3 11 = GRADE 11/ STANDARD 9/ FORM 4 12 = GRADE 12/STANDARD 10/FORM 5/MATRIC (no exemption) 13 = GRADE 12/STANDARD 10/FORM 5/MATRIC (exemption/bachelor's pass*) ***If code 98 or 00-13, Go to Q1.9*** 14 = NTC 1/ N1/NC (V) LEVEL 2 15 = NTC 2/ N2/ NC (V) LEVEL 3 16 = NTC 3/ N3/ NC (V) LEVEL 4 17 = N4/ NTC 4 18 = N5/ NTC 5 19 = N6/ NTC 6 20 = CERTIFICATE WITH LESS THAN GRADE 12/STD 10 21 = DIPLOMA WITH LESS THAN GRADE 12/STD 10 22 = CERTIFICATE WITH GRADE 12/STD 10 23 = DIPLOMA WITH GRADE 12/STD 10 24 = HIGHER DIPLOMA (TECHNIKON/ UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY) 25 = POST HIGHER DIPLOMA (TECHNIKON/ UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, MASTERS, DOCTORAL) 26 = BACHELORS DEGREE 27 = BACHELORS DEGREE AND POST-GRADUATE DIPLOMA 28 = HONOURS DEGREE 29 = HIGHER DEGREE (MASTERS, DOCTORATE) 30 = OTHER, SPECIFY 31 = DON'T KNOW	

Note to users

Enumerators were instructed that it was only those qualifications already obtained which had to be entered. That means the current level of study with which a person was still busy, was not applicable. It was very important to complete each record even if the person had not attended school. Enumerators were instructed to record diplomas and certificates that were of at least six months' duration.

Universe
Every person who had stayed in the households in selected dwelling units at least four nights a week in the four weeks prior to the interview.

Final code list
98 = No schooling
00 = Grade R/0
01 = Grade 1/Sub A
02 = Grade 2/Sub B
03 = Grade 3/Standard 1/ABET 1 (Kha ri gude, SANLI)
04 = Grade 4/Standard 2
05 = Grade 5/Standard 3/ABET 2
06 = Grade 6/Standard 4
07 = Grade 7/Standard 5/ABET 3
08 = Grade 8/Standard 6/Form 1
09 = Grade 9/Standard 7/Form 2/ABET 4
10 = Grade 10/Standard 8/Form 3
11 = Grade 11/Standard 9/Form 4
12 = Grade 12/Standard 10/Form 5/Matric (No exemption)
13 = Grade 12/Standard 10/Form 5/Matric (Exemption/Bachelor’s pass)
14 = NTC I/N1/NIC/(v) Level 2
15 = NTC II/N2/NIC/(v) Level 3
16 = NTC III/N3/NIC/(v) Level 4
17 = N4/NTC 4
18 = N5/NTC 5
19 = N6/NTC 6
20 = Certificate with less than Grade 12/Std 10
21 = Diploma with less than Grade 12/Std 10
22 = Certificate with Grade 12/Std 10
23 = Diploma with Grade 12/Std 10
24 = Higher Diploma
25 = Post Higher Diploma (Master's, Doctoral Diploma)
26 = Bachelor's Degree
27 = Bachelor's Degree and Postgraduate Diploma
28 = Honours Degree
29 = Higher Degree (Master's/PhD)
30 = Other
31 = Do not know

Question 4.5

Main work (Q45WRK4WHOM) *(@28 1.)*

4.5	**In the job/business that you had during the last week (Monday to Sunday), were you ….** 1 = Working for someone else for pay? 2 = An employer (employing one or more paid employees)? → ***Go to Q4.13*** 3 = Own-account worker (not employing any employee)? → ***Go to Q4.13*** 4 = Helping unpaid in a household business? → ***Go to Q4.13***	

Note to users
This question establishes whether people were employers, wage earners, self-employed, etc. in the main economic activities they were involved in. Only one category had to be chosen. If option '1' was chosen, the instruction was to go to Question 4.6; otherwise skip to Question 4.13.

