



# Labour Market Bulletin

Quebec

December 2017



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

## OVERVIEW

The latest estimates of Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey show, once again, the vitality of the labour market in Quebec, with a gain of 31,100 jobs (+0.7%) in the 4th quarter of 2017 in comparison to the previous quarter. This eighth consecutive quarterly increase is entirely attributable to full-time employment (+51,800), while part-time employment declined (-20,700). In comparison, employment also grew in Ontario and Canada in the last quarter, by 1.0% and 0.7%, respectively.

Over the past year, the labour market situation remained strong, gaining 77,100 jobs (+1.8%). This increase is entirely due to full-time employment (+88,300 or +2.6%), and constitutes a historically high level of employment. This good performance allowed the employment rate to grow by 0.7 percentage point and reach 61.3%. All categories of workers contributed to this growth, but public sector workers stood out, surging by 3.2% year over year.

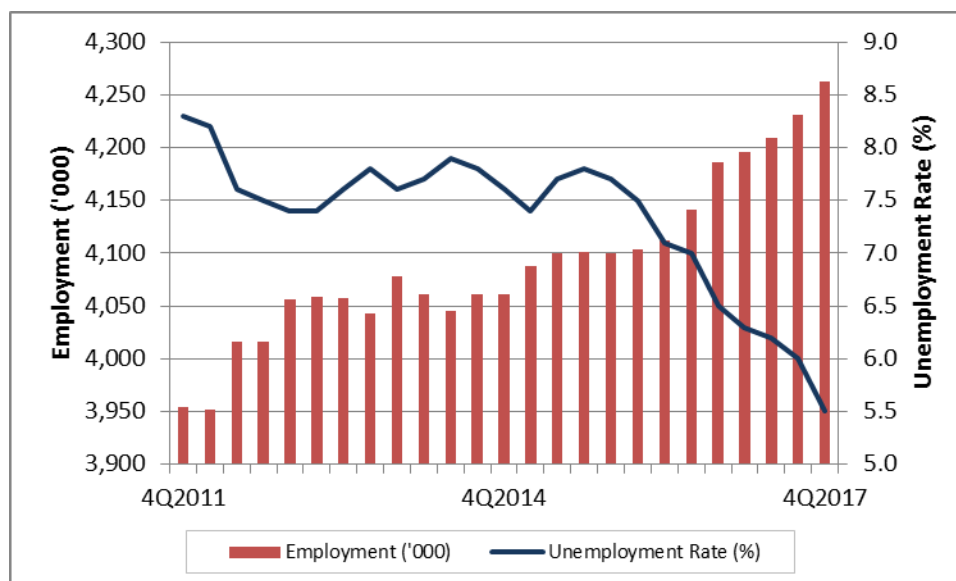
### Quebec Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	4th Quarter 2017	3rd Quarter 2017	4th Quarter 2016	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	6,950.2	6,939.9	6,904.2	10.3	0.1	46.0	0.7
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	4,508.5	4,499.3	4,475.5	9.2	0.2	33.0	0.7
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	4,262.6	4,231.5	4,185.5	31.1	0.7	77.1	1.8
Full-Time ('000)	3,459.6	3,407.8	3,371.3	51.8	1.5	88.3	2.6
Part-Time ('000)	803.0	823.7	814.2	-20.7	-2.5	-11.2	-1.4
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	246.0	267.9	290.1	-21.9	-8.2	-44.1	-15.2
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	5.5	6.0	6.5	-0.5	-	-1.0	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	64.9	64.8	64.8	0.1	-	0.1	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	61.3	61.0	60.6	0.3	-	0.7	-

