



# Labour Market Bulletin

Quebec

September 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 that the Quebec labour market continued to improve in the 3rd quarter of 2017, with a gain of 22,000 jobs (+0.5%) in comparison to the previous quarter. This seventh consecutive quarterly increase is entirely attributable to full-time employment (+38,200), while part-time employment declined (-16,200). In comparison, employment also grew in Ontario and Canada in the last quarter, by 0.9% and 0.4% respectively. Over the past year, the labour market situation remained positive, with a gain of 90,400 jobs (+2.2%). This increase is due to both full-time employment (+65,900 or +2.0%) and part-time employment (+24,500 or +3.1%). This good performance allowed the employment rate to grow by 1.0 percentage point and reach 61.0%. All categories of workers contributed to this growth, but public sector workers stood out, surging by 5.6% year over year.

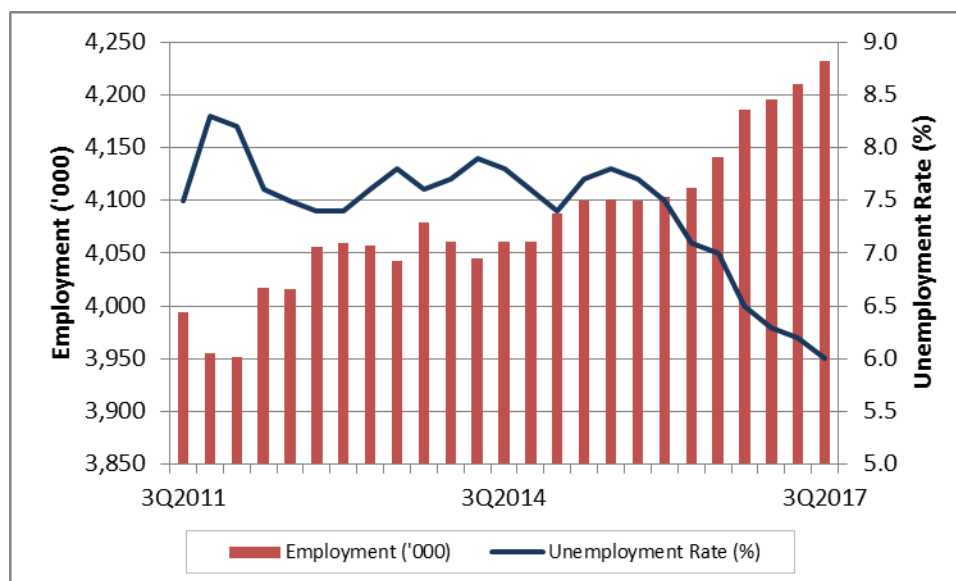
### Quebec Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

| Seasonally Adjusted<br>Quarterly Data | 3rd Quarter<br>2017 | 2nd Quarter<br>2017 | 3rd Quarter<br>2016 | Quarterly Variation |      | Yearly Variation |       |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------|------------------|-------|
|                                       |                     |                     |                     | Number              | %    | Number           | %     |
| <b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>         | 6,939.9             | 6,925.1             | 6,896.4             | 14.8                | 0.2  | 43.5             | 0.6   |
| <b>Labour Force ('000)</b>            | 4,499.3             | 4,487.1             | 4,451.3             | 12.2                | 0.3  | 48.0             | 1.1   |
| <b>Employment ('000)</b>              | 4,231.5             | 4,209.5             | 4,141.1             | 22.0                | 0.5  | 90.4             | 2.2   |
| Full-Time ('000)                      | 3,407.8             | 3,369.6             | 3,341.9             | 38.2                | 1.1  | 65.9             | 2.0   |
| Part-Time ('000)                      | 823.7               | 839.9               | 799.2               | -16.2               | -1.9 | 24.5             | 3.1   |
| <b>Unemployment ('000)</b>            | 267.9               | 277.6               | 310.3               | -9.7                | -3.5 | -42.4            | -13.7 |
| <b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>          | 6.0                 | 6.2                 | 7.0                 | -0.2                | -    | -1.0             | -     |
| <b>Participation Rate (%)</b>         | 64.8                | 64.8                | 64.5                | 0.0                 | -    | 0.3              | -     |
| <b>Employment Rate (%)</b>            | 61.0                | 60.8                | 60.0                | 0.2                 | -    | 1.0              | -     |