Universe
All members of the households in selected dwelling units 15 years and older, who were economically active in the seven days prior to the interview and who worked for someone else for pay or employed one or more employees, or did not employ any employees, or helped without pay in a household business.

Final code list
1 = Working for someone else for pay
2 = An employer (employing one or more employees)
3 = Own account worker (not employing any employees)
4 = Helping without pay in a household business
□ = Not applicable

Type of respondent (Q70SELFRESPOND_VAS) *(@29 1.)*

7.0	**Is ……. responding to the questions.** 1 = YES 2 = NO	

Note to users

This question is used to identify whether the response was provided directly by the respondent or by a proxy respondent, and to evaluate the impact of proxy responses on data quality.

Universe

All respondents of working age (15 years and older) residing in the selected dwelling units.

Final code list

1 = Yes
2 = No
□ = Not applicable

Unpaid work for others

7.1	**In the last 4 weeks did you volunteer/do voluntary work or spend any time helping…** ***READ AND MARK ALL THAT APPLY*** 1 = Friends, neighbours, strangers? *(help given to members of own family excluded)* 2 = Organization, associations, clubs, Institutions (e.g. NGOs, schools, online groups religious organisation, etc.) 3 = The community 4 = Nature, wild/street animals (e.g dogs, cats, birds, fish, etc.) 5 = DID NOT PROVIDE UNPAID HELP	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Note to users

Identification of persons who did unpaid work for others in the last four weeks. Four different types of beneficiaries are mentioned to help respondents to understand the question better and facilitate recall.

These types of beneficiaries are exhaustive, but not mutually exclusive. Because of this, the question is used to detect unpaid work done for others and not to establish who the beneficiary was.

This question should not be used to classify respondents as volunteers or to classify their work as direct or organisation-based volunteer work.

Universe

All respondents of working age selected for the module.

Non household members (Q711FRIENDS_1) *(@30 1.)*

In the last four weeks did you volunteer or spend any time helping friends, neighbours, strangers?

Universe

All respondents of working age selected for the module.

Final code list
1 = Yes
2 = No

Organisation (Q712ORGANISATION_1) *(@31 1.)*

In the last four weeks did you volunteer or spend any time helping an organisation, clubs, institutions?

Universe
All respondents of working age selected for the module.

Final code list
1 = Yes
2 = No

Community (Q713COMMUNITY_1) *(@32 1.)*

In the last four weeks did you volunteer or spend any time helping the community?

Universe
All respondents of working age selected for the module.
Final code list
1 = Yes
2 = No

Nature (Q714NATURE_1) *(@33 1.)*

In the last four weeks did you volunteer or spend any time helping nature or the environment?

Universe
All respondents of working age selected for the module.

Final code list
1 = Yes
2 = No

Did not provide unpaid help (Q715NOUNPAIDHELP_1) *(@34 1.)*

Did you organise or coordinate any activities or events during the last four weeks?

Universe
All respondents of working age selected for the module.

Final code list
1 = Yes
2 = No

Collecting and distributing donated goods (Q72DISTRIBUTE_1) *(@35 1.)*

7.2	**In the last 4 weeks, did you spend any time buying, collecting or distributing donated products or goods?** 1 = YES 2 = NO	

Note to users

Identification of volunteer workers who spent any time collecting, buying or distributing goods or products to donate, as these are unpaid services provided to the beneficiaries of donations.

Universe
All respondents of working age who did not report providing unpaid help.

Final code list
1 = Yes
2 = No

Preparing goods to be donated (Q73PREPARE_1) *(@36 .1)*

7.3	**Did you spend any time preparing products or goods to be donated? e.g. cooking, cleaning, arranging, packaging, fixing, ironing or something else** 1 = YES 2 = NO	

Note to users

Identification of volunteer workers who spent some time preparing or processing goods to donate, as these are unpaid services provided to the beneficiaries of donations.