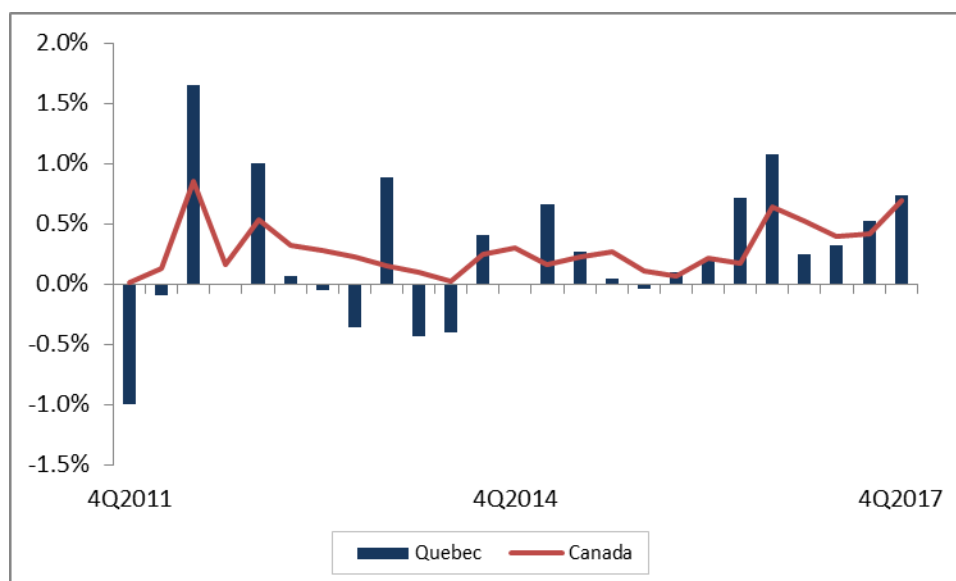
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

### Quebec Quarterly Employment and Unemployment Rate



### Quebec Quarterly Employment Growth



The participation rate remained relatively stable in Quebec since the last quarter, because the labour force grew (0.2%) at a rate comparable to that of the working-age population (0.1%). On a yearly basis, since the labour force increased at the same rate as the working-age population, the participation rate grew by only 0.1 percentage point.

The number of unemployed people fell by 21,900 since the previous quarter. This decline, combined with a modest increase of the labour force, allowed the unemployment rate to fall by 0.5 percentage point, to 5.5%. This is the lowest quarterly unemployment rate since the beginning of the historical series in 1976. On a yearly basis, Quebec had 44,100 fewer unemployed workers in the 4th quarter of 2017 than during the same period in 2016, a significant decline of 15.2% since last year.

During the last quarter, the unemployment rate for 15-24 year-olds fell by 0.8 percentage point, and reached 9.2%. This decline was attributable to the decline of the unemployment rate for young men, while the rate for young women grew slightly. In the 25+ age group, the rate for men fell by 0.9 percentage point, and that for women decreased by 0.1 percentage point. Over one year, the unemployment rate for men declined in all age groups, except for men in the 55+ age group. Young men (aged 15-24) benefited from the most significant decrease (4.1 percentage points over one year). On the other hand, the group of women aged 25 to 54 saw a 0.2 increase in its unemployment rate on a yearly basis.

### Quebec Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	4th Quarter 2017 (%)	3rd Quarter 2017 (%)	4th Quarter 2016 (%)	Quarterly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Total</b>	5.5	6.0	6.5	-0.5	-1.0
<b>25 years and over</b>	4.9	5.3	5.6	-0.4	-0.7
Men - 25 years and over	4.9	5.8	6.4	-0.9	-1.5
Women - 25 years and over	4.8	4.8	4.7	0.0	0.1
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	9.2	10.0	12.0	-0.8	-2.8
Men - 15 to 24 years	8.4	10.3	12.5	-1.9	-4.1
Women - 15 to 24 years	10.1	9.7	11.6	0.4	-1.5

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

### Quebec - Labour Market Indicators for Indigenous People

3-month moving averages Seasonally unadjusted data	Indigenous		Yearly variation (Indigenous)		Non-Indigenous		Yearly variation (non-Indigenous)	
	Q4 2017	Q4 2016	Number	%	Q4 2017	Q4 2016	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	101.7	98.3	3.4	3.5	6,848.6	6,806.1	42.5	0.6
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	60.7	54.5	6.2	11.4	4,426.6	4,396.1	30.5	0.7
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	57.9	48.3	9.6	19.9	4,201.5	4,131.6	69.9	1.7
<b>Full-Time ('000)</b>	48.0	37.7	10.3	27.3	3,389.4	3,296.4	93.0	2.8
<b>Part-Time ('000)</b>	9.9	10.5	-0.6	-5.7	812.1	835.3	-23.2	-2.8
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	2.8	6.2	-3.4	-54.8	225.1	264.4	-39.3	-14.9
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	4.6	11.4	-6.8	-	5.1	6.0	-0.9	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	59.7	55.5	4.2	-	64.6	64.6	0.0	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	57.0	49.1	7.9	-	61.3	60.7	0.6	-