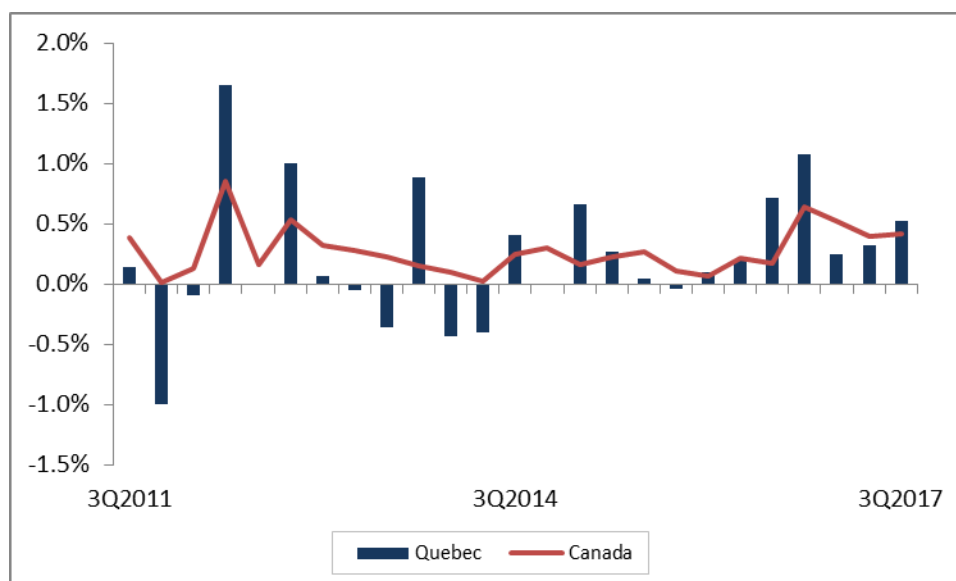
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

### Quebec Quarterly Employment and Unemployment Rate



### Quebec Quarterly Employment Growth



The participation rate remained stable in Quebec since the last quarter, because the labour force grew at a rate comparable to that of the working-age population. However, on a yearly basis, since the labour force increased faster than the working-age population, this rate grew by 0.3 percentage point.

The number of unemployed people declined by 9,700 since the previous quarter. This decline, combined with a modest increase of the labour force, allowed the unemployment rate to fall by 0.2 percentage point, to 6.0%. On a yearly basis, Quebec had 42,400 fewer unemployed workers in the 3rd quarter of 2017 than during the same period in 2016, a significant decline of 13.7% since last year.

During the last quarter, the unemployment rate for young people aged 15-24 fell by 0.7 percentage point, and reached 10.0%. This decline was entirely attributable to the decline of the unemployment rate for young men, while the rate for young women remained stable. In the 25+ age group, the opposite was observed. While the rate for men remained unchanged, the unemployment rate for women fell by 0.2 percentage point. Over one year, the unemployment rate declined for all age groups, both men and women, but young men (aged 15-24) benefited from the steepest decline (5.2 percentage points over one year).

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

| Seasonally Adjusted Data  | 3rd Quarter<br>2017 (%) | 2nd Quarter<br>2017 (%) | 3rd Quarter<br>2016 (%) | Quarterly Variation<br>(% points) | Yearly Variation<br>(% points) |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                           |                         |                         |                         |                                   |                                |
| <b>Total</b>              | 6.0                     | 6.2                     | 7.0                     | -0.2                              | -1.0                           |
| <b>25 years and over</b>  | 5.3                     | 5.5                     | 6.0                     | -0.2                              | -0.7                           |
| Men - 25 years and over   | 5.8                     | 5.8                     | 6.8                     | 0.0                               | -1.0                           |
| Women - 25 years and over | 4.8                     | 5.1                     | 5.1                     | -0.3                              | -0.3                           |
| <b>15 to 24 years</b>     | 10.0                    | 10.7                    | 13.1                    | -0.7                              | -3.1                           |
| Men - 15 to 24 years      | 10.3                    | 11.7                    | 15.5                    | -1.4                              | -5.2                           |
| Women - 15 to 24 years    | 9.7                     | 9.7                     | 10.8                    | 0.0                               | -1.1                           |