Universe

All respondents of working age who did not report providing unpaid help.

Final code list

1 = Yes
2 = No

Question 7.5

Specific unpaid activities (Q75ActTasksOccupation_1) *(@37 4.)*

7.5	**What kind of help did you provide?** Please name all activities that you can remember. **(Max 3)**	
7.5(i)	**ACTIVITY 1**	

Note to users

This question collects information about the type of volunteer activity the respondent performed. Main activity 1 will be the volunteer activity that the respondent spent the most time on.

Universe

All respondents of working age who reported providing unpaid help or doing unpaid work in connection with non-financial donations.

Final code list

Valid range: 1110 – 9333
□□ = Not applicable

Volunteering for one or more hours *(Q75aHelpHrs4Wks_1)* *(@41 1.)*

7.5a	**In total, during the last 4 weeks, did you spend more than one hour providing all the help you just named?** 1 = YES → *GO TO Q7.6* 2 = NO → *END*	

Note to users

Identification of respondents who during the last 4 weeks did unpaid work for others, for at least one hour.

Universe

All respondents of working age who reported at least one activity.

Final code list

1 = Yes

Beneficiary of unpaid work *(Q76DOACT4_1)* *(@42 1.)*

7.6	**Whom did you help in this activity?** 1 = FRIEND, NEIGHBOUR, STRANGER 2 = ORGANIZATION, ASSOCIATION, INSTITUTION, CLUB, BUSINESS 3 = COMMUNITY 4 = NATURE, STREET/WILD ANIMALS 5 = FAMILY MEMBER OR RELATIVE → ***2nd ACTIVITY OR END***	

Note to users

To identify the beneficiary of the volunteer work

Universe

All respondents of working age who reported doing unpaid work for others.

Final code list

1 = Friend, Neighbour, Stranger
2 = Organisation, Association, Institution, Club, Business
3 = Community
4 = Nature, Street/Wild animals

Hours worked in the LFS reference week *(Q77HOURS_1)* *(@43 2.)*

7.7	**How many hours did you spend on this activity in the last week?** *ENTER "0" (ZERO) IF NO WORK IN LAST WEEK*	

Note to users

This question collects information on the number of hours spent doing volunteer work, using the same reference period as the LFS for hours spent in employment.

Universe

All respondents of working age who reported doing unpaid work for others.

Final code list
Valid range: 0 – 84
□□ = Not applicable

Frequency of engagement in activity (*Q78FREQUENCY_1)* *(@45 1.)*

7.8	**How often did you do this activity in the last four weeks?** 1 = Every day 2 = Every week (NOT EVERY DAY) 3 = Less often (NOT EVERY WEEK)	

Note to users
The purpose of this question is to determine how often the activity was undertaken during the past four weeks.

Universe
All respondents of working age who reported doing unpaid work for others.

Final code list
1 = Every day
2 = Every week (Not every day)
3 = Less often (Not every week)

Hours worked in the last 4 weeks *(Q79TOTALHOURS_1)* *(@46 3.)*

7.9	**And how many hours did you spend on this activity in total, in the last 4 weeks?**	□□□

Note to users
The purpose of this question is to determine the number of hours spent on the activity during the past four weeks.

Universe

All respondents of working age who reported doing unpaid work for others.

Final code list
Valid range: 1 – 240
□□ = Not applicable

Source of information about the activity *(Q79aINVOLVED_1)* *(@49 1.)*

7.9a	**Where did you find out about this activity?** 1 = Social networks 2 = Television 3 = Radio 4 = Newspaper 5 = Family 6 = Friends 7 = Street posters 8 = Other	□

Note to users

The purpose of this question is to indicate how the respondent became aware of the activity.

Universe

All respondents of working age who reported doing unpaid work for others.

