



Labour Market Bulletin

Quebec

January 2016



This Labour Market Bulletin provides an analysis of Labour Force Survey results for the province of Quebec and its regions.

OVERVIEW

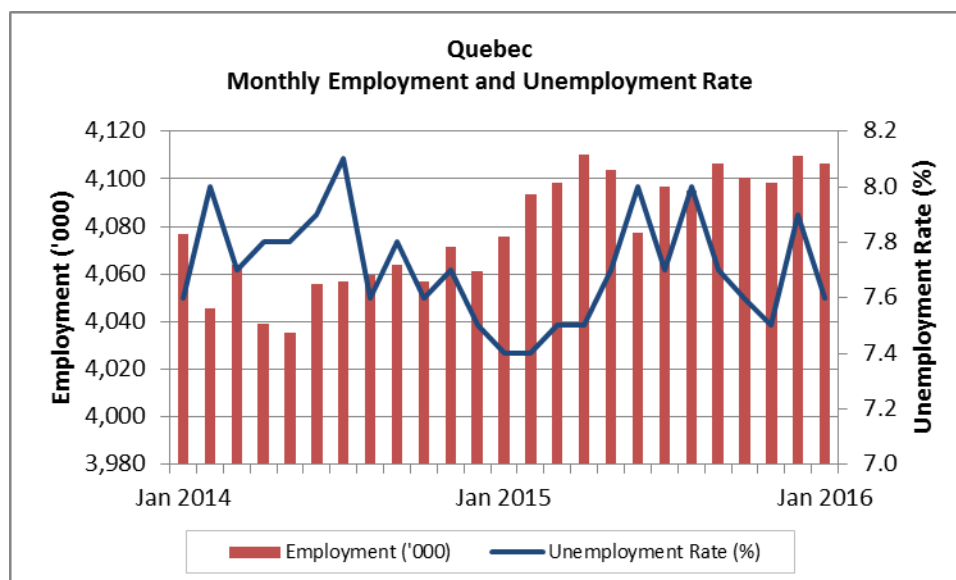
The year 2016 began with a slight employment decline in Quebec. According to the latest estimates by Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey (LFS), the number of employed people fell by 0.1% between December 2015 and January 2016, corresponding to loss of 3,200 jobs. Increased employment in the private sector could not offset job losses in the public sector and among self-employed workers. Thanks to employment gains during 2015, the yearly picture is brighter, with an employment increase of 0.7% (or +30,500 jobs) compared to January 2015. Compared to December 2015, the number of full-time jobs posted a significant increase (+13,900 jobs or 0.4%), which was completely erased by the decline of part-time employment (-17,200 jobs or -2.2%). Full-time employment levels reached an all-time low in the province, with 3,324,400 jobs. These movements between part-time and full-time jobs lowered the share of part-time jobs in total employment to 19%, the lowest rate posted over the past two years.

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	January 2016	December 2015	January 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	6,865.9	6,862.2	6,825.0	3.7	0.1	40.9	0.6
Labour Force ('000)	4,445.2	4,459.8	4,401.2	-14.6	-0.3	44.0	1.0
Employment ('000)	4,106.4	4,109.6	4,075.9	-3.2	-0.1	30.5	0.7
Full-Time ('000)	3,324.4	3,310.5	3,257.0	13.9	0.4	67.4	2.1
Part-Time ('000)	781.9	799.1	818.9	-17.2	-2.2	-37.0	-4.5
Unemployment ('000)	338.8	350.2	325.3	-11.4	-3.3	13.5	4.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.6	7.9	7.4	-0.3	-	0.2	-
Participation Rate (%)	64.7	65.0	64.5	-0.3	-	0.2	-
Employment Rate (%)	59.8	59.9	59.7	-0.1	-	0.1	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0087



Employment was fairly stable in Canada compared to December 2015, whereas, among the provinces, only Ontario (+19,800 jobs or 0.3%) and, to a lesser degree, British Columbia (+1,200 jobs of 0.1%) experienced job increases since the last month.

Due to a significant decline of the labour force, the variation of the unemployment rate is misleading: it fell by three tenths of a percentage point compared to December 2015, to 7.6%. Since the labour force grew in December 2015 (+30,700), then fell in January 2016 (-14,600), this variation is probably a correction due to data volatility, rather than a trend. Consequently, since last month, the participation rate fell by 0.3 percentage points, but remains higher than where it was 12 months earlier (+0.2 percentage points). Mirroring the slight decline of employment, the employment rate fell by one tenth of a percentage point, to 59.8%.

In regards to age groups, employment among 15-to-24 year-olds fell by 1% in Quebec since January 2015 (-5,500 jobs). The losses occurred solely in part-time employment (-30,500 jobs), since full-time employment grew during the same period (+25,000 jobs). It is worth noting that, although employment among workers age 55 and older posted a significant increase since last year (+24,300 jobs), their employment rate was barely impacted (+0.1 percentage point), since this population grew at a faster pace than its number of employed workers.

Quebec Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	January 2016	December 2015	January 2015	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	7.6	7.9	7.4	-0.3	0.2
25 years and over	6.8	7.0	6.5	-0.2	0.3
Men - 25 years and over	7.5	7.6	7.0	-0.1	0.5
Women - 25 years and over	6.0	6.3	6.0	-0.3	0.0
15 to 24 years	12.4	12.9	12.6	-0.5	-0.2
Men - 15 to 24 years	14.6	16.4	16.2	-1.8	-1.6
Women - 15 to 24 years	10.2	9.6	9.0	0.6	1.2

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0087

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

At the industrial level, the goods-producing sector experienced a growth of 6,800 jobs (+0.8%) compared to the previous month, thanks to gains in utilities, construction and manufacturing. However, compared to January 2015, the situation is completely different: the goods-producing sector fell by 1.3% (10,700 jobs). Employment levels in the construction industry posted a significant decline over the past year, despite being very dynamic for 10 years. On the other hand, the manufacturing industry saw an upward trend over the previous year, thanks, amongst other things, a slow growth in exports, which benefited from the weak Canadian dollar and improving economic outlooks in the US.

