

# Factors that affect discouragement: A South African labour market analysis

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[https://doi.org/10.35609/gcbssproceeding.2020.11\(90\)](https://doi.org/10.35609/gcbssproceeding.2020.11(90))

## ABSTRACT

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Labour markets across the world have in recent years been characterised by instability and scarce employment opportunities. Despite the fact that the 21st century has carried with it massive technological change and a rise in the significance of education for better employment prospects, it has moreover brought about expanded vulnerability which has neglected to ensure employment for work-searchers. For those who want to work, the inability to find employment has been a source of enormous adversities both personally and economically. This is not unique to South Africa as the country is plagued with very high unemployment rates across all age categories and continually rising numbers of discouraged work-seekers. Although unemployment indicators have to a great extent followed international standards, the failure to incorporate those who have abstained from searching has inadvertently contributed to a lack of understanding regarding the nature of discouragement in the labour market.