Final code list
1 = Social networks
2 = Television
3 = Radio
4 = Newspaper
5 = Family
6 = Friends
7= Street posters
8 = Other

Location of the activity *(Q710LOCATION_1)* *(@50 1.)*

7.10	**In which province was the activity done?** 01 = WESTERN CAPE 02 = EASTERN CAPE 03 = NORTHERN CAPE 04 = FREE STATE 05 = KWAZULU-NATAL 06 = NORTH WEST 07 = GAUTENG 08 = MPUMALANGA 09 = LIMPOPO 10 = OUTSIDE SOUTH AFRICA	

Note to users
This question seeks to find out where the activity was performed, whether the volunteer activity was performed within South Africa or outside South Africa.

Universe

All respondents of working age who reported doing unpaid work for others.

Final code list
1 = Western Cape
2 = Eastern Cape
3 = Northern Cape
4 = Free State
5 = KwaZulu-Natal
6 = North West
7= Gauteng
8 = Mpumalanga
9 = Limpopo
10 = Outside South Africa

Main reason for providing unpaid help *(Q710aAREASON_1)* *(@51 1.)*

7.10a	**What is the main reason you helped in this activity?** 1 = WANTED TO HELP (WAS ASKED/OFFERED TO HELP) → ***GO TO Q7.10c*** 2 = WANTED TO LEARN A PROFESSION/TRADE 3 = WANTED TO GAIN WORK EXPERIENCE → ***2nd ACTIVITY OR END*** 4 = REQUIRED TO COMPLETE (SCHOOL/UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE/COURSE) 5 = LEGAL/CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATION → ***2nd ACTIVITY OR END*** 6 = THREATENED INTO DOING IT → ***2nd ACTIVITY OR END*** 7 = SOCIAL/PEER PRESSURE → ***GO TO Q7.10c*** 8 = OTHER (SPECIFY) → ***GO TO Q7.10c***	

Note to users
To collect data on reasons for volunteering.

Universe

All respondents of working age who reported doing unpaid work for others.

Final code list
1 = Wanted to help (Was asked/offered to help)
2 = Wanted to learn a profession/trade
3 = Wanted to gain work experience
7 = Social/peer pressure
8 = Other (specify)

Unpaid work in exchange for training *(Q710bMOTIVATION_1)* *(@52 1.)*

7.10b	**Did you do it because someone promised to teach you a profession or to help you gain work experience in a profession?** 1 = YES → *2nd ACTIVITY OR END* 2 = NO	

Note to users
To identify cases where unpaid work was done in exchange for a promise to receive support in learning a specific profession or trade; or in exchange for the opportunity to gain work experience in a profession or trade. Such cases are unpaid trainee work.

Universe

All respondents of working age who reported doing unpaid work for others.

Final code list
2 = No
□□ = Not applicable

Labour exchange *(Q710cAGREEMENT_1)* *(@53 1.)*

7.10c	**Did you help because you have an agreement to receive in return assistance with your job or business?** 1 = YES → *2nd ACTIVITY OR END* 2 = NO	

Note to users
This question is used to identify cases where unpaid work was done as part of an explicit agreement to receive, in return, unpaid help with the respondent's own job or business.

Universe

All respondents of working age who reported doing unpaid work for others.

Final code list
2 = No
□□ = Not applicable

Organizer of the activity *(Q710dORGANISE_1)* *(@54 1.)*

7.10d	**Who organized this activity?** 01 = RESPONDENT'S PLACE OF WORK 02 = ANY OTHER ORGANISATION, ASSOCIATION, INSTITUTION, CLUB, BUSINESS → *Q7.11* 03 = COMMUNITY → *GO TO Q7.11* 04 = PERSON HELPED BY THE RESPONDENT → *GO TO Q7.11* 05 = RESPONDENT HIMSELF/HERSELF → *GO TO Q7.11* 06 = OTHER PERSON (SPECIFY) → *GO TO Q7.11*	

Note to users
This question is used to identify the organiser of the activity.

Universe

All respondents selected for **Submodule CVA** answer the question.

