



Labour Market Bulletin

Quebec

Annual Edition 2016



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

OVERVIEW

According to the latest Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates, the Quebec labour market gained 36,100 jobs in 2016, which is in an increase of 0.9%. In comparison, Quebec's growth surpassed all of Canada's growth (0.7%), but was slightly behind the growth registered in Ontario (1.1%). Job growth was highest in British Columbia in 2016, with a growth rate of 3.2%. The other Canadian provinces registered employment declines in 2016.

Over the past year in Quebec, the growth in employment came entirely from growth in full-time employment (+53,700 or 1.6%), while part-time employment declined by 17,600 or -2.2%. Full-time employment accounted for nearly 81% of the total jobs in Quebec in 2016.

Quebec Annual Labour Force Statistics

	2016	2015	2014	2015 to 2016		2014 to 2015	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	6,887.9	6,843.3	6,802.2	44.6	0.7	41.1	0.6
Labour Force ('000)	4,448.3	4,434.2	4,400.0	14.1	0.3	34.2	0.8
Employment ('000)	4,133.1	4,097.0	4,059.7	36.1	0.9	37.3	0.9
Full-Time ('000)	3,344.0	3,290.3	3,245.3	53.7	1.6	45.0	1.4
Part-Time ('000)	789.1	806.7	814.4	-17.6	-2.2	-7.7	-0.9
Unemployment ('000)	315.2	337.2	340.3	-22.0	-6.5	-3.1	-0.9
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.1	7.6	7.7	-0.5	-	-0.1	-
Participation Rate (%)	64.6	64.8	64.7	-0.2	-	0.1	-
Employment Rate (%)	60.0	59.9	59.7	0.1	-	0.2	-

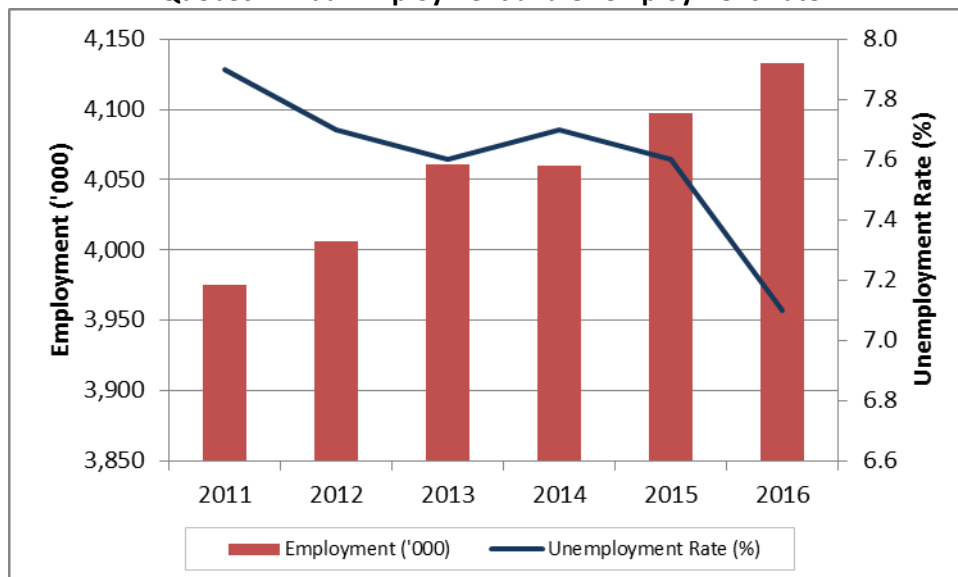
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0002

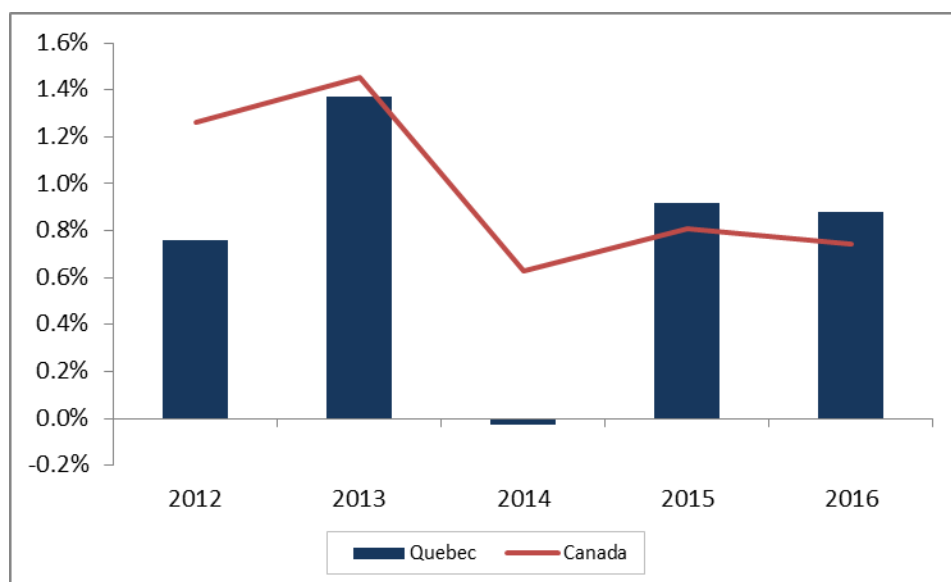
The Quebec labour force increased by over 14,000 people in 2016. This growth was not as significant as in 2015, when the number of workers and job seekers increased by over 34,000. The participation rate in Quebec was 64.6% in 2016. This indicator of confidence in the labour market has never recovered the levels achieved