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 the fourth quarter of 2017, the total population aged 15 and over in Quebec was 6.9 million. The Indigenous population living off-reserve accounted for 1.5% of this total, or 101,700 persons. During the fourth quarter of 2017, 57,900 people in the Indigenous population were employed, corresponding to a significant increase of 9,600 jobs (+19.9%) year over year. This growth can be explained mainly by a gain in full-time jobs (+10,300 or 27.3%).

In the fourth quarter of 2017, the unemployment rate of the Indigenous population was 4.6%, a decrease of 6.8 percentage points in comparison to the fourth quarter of 2016. This rate also decreased for the non-Indigenous population, reaching 5.1% (a decline of 0.9 percentage point since the previous year). Between the

fourth quarter of 2016 and that of 2017, the participation rate of the Indigenous population increased by 4.2 percentage points, to 59.7%, while the rate remained the same for the non-Indigenous population, at 64.6%. Finally, the employment rate of the Indigenous population increased in 2017 (+7.9 percentage points), reaching 57%. This rate also increased for the non-Indigenous population in comparison to the second quarter of 2016, from 60.7% to 61.3% (+0.6 percentage points).

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

From an industrial perspective, the goods-producing sector posted a gain of 22,400 jobs (+2.6%) since the previous quarter, because the addition of 11,800 manufacturing positions and 10,900 construction jobs offset the losses in utilities (-2,400 jobs). This is also true when results are analyzed on a yearly basis. The overall data for the goods-producing sector as a whole remained strong (+27,000), thanks to the contribution of the construction (+11,500) and manufacturing (+11,100) industries. Only the utilities sector saw a loss of 3,600 jobs over a yearly basis.

The service sector also grew since last quarter, posting an increase of 0.3% (+8,700). The following industries contributed the most to this growth: business services (+13,300), transportation and warehousing (+6,100) as well as finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (+6,000) and education (+6,000). In total, the service sector inflated its workforce by 50,000 new jobs over the past year. Except for accommodation and food services (10,000), wholesale and retail trade (-8,400), information, culture and recreation (-4,800), as well as public administration (-4,200) and other services (-1,100), all other industries had positive results.

Quebec Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	4th Quarter 2017	3rd Quarter 2017	4th Quarter 2016	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	4,262.6	4,231.5	4,185.5	31.1	0.7	77.1	1.8
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	876.7	854.3	849.7	22.4	2.6	27.0	3.2
Agriculture	58.0	57.6	54.7	0.4	0.7	3.3	6.0
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	37.9	36.2	33.3	1.7	4.7	4.6	13.8
Utilities	23.5	25.9	27.1	-2.4	-9.3	-3.6	-13.3
Construction	252.7	241.8	241.2	10.9	4.5	11.5	4.8
Manufacturing	504.5	492.7	493.4	11.8	2.4	11.1	2.2
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	3,385.8	3,377.1	3,335.8	8.7	0.3	50.0	1.5
Trade	657.8	664.7	666.2	-6.9	-1.0	-8.4	-1.3
Transportation and warehousing	215.6	209.5	197.5	6.1	2.9	18.1	9.2
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	239.0	233.0	223.9	6.0	2.6	15.1	6.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	331.6	338.5	308.3	-6.9	-2.0	23.3	7.6
Business, building and other support services	187.0	173.9	174.4	13.1	7.5	12.6	7.2
Educational services	296.7	290.7	294.6	6.0	2.1	2.1	0.7
Health care and social assistance	583.7	585.3	576.4	-1.6	-0.3	7.3	1.3
Information, culture and recreation	181.5	187.6	186.3	-6.1	-3.3	-4.8	-2.6
Accommodation and food services	272.0	273.6	282.0	-1.6	-0.6	-10.0	-3.5
Other services	176.3	172.2	177.4	4.1	2.4	-1.1	-0.6
Public administration	244.7	248.2	248.9	-3.5	-1.4	-4.2	-1.7

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Most of the economic regions in Quebec saw job gains over the past year. The most notable increases were seen in Lanaudière (+11.5%), Laval (+6.8%) and Chaudière-Appalaches (+4.9%). Conversely, decreases were seen in Centre-du-Québec (-7.0%), Laurentides (-5.9%), Bas-Saint-Laurent (-2.0%) and Capitale-Nationale (0.7%).

