



Labour Market Bulletin

Quebec

March 2016



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

OVERVIEW

Although total employment rose only slightly in Quebec (+0.1%), the labour market situation is more favourable than in the previous quarter, thanks to sustained growth in full-time employment. According to the latest data from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey (LFS), the number of full-time workers in the province increased by 14,700 (+0.4%) in the first quarter of 2016, compared to the fourth quarter of 2015. However, this gain was, for the most part, cancelled out by a decline in part-time employment (-12,400 jobs or -1.6%). Quebec is one of only three provinces which posted a growth in employment since the previous quarter, besides British Columbia (+0.4%) and Ontario (+0.5%). Canada registered a weak employment growth (+0.1%), which was tempered by a decline in the Atlantic and Prairie provinces.

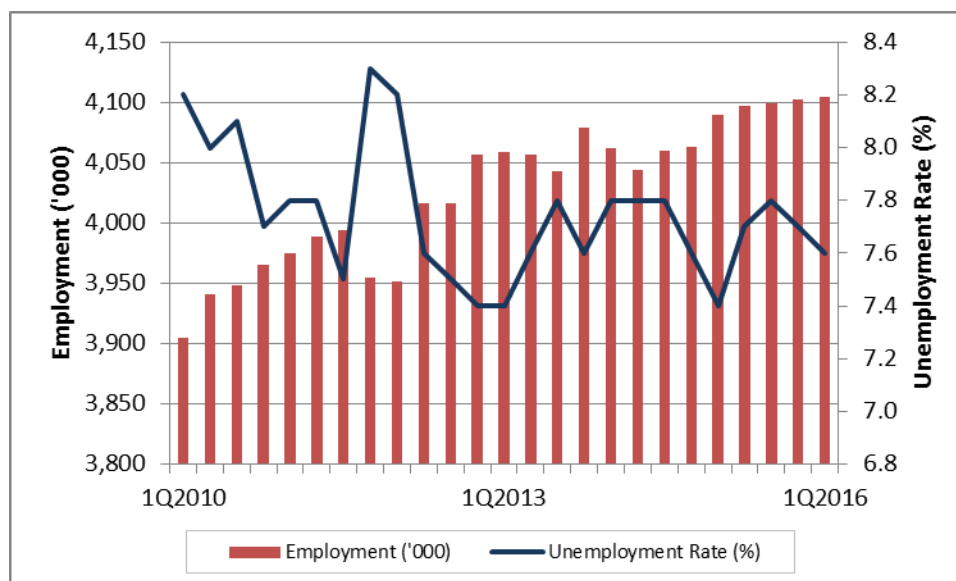
Quebec Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	1st Quarter 2016	4th Quarter 2015	1st Quarter 2015	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	6,869.6	6,859.3	6,827.6	10.3	0.2	42.0	0.6
Labour Force ('000)	4,440.9	4,442.5	4,418.2	-1.6	0.0	22.7	0.5
Employment ('000)	4,104.9	4,102.7	4,089.1	2.2	0.1	15.8	0.4
Full-Time ('000)	3,318.0	3,303.3	3,263.9	14.7	0.4	54.1	1.7
Part-Time ('000)	787.0	799.4	825.2	-12.4	-1.6	-38.2	-4.6
Unemployment ('000)	336.0	339.8	329.1	-3.8	-1.1	6.9	2.1
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.6	7.7	7.4	-0.1	-	0.2	-
Participation Rate (%)	64.6	64.8	64.7	-0.2	-	-0.1	-
Employment Rate (%)	59.7	59.8	59.9	-0.1	-	-0.2	-