at the end of the last recession, when it was 65.2% in 2009 and 65.3% in 2010. The employment rate has risen in Quebec since 2014, from 59.7% to 60.0% in 2016. The percentage of employed adults has risen very slowly since the last recession. In 2007, the Quebec employment rate was 60.9%.

Quebec Annual Employment and Unemployment Rate



Quebec Annual Employment Growth



Since 2014 in Quebec, the numbers of employed persons increased by 73,400, while the number of unemployed persons declined by over 25,000. The inactive population climbed by 30,400 people in the last year. These labour force withdrawals led to a decrease of 0.5 percentage points in the unemployment rate in 2016. The unemployment rate in Quebec (7.1%) is close to the employment rate in Canada (7.0%). The provinces of Ontario (6.5%), Saskatchewan (6.3%), Manitoba (6.1%) and British Columbia (6.0%) had the lowest unemployment rates in the country in 2016.

Since 2010, men aged 15 to 24 experienced over 22,000 job losses. More than 90% of this loss can be attributed to full-time employment. Over the same period, the labour force had 28,600 fewer young men, while their participation rate and employment rate fell by 1.8 and 1.1 percentage points, respectively. The situation was different for young women because the participation and employment rates increased since 2010 and the decline in labour force participation was less significant (-15,200) than it was for young men. However, young men and women aged 15 to 24 had one thing in common. Their number decreased by 58,400 between 2010 and 2016. This decline is equally shared by young women and young men. The unemployment rate of men aged 15 to 24 remained higher than that of young women in 2016, 15.2% versus 10.3%. While the unemployment rate of young women remained relatively stable, the unemployment rate of young men decreased by 0.9 percentage points between 2014 and 2016.

It was the same for the category aged 25 and older, where the unemployment rate for women (5.2%) was lower than the unemployment rate for men (7.0%). Over the 2014-2016 period, the unemployment rate for men aged 25 and older declined by 0.8 percentage points, while the unemployment rate for their female colleagues went from 5.6% to 5.2%, a difference of 0.4 percentage points. The decline of the unemployment rate is even more significant among men aged 55 and over. Between 2014 and 2016, this indicator fell from 8.6% to 7.4%, amounting to a decline of 1.2 percentage point. In 2016, the unemployment rate for men aged 55 and over was the lowest it had been since the last recession; however, it remained higher than the rate for women aged 55 and over (5.4%).

Quebec Annual Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

	2016	2015	2014	2015 to 2016	2014 to 2015
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	7.1	7.6	7.7	-0.5	-0.1
25 years and over	6.2	6.7	6.8	-0.5	-0.1
Men - 25 years and over	7.0	7.4	7.8	-0.4	-0.4
Women - 25 years and over	5.2	6.0	5.6	-0.8	0.4
15 to 24 years	12.7	12.8	13.2	-0.1	-0.4
Men - 15 to 24 years	15.2	15.5	16.1	-0.3	-0.6
Women - 15 to 24 years	10.3	10.2	10.3	0.1	-0.1

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0002

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Since 2014, employment increased by 73,400 jobs in Quebec. In the past year, employment increased by 36,100, while it grew by 37,300 between 2014 and 2015. In two years, the goods-producing sector registered a decline of 18,400 jobs, while growth was based entirely on the service sector, which brought in 91,800 jobs.

Job losses in the goods-producing sector are largely attributable to construction. Between 2009 and 2013, there was a significant increase in construction jobs, totalling nearly 59,000 jobs, but 2014 and 2015 ended with declines in the number of employed persons. The year 2016 had the first increase in employment in 2 years. However, this small increase of 1,300 jobs was not enough to erase the significant losses of the preceding years. In the end, construction finished the 2014-2016 period with 19,600 fewer employed persons.