Final code list
1 = Respondent's place of work
2 = Any other organisation, association, institution, club, business
3 = Community
4 = Person helped by the respondent
5 = Respondent himself/herself
6 = Other person
□□ = Not applicable

Corporate volunteering (*Q710ePAY_1)* *(@55 1.)*

7.10e	**Did your employer pay you for the time spent on this activity or give you a bonus [e.g. additional paid leave or paid time off]** 1 = YES → *2nd ACTIVITY OR END* 2 = NO	

Note to users
This question is used to identify cases where time spent providing unpaid help for others is compensated by the respondent's employer. Such cases are known as "corporate" or "company" volunteering. They are excluded from the definition of volunteer work, as employees are remunerated for the time spent helping others (e.g. they keep their salaries, receive cash bonuses, get additional days of paid leave, etc.).

Universe

All respondents who reported that the activity was organized by their employer.

Final code list
2 = No
□□ = Not applicable

Entity organising the activity (Q710gINDUSTRY_1) *(@56 3.)*

7.10f	**What is the name of the organization for which you did this activity?**	
7.10g	**What does the organisation/group do (i.e. the main activity of the organisation)?**	

Note to users
This question is used to identify the organisation that organised the specific activity and to capture its main economic activity.

Universe
All respondents reporting that the activity was organized by an organization answer the question.

Final code list
Valid range: 010 – 990
□□ = Not applicable

Support received (*Q711EXPECTCOMP_1)* *(@59 1.)*

7.11	**Sometimes, people who help unpaid receive meals, small gifts or money to cover expenses such as transport, food and accommodation, Did you receive anything in this** 1 = YES 2 = NO → ***2nd ACTIVITY OR END***	

Note to users
This question is used to identify respondents who received some support (cash or in kind) for their participation in the volunteer activity.

Universe

All respondents of working age who reported doing unpaid work for others.

Final code list
1 = Yes
2 = No
□□ = Not applicable

What was received

7.12	**What did you receive?** ***MARK ALL THAT APPLY*** 1 = MONEY 2 = MEAL/FOOD 3 = ACCOMODATION 4 = TRANSPORT 5 = OTHER (SPECIFY)	

Note to users
This question collects data on what respondents received as support for their participation in the activity.

Money received (Q7121CASH_1) *(@60 1.)*

Universe

All respondents who reported receiving support.

Final code list

1 = Yes
2 = No
□□ = Not applicable

Meal/food received (Q7122FOOD_1) *(@61 1.)*

Universe

All respondents who reported receiving support.

Final code list

1 = Yes
2 = No
□□ = Not applicable

Accomodation offered (Q7123SHELTER_1) *(@62 1.)*

Universe

All respondents who reported receiving support.

Final code list
1 = Yes
2 = No
□□ = Not applicable

Transport services provided (Q7124TRANS_1) *(@63 1.)*

Universe

All respondents who reported receiving support.

Final code list

1 = Yes
2 = No
□□ = Not applicable

Other (Q7125OTHER_1) *(@64 1.)*

Universe

All respondents who reported receiving support.

Final code list

1 = Yes
2 = No
□□ = Not applicable

Amount of cash support received (*Q713TOTALCASH_1)* *(@65 8.)*

7.13	**What amount of money did you receive?** *ENTER [**9999**] IF CAN'T REMEMBER OR REFUSES*

Note to users

This question is used to identify cases where the amount of support received for unpaid help (calculated per hour worked) is equal to or higher than one third of the wages in the local labour market. Such work is excluded from volunteer work.

Universe

All respondents who reported receiving money as support.

Final code list
Valid range: 00000000 – 00099999
□□ = Not applicable

Some of the variables were derived from the quarter 4: 2024 QLFS data and merged with the VAS data

Education Status (Education Status) *(@73 1.)*

Derived variable: Derived from Question 1.7: What is the highest level of education that …. has successfully completed?

