



Labour Market Bulletin

Quebec

February 2016



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

OVERVIEW

Quebec recorded a slight employment growth in February 2016, compared to the previous month. According to the latest estimates by Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey (LFS), the province had 3,400 more employed people compared to January 2016 (+0.1%), which completely offset the previous employment decline that occurred between December 2015 and January 2016 (-3,200 jobs). Full-time employment (+1,600 jobs), as well as part-time employment (+2,000 jobs) grew, compared to the previous month. It is worth noting that these gains are entirely attributable to the private sector, whereas employment in the public sector and among self-employed workers fell since the previous month. Unlike in Quebec, employment levels fell in Canada (-2,300 jobs) and Ontario (-11,200 jobs) compared to January 2016. On the other hand, on a yearly basis, employment growth was higher in Canada (0.7%) and Ontario (1.1%) than in Quebec, where it grew 0.4% since February 2014. This growth stemmed entirely from full-time employment (+69,500 jobs). Part-time employment suffered a significant setback over the past few months (+52,800), despite the above-mentioned growth during the previous month.

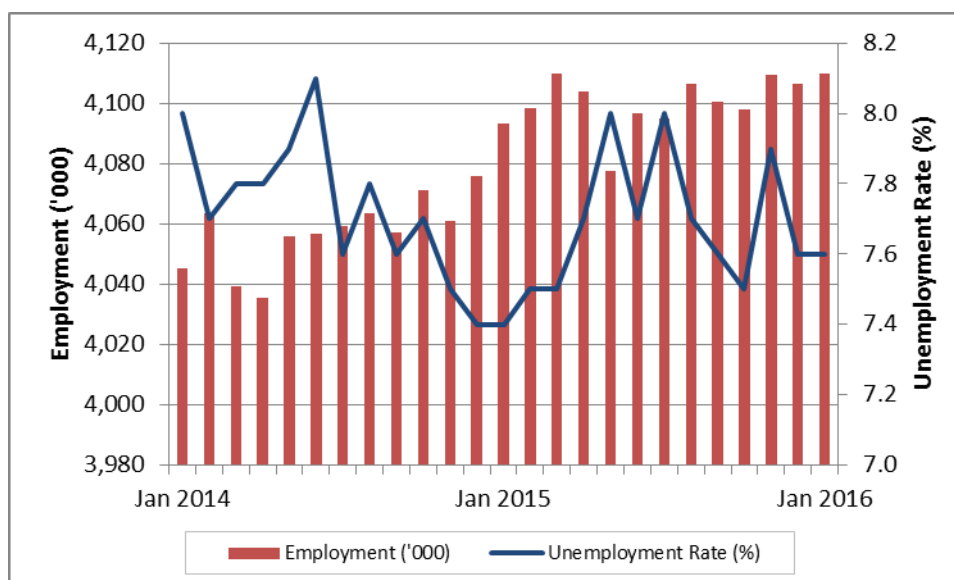
Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	February 2016	January 2016	February 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	6,869.3	6,865.9	6,827.5	3.4	0.0	41.8	0.6
Labour Force ('000)	4,447.4	4,445.2	4,421.8	2.2	0.0	25.6	0.6
Employment ('000)	4,109.8	4,106.4	4,093.2	3.4	0.1	16.6	0.4
Full-Time ('000)	3,326.0	3,324.4	3,256.5	1.6	0.0	69.5	2.1
Part-Time ('000)	783.9	781.9	836.7	2.0	0.3	-52.8	-6.3
Unemployment ('000)	337.6	338.8	328.6	-1.2	-0.4	9.0	2.7
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.6	7.6	7.4	0.0	-	0.2	-
Participation Rate (%)	64.7	64.7	64.8	0.0	-	-0.1	-
Employment Rate (%)	59.8	59.8	60.0	0.0	-	-0.2	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Quebec Monthly Employment and Unemployment Rate



The unemployment, participation and employment rates remained unchanged between January and February 2016. Compared to the previous year, the unemployment rate increased 0.2 percentage points, because the labour force grew at a faster pace than the number of employed people. A jump in the working-age population (+41,800 people, or 0.6%), which was more significant than the growth of the labour force and the number of employed people, led to a slight decline of the participation and employment rates.growth during the previous month.

In regards to age groups, employment continued to fall among 15-to-24 year-olds, who saw losses of 6,100 jobs since February 2015. It is worth noting that both men and women were affected in February, but more so young men (-1.4%) than young women (-0.8%). Moreover, all of these losses occurred in part-time employment, whereas full-time employment grew since February 2015. The 55-plus age group saw the largest employment increase since last year, with the addition of 19,900 employed people (+2.5%). However, as their population grew at a faster pace due to population aging, their employment rate remained stable, at 31.3%.

Quebec Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	February 2016	January 2016	February 2015	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	7.6	7.6	7.4	0.0	0.2
25 years and over	6.7	6.8	6.4	-0.1	0.3
Men - 25 years and over	8.0	7.5	7.1	0.5	0.9
Women - 25 years and over	5.2	6.0	5.5	-0.8	-0.3
15 to 24 years	12.8	12.4	13.5	0.4	-0.7
Men - 15 to 24 years	15.8	14.6	16.2	1.2	-0.4
Women - 15 to 24 years	9.8	10.2	10.8	-0.4	-1.0

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

At the industrial level, the goods-producing sector grew for a fourth consecutive month, thanks to a recovery of employment in the construction industry (+19,300 jobs in four months) and a good performance of the manufacturing industry (10,700 jobs in four months). Despite growth in the previous months, employment did not reach last year's levels; rather, 7,400 jobs were lost compared to February 2015. The manufacturing industry, on the other hand, posted a gain of 15,000 jobs since February 2015, a growth rate of 3.1%.