Although the service sector fell (-0.3%) compared to December 2015, the picture is more positive than at the same date in the previous year, with a growth of 1.3% (+41,100 jobs). Business, building, and other support services, as well as healthcare and social assistance posted the most significant increases, whereas educational services, trade, as well as finance, insurance, real estate and rental and leasing services showed a downward trend over the year.

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	January 2016	December 2015	January 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	4,106.4	4,109.6	4,075.9	-3.2	-0.1	30.5	0.7
Goods-producing sector	845.0	838.2	855.7	6.8	0.8	-10.7	-1.3
Agriculture	59.6	61.3	57.1	-1.7	-2.8	2.5	4.4
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	31.1	32.3	32.0	-1.2	-3.7	-0.9	-2.8
Utilities	28.7	26.5	29.0	2.2	8.3	-0.3	-1.0
Construction	230.1	227.4	257.3	2.7	1.2	-27.2	-10.6
Manufacturing	495.4	490.7	480.3	4.7	1.0	15.1	3.1
Services-producing sector	3,261.4	3,271.4	3,220.3	-10.0	-0.3	41.1	1.3
Trade	647.0	652.8	652.0	-5.8	-0.9	-5.0	-0.8
Transportation and warehousing	193.7	196.8	188.6	-3.1	-1.6	5.1	2.7
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	209.7	210.1	218.9	-0.4	-0.2	-9.2	-4.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	315.6	323.9	304.4	-8.3	-2.6	11.2	3.7
Business, building and other support services	180.8	176.7	161.2	4.1	2.3	19.6	12.2
Educational services	267.4	272.4	280.5	-5.0	-1.8	-13.1	-4.7
Health care and social assistance	585.9	583.4	561.8	2.5	0.4	24.1	4.3
Information, culture and recreation	175.6	172.0	181.2	3.6	2.1	-5.6	-3.1
Accommodation and food services	279.4	280.9	282.7	-1.5	-0.5	-3.3	-1.2
Other services	166.2	160.7	159.9	5.5	3.4	6.3	3.9
Public administration	240.0	241.7	228.9	-1.7	-0.7	11.1	4.8

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0088

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

From a regional perspective, all of the Resource Regions registered employment increases since January 2015, except for Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean, where employment fell by 1.3%. The Intermediary Regions, except Centre-du-Québec, saw their employment levels decline since the previous year. In the Greater Montréal region, job losses in the Laval region (-29,500) were completely offset by gains in the Laurentides (+19,100) and Montérégie (+12,300) regions. It is worth noting that the Laval region showed a downward trend in employment over several consecutive months. Finally, the two Capitals saw employment growth over the past 12 months, namely 5.8% in Capitale-Nationale and 5.6% in Outaouais.

The Centre-du-Québec, Laurentides and Abitibi-Témiscamingue regions posted the most significant decreases in unemployment rates, whereas the most significant increases were observed in Mauricie, Laval and Montréal. Unlike in Mauricie and Laval, the change in the unemployment rate in Montréal can be explained by a faster increase of the labour force than that of employment, rather by a deterioration of the labour market. The analysis of the other indicators supports this observation. For example, the employment rate remained stable, at 57.3%, over the past year. In comparison, the employment rate in the Laval region fell by 8.9% over the same period.

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	January 2016 ('000)	January 2015 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	January 2016 (%)	January 2015 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Quebec	4,061.8	4,027.8	0.8	7.6	7.5	0.1
Economic Regions						
Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine	35.2	32.9	7.0	17.4	19.0	-1.6
Bas-Saint-Laurent	85.7	82.8	3.5	9.1	8.4	0.7
Capitale-Nationale	400.2	378.1	5.8	4.9	5.6	-0.7
Chaudière-Appalaches	215.6	221.6	-2.7	5.6	5.1	0.5
Estrie	153.0	159.9	-4.3	6.5	6.3	0.2
Centre-du-Québec	108.7	105.2	3.3	6.7	10.2	-3.5
Montérégie	787.3	775.0	1.6	5.6	5.6	0.0
Montréal	957.5	949.7	0.8	10.7	9.3	1.4
Laval	196.3	225.8	-13.1	8.6	6.3	2.3
Lanaudière	249.7	252.4	-1.1	7.2	7.2	0.0
Laurentides	308.5	289.4	6.6	5.0	8.1	-3.1
Outaouais	201.9	191.2	5.6	6.9	8.2	-1.3
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	71.7	71.2	0.7	6.0	8.2	-2.2
Mauricie	114.6	117.5	-2.5	10.9	6.2	4.7
Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean	124.8	126.5	-1.3	8.2	9.1	-0.9
Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec	51.2	48.7	5.1	9.9	10.3	-0.4

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0122

Note: In preparing this document, the authors have taken care to provide clients with labour market information that is timely and accurate at the time of publication. Since labour market conditions are dynamic, some of the information presented here may have changed since this document was published. Users are encouraged to also refer to other sources for additional information on the local economy and labour market. Information contained in this document does not necessarily reflect official policies of Employment and Social Development Canada.

Prepared by: Labour Market Analysis Directorate, Service Canada, Quebec

For further information, please contact the Labour Market Analysis Directorate at:

NC-LMI-IMT-GD@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca

For information on the Labour Force Survey, please visit the Statistics Canada website at:

www.statcan.gc.ca

© Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada, represented by Employment and Social Development Canada, 2015, all rights reserved