Final code list

1 = No schooling
2 = Less than primary completed
3 = Primary completed
4 = Secondary not completed
5 = Secondary completed
6 = Tertiary
7 = Other

Main industry (Indus) *(@74 2.)*

Derived variable: Derived from Question 4.2 from the QLFS

Final code list

01 = Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing
02 = Mining and quarrying
03 = Manufacturing
04 = Electricity, gas and water supply
05 = Construction
06 = Wholesale and retail trade
07 = Transport, storage and communication
08 = Financial intermediation, insurance, real estate and business services
09 = Community, social and personal services
10 = Private households
□□ = Not applicable

Main occupation (Occup) *(@76 2.)*

Derived variable: Derived from Question 4.1 from the QLFS

Final code list

01 = Legislators, senior officials and managers
02 = Professionals
03 = Technical and associate professionals
04 = Clerks
05 = Service workers and shop and market sales workers
06 = Skilled agricultural and fishery workers
07 = Craft and related trades workers
08 = Plant and machine operators and assemblers
09 = Elementary occupation
10 = Domestic workers
□□ = Not applicable

Employment status (Status) *(@78 1.)*

Derived variable: Derived from a logical series of questions from the QLFS

Paid work	(Question 2.4a)
Own business	(Question 2.4b)
Unpaid work	(Question 2.4c)

Paid work	(Question 2.5a)
Own business	(Question 2.5b)
Reason absent	(Question 2.7)

Final code list:
1 = Employed
2 = Unemployed
3 = Discouraged jobseeker
4 = Other not economically active

Sector (Sector) *(@79 1.)*

Derived variable:
Derived from a logical series of questions from the QLFS

Work for whom	(Question 4.5)
Income tax deducted	(Question 4.10)
Business registered for VAT	(Question 4.13)
Business registered for income tax	(Question 4.14)
Number of employees	(Question 4.16)

Agriculture is excluded from the formal and informal sector in this variable.
Final code list:
1 = Formal sector (non-agricultural)
2 = Informal sector (non-agricultural)
3 = Agriculture
4 = Private households
□□ = Not applicable

Sector2 (Sector2) *(@80 1.)*

Derived variable:
Derived from a logical series of questions from the QLFS

Work for whom	(Question 4.5)
Income tax deducted	(Question 4.10)
Business registered for VAT	(Question 4.13)
Business registered for income tax	(Question 4.14)
Number of employees	(Question 4.16)

Agriculture is included in the formal and informal sector in this variable.

Final code list:
1 = Formal sector (including agriculture)
2 = Informal sector (including agriculture)
4 = Private households
□□ = Not applicable

Volunteer for activity 1 (vol1) *(@81 1.)*

Derived variable:
Derived from a logical series of questions:

Volunteering for one or more hours	(Q75aHelpHrs4Wks_1)
Do activity for whom	(Q76DOACT4_1)

Final code list:
1 = Yes

Volunteer for activity 2 (vol2) *(@82 1.)*

Derived variable:

Derived from a logical series of questions:
Volunteering for one or more hours (Q75aHelpHrs4Wks_2)
Do activity for whom (Q76DOACT4_2)

Final code list:
1 = Yes
2 = No

Volunteer for activity 3 (vol3) *(@83 1.)*
Derived variable:
Derived from a logical series of questions:
Volunteering for one or more hours (Q75aHelpHrs4Wks_3)
Do activity for whom (Q76DOACT4_3)

Final code list:
1 = Yes
2 = No

Volunteer (vol) *(@84 1.)*
Derived variable:
Derived from a logical series of questions:
Volunteering for one or more hours (Q75aHelpHrs4Wks_1)
Do activity for whom (Q76DOACT4_1)
Volunteering for one or more hours (Q75aHelpHrs4Wks_2)
Do activity for whom (Q76DOACT4_2)
Volunteering for one or more hours (Q75aHelpHrs4Wks_3)
Do activity for whom (Q76DOACT4_3)

Final code list:
1 = Volunteer

Hours of volunteer activity 1 (HrsVol_Act1) *(@85 3.)*
Derived variable:
Derived from a logical series of questions:
Hours worked (Q79TOTALHOURS_1)