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

### Quebec - Labour Market Indicators for Indigenous People

| 3-month moving averages<br>Seasonally unadjusted data | Indigenous |         | Yearly variation<br>(Indigenous) |      | Non-Indigenous |         | Yearly variation<br>(non-Indigenous) |       |
|---|------------|---------|----------------------------------|------|----------------|---------|--------------------------------------|-------|
|   | Q3 2017    | Q3 2016 | Number                           | %    | Q3 2017        | Q3 2016 | Number                               | %     |
| <b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>                         | 101.0      | 97.0    | 4.0                              | 4.1  | 6,839.0        | 6,799.5 | 39.5                                 | 0.6   |
| <b>Labour Force ('000)</b>                            | 55.9       | 56.3    | -0.4                             | -0.7 | 4,498.0        | 4,446.8 | 51.2                                 | 1.2   |
| <b>Employment ('000)</b>                              | 50.2       | 51.8    | -1.6                             | -3.1 | 4,232.7        | 4,143.2 | 89.5                                 | 2.2   |
| <b>Full-Time ('000)</b>                               | 40.9       | 42.7    | -1.8                             | -4.2 | 3,504.2        | 3,432.0 | 72.2                                 | 2.1   |
| <b>Part-Time ('000)</b>                               | 9.3        | 9.1     | 0.2                              | 2.2  | 728.5          | 711.2   | 17.3                                 | 2.4   |
| <b>Unemployment ('000)</b>                            | 5.7        | 4.5     | 1.2                              | 26.7 | 265.3          | 303.5   | -38.2                                | -12.6 |
| <b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>                          | 10.3       | 8.1     | 2.2                              | -    | 5.9            | 6.8     | -0.9                                 | -     |
| <b>Participation Rate (%)</b>                         | 55.4       | 58.1    | -2.7                             | -    | 65.8           | 65.4    | 0.4                                  | -     |
| <b>Employment Rate (%)</b>                            | 49.7       | 53.4    | -3.7                             | -    | 61.9           | 60.9    | 1.0                                  | -     |

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 third 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 101,000 persons. During the third quarter of 2017, 50,200 people in the Indigenous population were employed, corresponding to a loss of 1,600 jobs (-0.9 percentage point) year over year. This increase can be explained mainly by a decrease of full-time employment (-1,800).

In the third quarter of 2017, the unemployment rate of the Indigenous population was 10.3%, an increase of 2.2 percentage point in comparison to the third quarter of 2016. However, the unemployment rate of the non-Indigenous population decreased and stood at 5.9% (a decline of 0.9 percentage point since the previous year).

Between the third quarter of 2016 and that of 2017, the participation rate of the Indigenous population decreased by 2.7 percentage points, to 55.4%. The participation rate of the non-Indigenous population barely changed, by 0.4 percentage point, posting 65.8% in 2017. Finally, the employment rate of the Indigenous population decreased in 2017 (-2.7 percentage point), to 49.7%, while this rate increased slightly for the non-Indigenous population in comparison to the second quarter of 2016, from 60.9% to 61.9% (+1.0 percentage point).

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

From an industrial perspective, the goods-producing sector posted a gain of 3,700 jobs (+0.4%) since the previous quarter, because the addition of 6,000 manufacturing positions and 3,000 jobs in the primary sector offset the losses in construction and utilities (-5,800 and -300 jobs, respectively). The situation is somewhat different when results are analyzed on a yearly basis. Although the picture for the goods-producing sector as a whole remained positive (+12,000) thanks to the contribution of the primary sector (+6,700) and construction (+6,200), the number of workers decreased in manufacturing (-800 and -200, respectively).

The service sector also grew since the last quarter, posting an increase of 0.5% (+18,300). The following industries contributed the most to this increase: healthcare and social assistance (+13,100), professional, scientific and technical services (+9,400), as well as transportation and warehousing (+4,600). In total, the labour force of the service sector rose by 78,300 over one year. Except for accommodation and food services (16,700), business, building, and other support services (-11,500), as well as healthcare and social assistance (2,800), all other industries had positive results.