Employment in the service sector fell, not only compared to January 2016, but also two months in a row. Between January and February 2016, this industry lost 11,300 employees, accounting for a 0.3% decline. Over the past year, business, building, and other support services, as well as healthcare and social assistance posted increases. On the other hand, trade, educational services, as well as the accommodation and food services industry showed a downward trend.

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	February 2016	January 2016	February 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	4,109.8	4,106.4	4,093.2	3.4	0.1	16.6	0.4
Goods-producing sector	859.7	845.0	849.2	14.7	1.7	10.5	1.2
Agriculture	56.7	59.6	55.8	-2.9	-4.9	0.9	1.6
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	31.4	31.1	31.0	0.3	1.0	0.4	1.3
Utilities	29.6	28.7	28.0	0.9	3.1	1.6	5.7
Construction	243.1	230.1	250.5	13.0	5.6	-7.4	-3.0
Manufacturing	498.8	495.4	483.8	3.4	0.7	15.0	3.1
Services-producing sector	3,250.1	3,261.4	3,244.0	-11.3	-0.3	6.1	0.2
Trade	648.5	647.0	662.8	1.5	0.2	-14.3	-2.2
Transportation and warehousing	193.5	193.7	192.8	-0.2	-0.1	0.7	0.4
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	212.0	209.7	218.5	2.3	1.1	-6.5	-3.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	313.6	315.6	311.4	-2.0	-0.6	2.2	0.7
Business, building and other support services	180.7	180.8	160.9	-0.1	-0.1	19.8	12.3
Educational services	266.0	267.4	284.0	-1.4	-0.5	-18.0	-6.3
Health care and social assistance	582.0	585.9	575.4	-3.9	-0.7	6.6	1.1
Information, culture and recreation	178.0	175.6	177.1	2.4	1.4	0.9	0.5
Accommodation and food services	276.4	279.4	282.0	-3.0	-1.1	-5.6	-2.0
Other services	159.8	166.2	150.4	-6.4	-3.9	9.4	6.3
Public administration	239.6	240.0	228.6	-0.4	-0.2	11.0	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. It is worth noting that the labour market improved significantly in Bas-Saint-Laurent (+6,000 jobs or 8.3%), and Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine (+2,000 jobs or 6.4%), compared to February 2015. However, last year, these two economic regions posted their lowest employment levels over five years for a month of February. The unemployment rate increased only in the Saguenay-Saint-Jean region since February 2015, from 9.2% to 10.3%.

The Intermediary Regions posted a negative result compared to February 2015, with employment falling in Estrie (-0.3%), Chaudière-Appalaches (-2.2%) and Mauricie (-1.1%). Centre-du-Québec was the only region posting growth, with the addition of 800 jobs (0.7%). This region also experienced the most significant decline in the unemployment rate among all of Quebec's economic regions over the last year, from 9.4% to 6.8%.

In the Greater Montréal region, job losses in the Laval region (-28,500) were completely offset by gains in Laurentides, Montérégie, and to a lesser degree, the Lanaudière region. It is worth noting that employment in the Montréal region remained virtually unchanged since the previous year. As the region's labour force grew since 2015, its unemployment rate jumped by 1.5 percentage point, and reached 11.0%.

Finally, the two Capital regions continued to maintain a positive track record in regards to employment, with a growth rate of 5.3% in Outaouais and 4.6% in Capitale-Nationale. The unemployment rate in Outaouais decreased compared to February 2015, falling below the provincial average.

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	February 2016 ('000)	February 2015 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	February 2016 (%)	February 2015 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Quebec	4,036.2	4,003.9	0.8	8.0	7.8	0.2
Economic Regions						
Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine	33.3	31.3	6.4	19.0	20.9	-1.9
Bas-Saint-Laurent	86.0	79.4	8.3	9.4	10.4	-1.0
Capitale-Nationale	396.9	379.4	4.6	5.2	6.1	-0.9
Chaudière-Appalaches	213.5	218.4	-2.2	6.4	5.6	0.8
Estrie	153.6	158.3	-3.0	7.0	7.2	-0.2
Centre-du-Québec	109.5	108.7	0.7	6.8	9.4	-2.6
Montérégie	779.5	761.0	2.4	6.2	5.6	0.6
Montréal	945.0	944.9	0.0	11.0	9.5	1.5
Laval	199.5	228.0	-12.5	8.5	5.9	2.6
Lanaudière	250.3	248.3	0.8	6.7	8.3	-1.6
Laurentides	309.5	294.2	5.2	5.8	7.5	-1.7
Outaouais	200.3	190.2	5.3	7.0	8.7	-1.7
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	72.0	70.1	2.7	6.7	8.9	-2.2
Mauricie	115.3	116.6	-1.1	11.3	7.2	4.1
Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean	121.8	126.7	-3.9	10.3	9.2	1.1
Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec	50.3	48.1	4.6	11.3	12.1	-0.8

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.

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

www.statcan.gc.ca

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