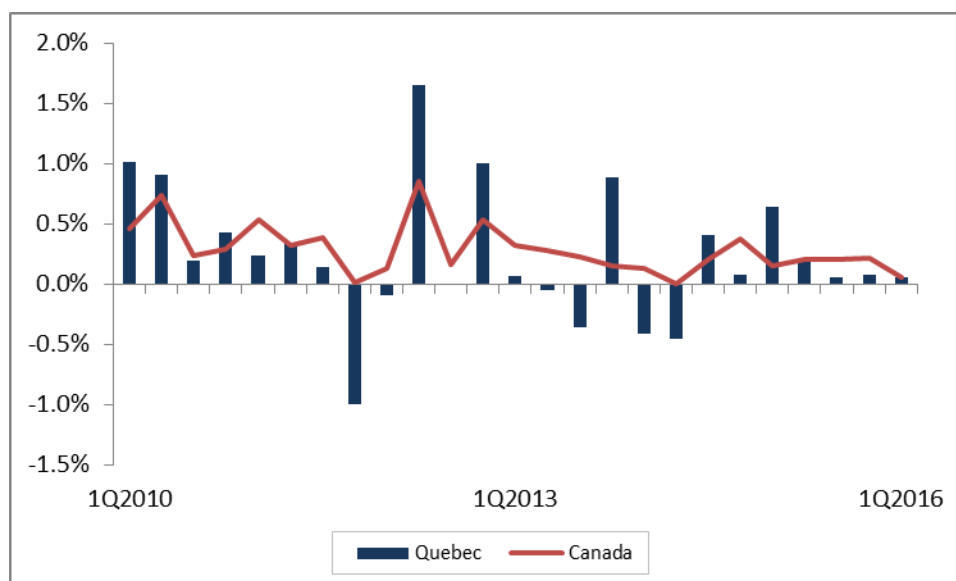
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Quebec Quarterly Employment and Unemployment Rate



Quebec Quarterly Employment Growth



On an annual basis, total employment in Quebec grew by 0.4%, which was the sum of four consecutive quarters of weak growth. This increase stemmed entirely from full-time employment: 54,100 jobs were added since the 1st quarter of 2015 (1.7%). Part-time employment suffered significant losses: the number of part-time workers fell by 38,200 since the 1st quarter of 2015, a decline of 4.6%. It is worth noting that the job gains came entirely from the private sector, as employment decreased in the public sector and among self-employed workers over the past year.

In regards to age groups, employment grew among 15-to-24 year-olds and the 55-plus age group since the previous year. All age groups were affected by the decline in part-time employment, but more so 15-24 year olds, leading to an overall negative picture in terms of employment for this group, which posted a 1.4% decline. Due to labour force movements, the unemployment rate of 15-24 year-olds fell to 12.4%, whereas it rose among 25-54 year-olds and the 55+ age group, compared to the previous year.

After peaking at 7.8% in the 3rd quarter of 2015, the unemployment rate fell slightly, to 7.6%, in the 1st quarter of 2016. The participation rate showed a downward trend during the two previous quarters, and reached 64.6%, a rate which remained very close to the average of the two previous years (64.7%). Since the population aged 15 and over grew at a faster rate than the number of jobs, the employment rate fell by one tenth of a percentage point, to 59.7%.

Quebec Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	1st Quarter 2016 (%)	4th Quarter 2015 (%)	1st Quarter 2015 (%)	Quarterly Variation	Yearly Variation
				(% points)	(% points)
Total	7.6	7.7	7.4	-0.1	0.2
25 years and over	6.7	6.9	6.5	-0.2	0.2
Men - 25 years and over	7.7	7.4	7.1	0.3	0.6
Women - 25 years and over	5.6	6.2	5.8	-0.6	-0.2
15 to 24 years	12.4	12.2	13.0	0.2	-0.6
Men - 15 to 24 years	15.4	15.0	15.9	0.4	-0.5
Women - 15 to 24 years	9.3	9.6	10.0	-0.3	-0.7

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

Quebec Labour Market Indicators for Indigenous People

Not Seasonally Adjusted	1st Quarter 2016		1st Quarter 2015	Yearly Variation	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous		Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	94.4	6,775.4	91.5	2.9	3.2
Labour Force ('000)	48	4,325.4	50.5	-2.5	-5.0
Employment ('000)	41.7	3,969.1	44	-2.3	-5.2
Full-Time ('000)	29	3,152.7	35	-6.0	-17.1
Part-Time ('000)	12.7	816.4	9.1	3.6	39.6
Unemployment ('000)	6.3	356.3	6.5	-0.2	-3.1
Unemployment Rate (%)	13.2	8.2	12.9	0.3	-
Participation Rate (%)	50.9	63.8	55.3	-4.4	-
Employment Rate (%)	44.2	58.6	48.1	-3.9	-

Notes: *The Labour Force Survey excludes those living on-reserve.*

Estimates are based on three-month moving averages.

Totals may not add due to rounding.

Totals may be different from other tables due to adjustments done to indigenous statistics in the Labour Force Survey.