Quebec Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

| Seasonally Adjusted<br>Data ('000)                | 3rd<br>Quarter<br>2017 | 2nd<br>Quarter<br>2017 | 3rd<br>Quarter<br>2016 | Quarterly Variation |      | Yearly Variation |      |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------|------------------|------|
|   |                        |                        |                        | Number              | %    | Number           | %    |
| <b>Total employed, all industries</b>             | 4,231.5                | 4,209.5                | 4,141.1                | 22.0                | 0.5  | 90.4             | 2.2  |
| <b>Goods-producing sector</b>                     | 854.3                  | 850.6                  | 842.3                  | 3.7                 | 0.4  | 12.0             | 1.4  |
| Agriculture                                       | 57.6                   | 56.5                   | 55.2                   | 1.1                 | 1.9  | 2.4              | 4.3  |
| Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas | 36.2                   | 34.3                   | 31.9                   | 1.9                 | 5.5  | 4.3              | 13.5 |
| Utilities   | 25.9                   | 26.2                   | 26.1                   | -0.3                | -1.1 | -0.2             | -0.8 |
| Construction                                      | 241.8                  | 247.6                  | 235.6                  | -5.8                | -2.3 | 6.2              | 2.6  |
| Manufacturing                                     | 492.7                  | 486.1                  | 493.5                  | 6.6                 | 1.4  | -0.8             | -0.2 |
| <b>Services-producing sector</b>                  | 3,377.1                | 3,358.8                | 3,298.8                | 18.3                | 0.5  | 78.3             | 2.4  |
| Trade   | 664.7                  | 667.7                  | 647.0                  | -3.0                | -0.4 | 17.7             | 2.7  |
| Transportation and warehousing                    | 209.5                  | 204.9                  | 199.5                  | 4.6                 | 2.2  | 10.0             | 5.0  |
| Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing       | 233.0                  | 231.7                  | 218.7                  | 1.3                 | 0.6  | 14.3             | 6.5  |
| Professional, scientific and technical services   | 338.5                  | 329.1                  | 309.7                  | 9.4                 | 2.9  | 28.8             | 9.3  |
| Business, building and other support services     | 173.9                  | 177.6                  | 185.4                  | -3.7                | -2.1 | -11.5            | -6.2 |
| Educational services                              | 290.7                  | 291.7                  | 283.3                  | -1.0                | -0.3 | 7.4              | 2.6  |
| Health care and social assistance                 | 585.3                  | 572.2                  | 588.1                  | 13.1                | 2.3  | -2.8             | -0.5 |
| Information, culture and recreation               | 187.6                  | 188.5                  | 179.8                  | -0.9                | -0.5 | 7.8              | 4.3  |
| Accommodation and food services                   | 273.6                  | 273.0                  | 290.3                  | 0.6                 | 0.2  | -16.7            | -5.8 |
| Other services                                    | 172.2                  | 174.3                  | 162.4                  | -2.1                | -1.2 | 9.8              | 6.0  |
| Public administration                             | 248.2                  | 248.2                  | 234.5                  | 0.0                 | 0.0  | 13.7             | 5.8  |

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 Montérégie (+6.6%), Lanaudière (+5.5%), Estrie (+4.6%) and Mauricie (+4.5%). Conversely, the most significant decreases were seen in Bas-Saint-Laurent (-5.7%), Centre-du-Québec (-3.6%) and in Côte-Nord / Nord-du-Québec (-3.0%).

Over the past year, the unemployment rate declined in most Quebec regions—with the exception of the following: Centre-du-Québec (+1.6 percentage point), Laurentides (+0.6 percentage point), Laval (+0.5 percentage point) and Mauricie (+0.3 percentage point). In the 3rd quarter of 2017, the Chaudière-Appalaches region posted the lowest unemployment rate (3.0%), while the highest rate was seen in Gaspésie-Les-Îles-de-la-Madeleine (9.1%).