For the manufacturing sector, 2016 marks the first rise in employment in 4 years. With 493,100 people employed in manufacturing, 2016 had one of the lowest levels of employment in over 30 years. In fact,

employment in manufacturing has been under 500,000 since 2011, while in 2002, 649,000 people were employed in that sector.

In Quebec, in 2016, the services-producing sector reached a record high with 3,288,700 jobs. Nearly 8 out of 10 jobs were service jobs. Since the year 2000, the services-producing sector has grown on a yearly basis, with the exception of the last recession in 2009. Healthcare and social assistance, wholesale and retail trade, as well as professional, scientific and technical services are some of the industries that have made the strongest gains in employment.

Since 2014, five industries have had two successive years of growth: business services, public administration, accommodation and food services, health care and social assistance, and educational services. The past year has been difficult for the wholesale and retail trade, which registered losses of 10,100 jobs.

Quebec Annual Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

	2016	2015	2014	2015 to 2016		2014 to 2015	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	4,133.1	4,097.0	4,059.7	36.1	0.9	37.3	0.9
Goods-producing sector	844.4	837.0	862.8	7.4	0.9	-25.8	-3.0
Agriculture	56.5	54.5	55.8	2.0	3.7	-1.3	-2.3
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	31.2	31.3	32.6	-0.1	-0.3	-1.3	-4.0
Utilities	27.5	27.9	29.0	-0.4	-1.4	-1.1	-3.8
Construction	236.0	234.7	255.6	1.3	0.6	-20.9	-8.2
Manufacturing	493.1	488.6	489.8	4.5	0.9	-1.2	-0.2
Services-producing sector	3,288.7	3,260.0	3,196.9	28.7	0.9	63.1	2.0
Trade	652.4	662.5	644.9	-10.1	-1.5	17.6	2.7
Transportation and warehousing	195.6	196.5	185.6	-0.9	-0.5	10.9	5.9
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	216.0	215.1	218.2	0.9	0.4	-3.1	-1.4
Professional, scientific and technical services	311.9	315.7	298.7	-3.8	-1.2	17.0	5.7
Business, building and other support services	182.0	169.3	155.1	12.7	7.5	14.2	9.2
Educational services	280.2	278.0	274.1	2.2	0.8	3.9	1.4
Health care and social assistance	581.8	576.5	569.2	5.3	0.9	7.3	1.3
Information, culture and recreation	179.5	171.3	181.9	8.2	4.8	-10.6	-5.8
Accommodation and food services	284.0	279.4	269.7	4.6	1.6	9.7	3.6
Other services	167.2	159.5	180.1	7.7	4.8	-20.6	-11.4
Public administration	238.1	236.3	219.5	1.8	0.8	16.8	7.7

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0008

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Resource Regions

The Resource Regions include the Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Bas-Saint-Laurent, Côte-Nord/Nord-du-Québec, Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine and Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean regions. In 2016, they accounted for 9% of employment in Quebec. In the past year, these regions collectively gained nearly 6,000 jobs. The Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean (-1,600) and Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine (-700) regions registered job losses between 2015 and

2016. Côte-Nord and Nord-du-Québec had the highest job growth in 2016, with an increase of 6.5%. Abitibi-Témiscamingue (3.5%) and Bas-Saint-Laurent (2.8%) also had job growth in the past year.

Intermediary Regions

This group includes the Centre-du-Québec, Chaudière-Appalaches, Estrie and Mauricie regions. Nearly 15% of all Quebec jobs are in these regions. Since 2015, employment increased by over 7,000 jobs in the Intermediary Regions. Centre-du-Québec (5.6%) and Mauricie (4.1%) strongly contributed to this employment gain, registering the second and third highest employment growth in Quebec for 2016. However, the number of jobs dropped by 3,500 (-1.6%) in 2016 in the Chaudière-Appalaches region. The Estrie region lost 700 jobs (-0.5%) in the past year. For those two regions, employment has declined since 2014.

Greater Montréal Area and surrounding areas

The economic regions of Lanaudière, Laurentides, Laval, Montérégie and Montréal make up the Greater Montréal Area. They generate 61.5% of all Quebec jobs. Employment grew nearly 0.8% in 2016, which was close to the same rate as Quebec as a whole. The Montréal region finished 2016 with a gain of 28,000 jobs, which was more than 77% of annual Quebec growth. Employment increased by 3,200 in the Laval region, while the labour markets in Laurentides (-1,400), Montérégie (-3,800) and Lanaudière (-6,100) lost jobs. In 2016, the sharpest decline in employment in all the Quebec regions was in Lanaudière (-2.4%). However, it should be noted that these job losses came after a successful year in Lanaudière, which achieved record employment for that region in 2015.