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – ESDC custom table.

In March 2016, the total population aged 15 and over in Quebec was 6.8 million. The Indigenous population living off-reserve accounted for 1.4% of this total, or 94,400 persons. During the 1st quarter of 2016, employment for the Indigenous population stood at 41,700 jobs, corresponding to a loss of 2,300 jobs (-5.2%)

year over year. This decline can be explained, in part, by losses in full-time employment (-6,000 or -17.1%), which were however offset by gains in part-time employment (+3,600 or +39.6%).

The unemployment rate of the Indigenous population rose slightly, by 0.3 percentage points, compared to the 1st quarter of 2015 and stood at 13.2% in the 1st quarter of 2016. The unemployment rate of the non-Indigenous population increased by 0.1% since last year, and stood at 8.2% in the 1st quarter of 2016. Between the 1st quarter of 2015 and that of 2016, the participation and employment rates of the Indigenous population fell, to 50.9% (-4.4 percentage points) and 44.2% (-3.9 percentage points), respectively. By way of comparison, the participation and unemployment rates of the non-Indigenous population remained stable, at 63.8% (0 percentage point) and 58.6% (-0.1 percentage points).

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

At the industrial level, employment in the goods-producing sector grew by 2% or an additional 16,500 jobs over the past quarter. Since this sector had experienced an employment decline in the 2nd and 3rd quarters of 2015, the job increases of this quarter, combined with those of the previous quarter, allowed employment to closely match the level that was reached in the 1st quarter of 2015. The construction industry was the main driver of employment growth. It is worth noting that this was a first period of employment growth in this industry, following four quarters of losses. Employment within the manufacturing industry continued to grow, with the addition of 3,200 jobs (+0.7%), or a total of 12,100 jobs since the 1st quarter of 2015.

On the other hand, employment in the service sector fell since the 4th quarter of 2015, with a loss of 14,300 jobs (0.4%). The most significant decreases occurred in public administrations, professional, scientific and technical services, as well as trade. Growing sectors included business, building, and other support services, as well as other services, which posted significant job increases in comparison to the 1st quarter of 2015.

Quebec Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	1st Quarter 2016	4th Quarter 2015	1st Quarter 2015	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	4,104.9	4,102.7	4,089.1	2.2	0.1	15.8	0.4
Goods-producing sector	848.4	831.9	848.6	16.5	2.0	-0.2	0.0
Agriculture	57.7	58.1	55.2	-0.4	-0.7	2.5	4.5
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	30.9	30.9	31.1	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-0.6
Utilities	29.0	26.8	27.9	2.2	8.2	1.1	3.9
Construction	235.9	224.4	251.6	11.5	5.1	-15.7	-6.2
Manufacturing	494.8	491.6	482.7	3.2	0.7	12.1	2.5
Services-producing sector	3,256.5	3,270.8	3,240.6	-14.3	-0.4	15.9	0.5
Trade	647.1	661.3	660.6	-14.2	-2.1	-13.5	-2.0
Transportation and warehousing	192.7	195.7	191.9	-3.0	-1.5	0.8	0.4
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	208.8	210.6	218.6	-1.8	-0.9	-9.8	-4.5
Professional, scientific and technical services	313.8	323.3	309.4	-9.5	-2.9	4.4	1.4
Business, building and other support services	181.7	174.3	162.1	7.4	4.2	19.6	12.1
Educational services	268.7	269.3	282.5	-0.6	-0.2	-13.8	-4.9
Health care and social assistance	586.0	579.1	571.9	6.9	1.2	14.1	2.5
Information, culture and recreation	176.5	172.5	177.4	4.0	2.3	-0.9	-0.5
Accommodation and food services	279.3	280.4	281.1	-1.1	-0.4	-1.8	-0.6
Other services	164.0	158.7	157.0	5.3	3.3	7.0	4.5
Public administration	237.8	245.7	227.9	-7.9	-3.2	9.9	4.3

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

From a regional perspective, the most significant employment increases since the 1st quarter of 2015, in terms of percentages, were posted by the Bas-Saint-Laurent (+8.2%), Côte-Nord / Nord-du-Québec (+5.1%) and Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine (+4.6%) regions. In terms of numbers, the greatest employment increases occurred in the Montérégie (+22,600 jobs or 3%), Laurentides (+8,900 jobs or 3%) regions in this quarter. The most significant job losses were posted by the Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean (-6,200 jobs or -4.9%) and Laval (22,800 or -10.1%) regions. The latter posted a negative result for the fourth consecutive quarter.