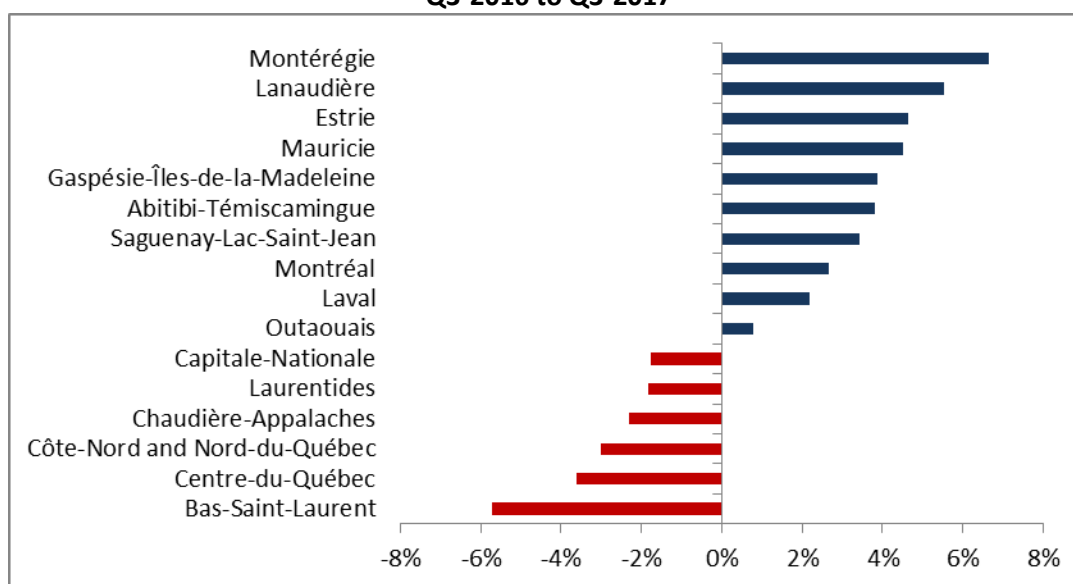
Quebec Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

| Seasonally Unadjusted Data    | Employment                    |                               |                            | Unemployment Rate          |                            |                                   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                               | 3rd Quarter<br>2017<br>('000) | 3rd Quarter<br>2016<br>('000) | Yearly<br>Variation<br>(%) | 3rd Quarter<br>2017<br>(%) | 3rd Quarter<br>2016<br>(%) | Yearly<br>Variation<br>(% points) |
| <b>Quebec</b>                 | 4,287.5                       | 4,196.8                       | 2.2                        | 5.9                        | 6.8                        | -0.9                              |
| <b>Economic Regions</b>       |                               |                               |                            |                            |                            |                                   |
| Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine | 40.1                          | 38.6                          | 3.9                        | 9.1                        | 9.2                        | -0.1                              |
| Bas-Saint-Laurent             | 82.7                          | 87.7                          | -5.7                       | 5.5                        | 6.7                        | -1.2                              |
| Capitale-Nationale            | 404.6                         | 411.9                         | -1.8                       | 4.1                        | 4.9                        | -0.8                              |
| Chaudière-Appalaches          | 213.2                         | 218.2                         | -2.3                       | 3.0                        | 5.1                        | -2.1                              |
| Estrie                        | 160.3                         | 153.2                         | 4.6                        | 4.2                        | 5.9                        | -1.7                              |
| Centre-du-Québec              | 125.2                         | 129.9                         | -3.6                       | 5.9                        | 4.3                        | 1.6                               |
| Montérégie                    | 817.8                         | 766.9                         | 6.6                        | 4.1                        | 5.9                        | -1.8                              |
| Montréal                      | 1,050.0                       | 1,022.8                       | 2.7                        | 8.5                        | 9.5                        | -1.0                              |
| Laval                         | 224.2                         | 219.4                         | 2.2                        | 7.9                        | 7.4                        | 0.5                               |
| Lanaudière                    | 268.3                         | 254.2                         | 5.5                        | 5.2                        | 6.0                        | -0.8                              |
| Laurentides                   | 305.8                         | 311.5                         | -1.8                       | 6.6                        | 6.0                        | 0.6                               |
| Outaouais                     | 201.6                         | 200.0                         | 0.8                        | 5.9                        | 7.7                        | -1.8                              |
| Abitibi-Témiscamingue         | 76.4                          | 73.6                          | 3.8                        | 5.1                        | 5.8                        | -0.7                              |
| Mauricie                      | 127.2                         | 121.7                         | 4.5                        | 5.7                        | 5.4                        | 0.3                               |
| Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean       | 135.3                         | 130.8                         | 3.4                        | 5.4                        | 5.6                        | -0.2                              |
| Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec    | 54.8                          | 56.5                          | -3.0                       | 5.2                        | 6.4                        | -1.2                              |

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 Q3-2016 to Q3-2017



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

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