Final code list:
Valid range: 1 – 240
□□ = Not applicable

Hours of volunteer activity 2 *(HrsVol_Act2)* *(@88 2.)*
Derived variable:
Derived from a logical series of questions:
Hours worked (Q79TOTALHOURS_2)

Final code list:
Valid range: 1 – 80
□□ = Not applicable

Hours of volunteer activity 3 (HrsVol_Act3) *(@90 2.)*
Derived variable:
Derived from a logical series of questions:
Hours worked (Q79TOTALHOURS_3)

Final code list:
Valid range: 1 – 30
□□ = Not applicable

Volunteer occupation 1 (Voloccup1) *(@92 2.)*

Derived variable:
Derived from Q75ActTasksOccupation_1: What kind of activity did you do?

Final code list:
01 = 1110 – 1999
02 = 2111 – 2999
03 = 3111 – 3999
04 = 4111 – 4999
05 = 5111 – 5999
06 = 6111 – 6999
07 = 7111 – 7999
08 = 8111 – 8999 and Q75ActTasksOccupation_1 ne 8888
09 = 9111 – 9998

01 Legislators, senior officials and managers
02 Professionals
03 Technical and associate professionals
04 Clerks
05 Sales and service workers
06 Skilled agricultural and fishery workers
07 Craft and related trades workers
08 Plant and machine operators
09 Elementary occupation
10 Armed forces, occupations unspecified and not elsewhere classified and not economically active persons
11 Other

Volunteer occupation 2 (Voloccup2) *(@94 2.)*

Derived variable:
Derived from Q75ActTasksOccupation_2: What kind of activity did you do?

Final code list:
01 = 1110 – 1999
02 = 2111 – 2999
03 = 3111 – 3999
04 = 4111 – 4999
05 = 5111 – 5999
06 = 6111 – 6999
07 = 7111 – 7999
08 = 8111 – 8999 and Q75ActTasksOccupation_2 ne 8888
09 = 9111 – 9998
11 = 0830 or 0840 or 0850

01 Legislators, senior officials and managers
02 Professionals
03 Technical and associate professionals
04 Clerks
05 Sales and service workers
06 Skilled agricultural and fishery workers
07 Craft and related trades workers
08 Plant and machine operators
09 Elementary occupation

Volunteer occupation 3 (Voloccup3) *(@96 2.)*

Derived variable:
Derived from Q75ActTasksOccupation_3: What kind of activity did you do?

Final code list:
01 = 1110 – 1999
02 = 2111 – 2999
03 = 3111 – 3999
04 = 4111 – 4999
05 = 5111 – 5999
07 = 7111 – 7999
08 = 8111 – 8999 and Q75ActTasksOccupation_3 ne 8888
09 = 9111 – 9998
11 = 0830 or 0840 or 0850

03 Technical and associate professionals
05 Sales and service workers
07 Craft and related trades workers
08 Plant and machine operators
09 Elementary occupation

Volunteer industry 1 (Volindus1) *(@98 2.)*

Derived variable:
Derived from Q710gINDUSTRY_1: What is the main activity of this organisation?

Final code list:
01 = 100 – 199
03 = 300 – 399
05 = 500 – 599
06 = 600 – 699
07 = 700 – 799
08 = 800 – 899 and Q710gINDUSTRY_1 ne 888
09 = 900 – 998
10 =010 – 090
11 = 020 – 090 or 888 or 999

01 Agriculture
03 Manufacturing
05 Construction
06 Trade
07 Transport
08 Finance
09 Services
10 Private households
11 Other

Volunteer industry (Volindus2) *(@100 2.)*

Derived variable:
Derived from Q710gINDUSTRY_2: What is the main activity of this organisation?

Final code list:
03 = 300 – 399
06 = 600 – 699
09 = 900 – 998
03 Manufacturing
06 Trade
09 Services

Volunteer industry 3 (Volindus3) *(@102 2.)*

Derived variable:
Derived from Q710gINDUSTRY_3: What is the main activity of this organisation?