Over the past year, the unemployment rate declined in most Quebec regions—with the exception of one region, Laurentides (+1.3 percentage point). In the 4th quarter of 2017, the Chaudière-Appalaches region posted the lowest unemployment rate (2.0%), while the highest rate was seen in Gaspésie-Les-Îles-de-la-Madeleine (12.4%).

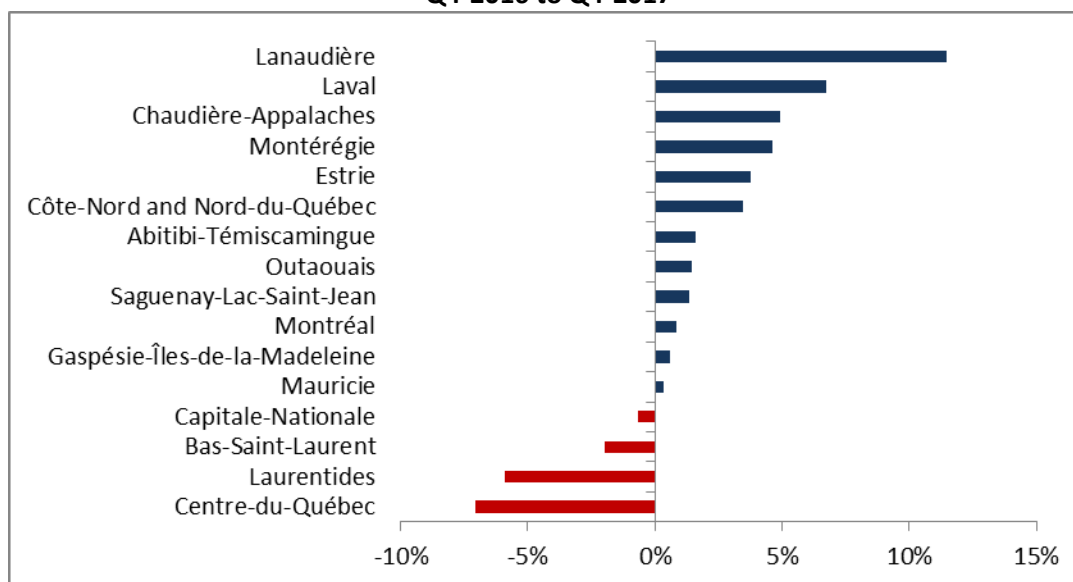
Quebec Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	4th Quarter 2017 ('000)	4th Quarter 2016 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	4th Quarter 2017 (%)	4th Quarter 2016 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Quebec</b>	4,260.4	4,181.1	1.9	5.1	6.1	-1.0
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine	34.8	34.6	0.6	12.4	15.0	-2.6
Bas-Saint-Laurent	84.1	85.8	-2.0	3.9	9.5	-5.6
Capitale-Nationale	410.4	413.1	-0.7	3.8	4.0	-0.2
Chaudière-Appalaches	225.1	214.5	4.9	2.0	4.3	-2.3
Estrie	159.2	153.4	3.8	4.2	4.4	-0.2
Centre-du-Québec	117.4	126.3	-7.0	4.3	5.1	-0.8
Montréal	810.3	774.6	4.6	3.8	4.8	-1.0
Montréal	1,045.8	1,037.0	0.8	7.1	7.3	-0.2
Laval	225.8	211.5	6.8	6.1	9.3	-3.2
Lanaudière	268.5	240.9	11.5	4.8	7.5	-2.7
Laurentides	295.9	314.4	-5.9	5.7	4.4	1.3
Outaouais	200.5	197.6	1.5	4.5	6.2	-1.7
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	76.4	75.2	1.6	3.8	5.6	-1.8
Mauricie	117.4	117.0	0.3	4.7	6.0	-1.3
Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean	132.2	130.4	1.4	5.0	6.4	-1.4
Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec	56.6	54.7	3.5	4.6	6.3	-1.7

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  
Q4-2016 to Q4-2017**



**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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