The Capitals

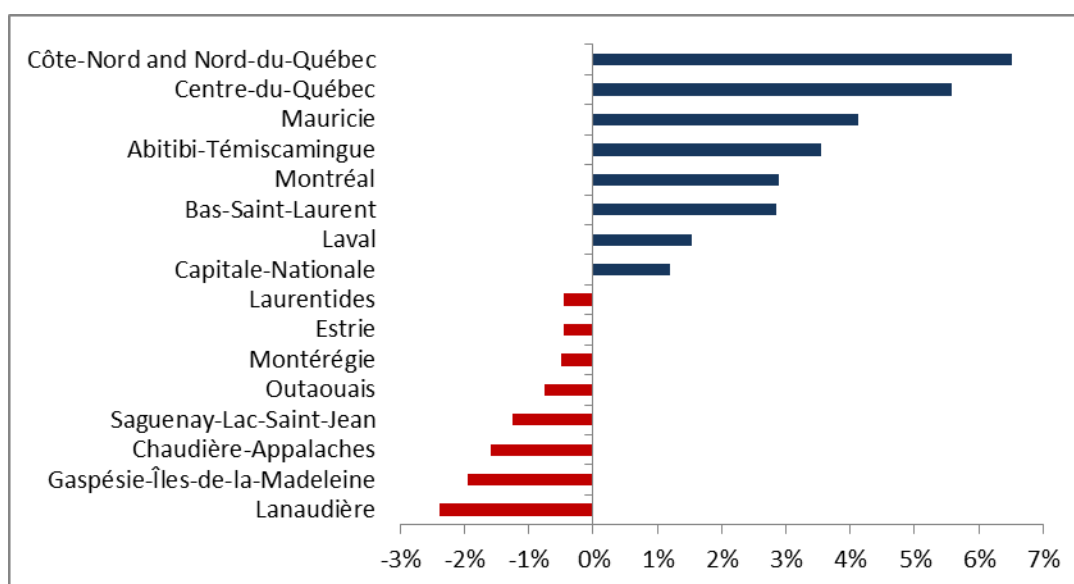
The Outaouais and Capitale-Nationale regions total more than 14% of all Quebec employment. These two regions stand out thanks to their significant employment proportion within the public service. In 2016, employment increased in one capital region and declined in the other. In the Capitale-Nationale region, employment rose by 4,800 (1.2%), increasing since 2014. Since the last recession, employment has increased each year in the Capitale-Nationale region, except in 2013. In the Outaouais region, employment dropped by 1,500 (-0.7%) in 2016, one year after achieving a record high.

Quebec Annual Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

Employment ('000)	2016	2015	2014	2015 to 2016		2014 to 2015	
				Number	%	Number	%
Quebec	4,133.1	4,097.0	4,059.7	36.1	0.9	37.3	0.9
Economic Regions							
Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine	35.2	35.9	37.4	-0.7	-1.9	-1.5	-4.0
Bas-Saint-Laurent	86.9	84.5	85.1	2.4	2.8	-0.6	-0.7
Capitale-Nationale	405.7	400.9	388.7	4.8	1.2	12.2	3.1
Chaudière-Appalaches	215.2	218.7	223.4	-3.5	-1.6	-4.7	-2.1
Estrie	153.0	153.7	155.8	-0.7	-0.5	-2.1	-1.3
Centre-du-Québec	122.9	116.4	111.2	6.5	5.6	5.2	4.7
Montréal	772.3	776.1	784.8	-3.8	-0.5	-8.7	-1.1
Montréal	997.0	969.0	947.3	28.0	2.9	21.7	2.3
Laval	212.3	209.1	226.9	3.2	1.5	-17.8	-7.8
Lanaudière	248.8	254.9	245.9	-6.1	-2.4	9.0	3.7
Laurentides	310.4	311.8	295.2	-1.4	-0.4	16.6	5.6
Outaouais	198.7	200.2	192.6	-1.5	-0.7	7.6	3.9
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	73.1	70.6	74.7	2.5	3.5	-4.1	-5.5
Mauricie	121.2	116.4	114.9	4.8	4.1	1.5	1.3
Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean	126.7	128.3	127.0	-1.6	-1.2	1.3	1.0
Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec	53.9	50.6	48.9	3.3	6.5	1.7	3.5

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0123

Quebec Annual Employment Growth, by Economic Region
2015 to 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.

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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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