Although the provincial unemployment rate (seasonally unadjusted data) increased in comparison to the 1st quarter of 2015, the unemployment rates in 10 out of 16 economic regions were down, compared to the same period of the previous year. The most significant declines were posted by the Laurentides, Lanaudière and Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine regions. On the other hand, the unemployment rate grew in Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean and Laval since the 1st quarter of 2015, due to a deteriorating labour market in both regions.

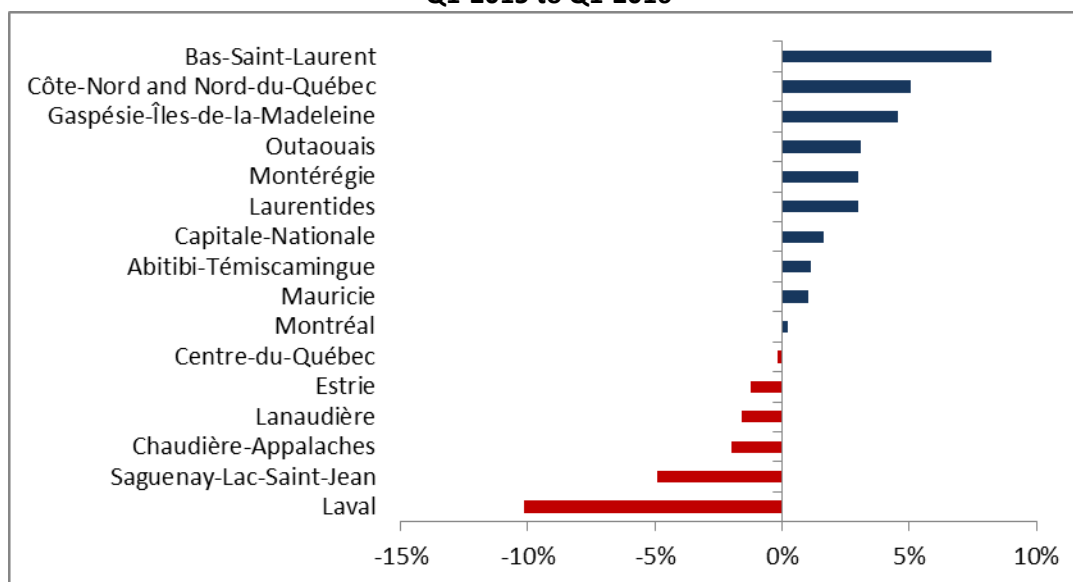
Quebec Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	1st Quarter 2016 ('000)	1st Quarter 2015 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	1st Quarter 2016 (%)	1st Quarter 2015 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Quebec	4,016.2	3,997.5	0.5	8.3	8.1	0.2
Economic Regions						
Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine	32.0	30.6	4.6	19.6	21.3	-1.7
Bas-Saint-Laurent	85.5	79.0	8.2	9.1	10.6	-1.5
Capitale-Nationale	394.1	387.8	1.6	5.4	6.1	-0.7
Chaudière-Appalaches	211.0	215.3	-2.0	7.1	5.8	1.3
Estrie	152.2	154.1	-1.2	7.4	7.6	-0.2
Centre-du-Québec	111.7	111.9	-0.2	7.2	8.6	-1.4
Montérégie	775.4	752.8	3.0	6.7	6.0	0.7
Montréal	941.9	939.9	0.2	11.1	10.1	1.0
Laval	202.6	225.4	-10.1	8.0	6.3	1.7
Lanaudière	246.9	250.8	-1.6	6.8	8.5	-1.7
Laurentides	307.3	298.4	3.0	5.9	8.1	-2.2
Outaouais	196.4	190.5	3.1	7.5	8.8	-1.3
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	71.4	70.6	1.1	7.4	8.3	-0.9
Mauricie	117.6	116.4	1.0	10.1	8.8	1.3
Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean	120.4	126.6	-4.9	12.1	9.7	2.4
Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec	49.8	47.4	5.1	12.2	12.5	-0.3

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Quebec Quarterly Employment Growth, by Economic Region Q1-2015 to Q1-2016



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, 2016, all rights reserved