Final code list:
09 = 900 – 998
09 Services

Value 1 (Value1) *(@104 12.9)*

Derived variable:
Derived from a logical series of questions:

Hours worked (*Q79TOTALHOURS_1*)	(Question 7.9_1)
Monthly earnings for employees *(Q54a_Monthly)*	(Question 5.4.a)
Monthly earnings for employers and own-account workers (*Q57a_Monthly)*	(Question 5.7.a)
Salary category *(Q58SALARYCATEGORY)*	(Question 5.8)

Final code list:
Valid range: 23.255813953 – 20465.116278
□□ = Not applicable

Value 2 (Value2) *(@116 12.9)*

Derived variable:
Derived from a logical series of questions:

Hours worked (*Q79TOTALHOURS_2*)	(Question 7.9_2)
Monthly earnings for employees *(Q54a_Monthly)*	(Question 5.4.a)
Monthly earnings for employers and own-account workers (*Q54a_Monthly)*	(Question 5.7.a)
Salary category *(Q58SALARYCATEGORY)*	(Question 5.8)

Final code list:
Valid range: 23.772609819 – 4341.0852714
□□ = Not applicable

Value 3 (Value3) *(@128 12.9)*

Derived variable:
Derived from a logical series of questions:

Hours worked (*Q79TOTALHOURS_1*)	(Question 7.9_3)
Monthly earnings for employees *(Q54a_Monthly)*	(Question 5.4.a)
Monthly earnings for employers and own-account workers (*Q57a_Monthly)*	(Question 5.7.a)
Salary category *(Q58SALARYCATEGORY)*	(Question 5.8)

Final code list:
Valid range: 23.772609819 – 852.7131783
□□ = Not applicable

Age group (Age_grp1) *(@140 2.)*

Derived variable: Derived from Question 1.4: What is …'s date of birth and age in completed years?

Final code list
04 = Age 15–19
05 = Age 20–24
06 = Age 25–29
07 = Age 30–34
08 = Age 35–39
09 = Age 40–44
10 = Age 45–49
11 = Age 50–54
12 = Age 55–59
13 = Age 60–64
14 = Age 65–69
15 = Age 70–74
16 = Age 75+

Geography Type *(Geo_type_code)* *(@142 1.)*
Classification according to the settlement characteristics

Final code list

1 = Urban
2 = Traditional
3 = Farms

Stratum (Stratum) *(@143 5.)*

Note to users

Six-digit number representing stratum formed during Master Sample 2006 where (digit 1 = province based on 2005 provincial boundaries; digits 2 & 3 = metro/non-metro; digit 4 = geography type; digits 5 & 6 = for sequential numbering).

Valid range: 10101 – 90401

Province (Province) *(@148 1.)*

South African provinces as at December 2005 released by the Municipal Demarcation Board in January 2006.

Final code list
1 = Western Cape
2 = Eastern Cape
3 = Northern Cape
4 = Free State
5 = KwaZulu-Natal
6 = North West
7 = Gauteng
8 = Mpumalanga
9 = Limpopo

Metro/non-metro (Metro_code) *(@149 2.)*

Derived variable: Derived from stratum

Final code list

01 = WC – Non-metro
02 = WC – City of Cape Town
03 = EC – Non-metro
04 = EC – Buffalo City
05 = EC – Nelson Mandela Bay
06 = NC – Non-metro
07 = FS – Non-metro
08 = FS – Mangaung
09 = KZN – Non-metro
10 = KZN – eThekwini
11 = NW – Non-metro
12 = GP – Non-metro
13 = GP – Ekurhuleni
14 = GP – City of Johannesburg
15 = GP – City of Tshwane
16 = MP – Non-metro
17 = LP – Non-metro

Weight (Vas_wgt) *(@151 12.8)*

Final code list:
Valid range: 50 – 3507.6299406