



Labour Market Bulletin

Quebec

Annual Edition 2017



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

OVERVIEW

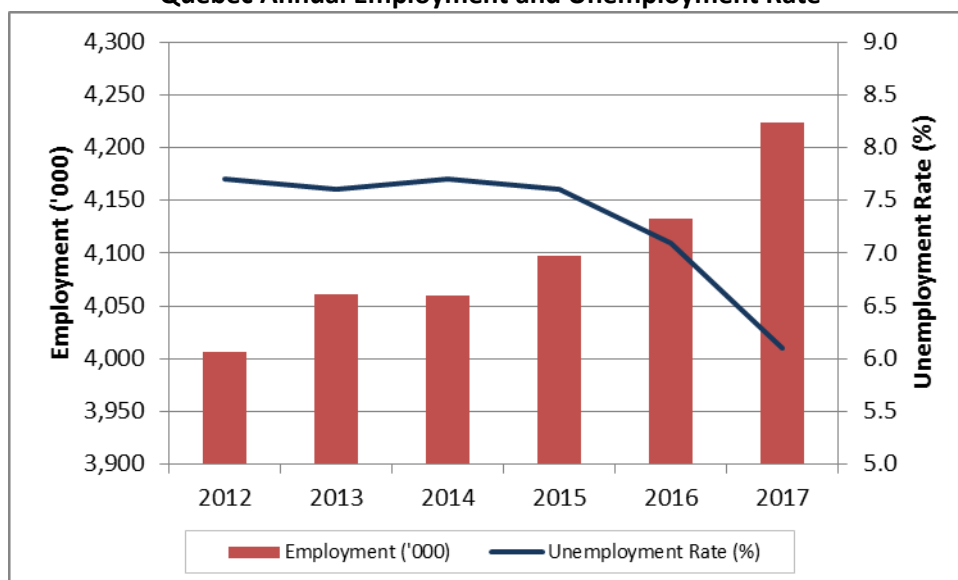
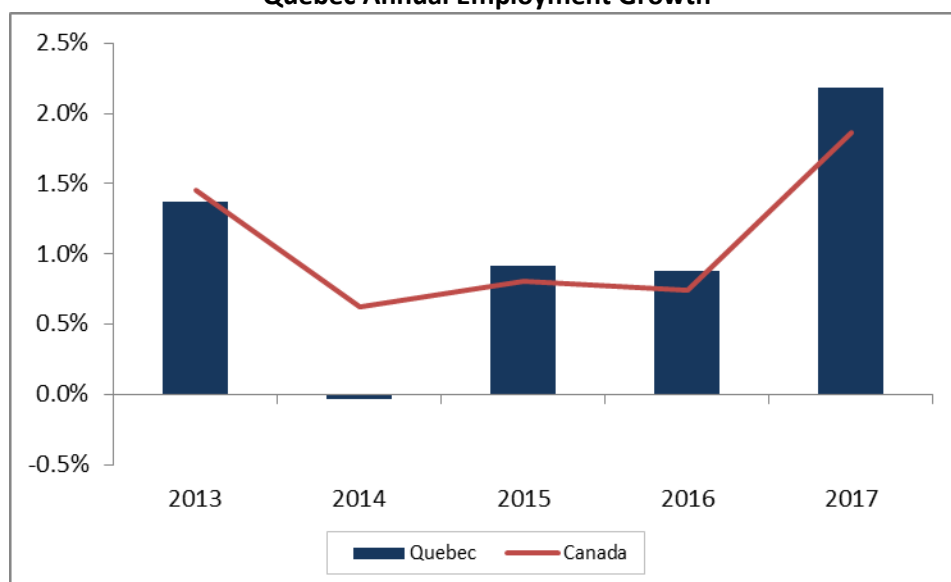
According to Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates, the Quebec labour market reached a peak of 4,223,300 jobs in 2017, amounting to an increase of 90,200 jobs year over year. The growth rate of employment, at 2.2%, was higher than that for Canada as a whole (1.9%) and Ontario (1.8%). In fact, for the first time since 2011, the growth rate of employment was higher than 2% in Quebec, while over the past ten years, the average growth rate had been 1.1%. The number of full-time positions increased by 65,400 (+2.0%) and part-time employment had 24,700 more jobs than in 2016 (+3.1%).

Quebec Annual Labour Force Statistics

	2017	2016	2015	2016 to 2017		2015 to 2016	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	6,931.9	6,887.9	6,843.3	44.0	0.6	44.6	0.7
Labour Force ('000)	4,495.7	4,448.3	4,434.2	47.4	1.1	14.1	0.3
Employment ('000)	4,223.3	4,133.1	4,097.0	90.2	2.2	36.1	0.9
Full-Time ('000)	3,409.4	3,344.0	3,290.3	65.4	2.0	53.7	1.6
Part-Time ('000)	813.8	789.1	806.7	24.7	3.1	-17.6	-2.2
Unemployment ('000)	272.5	315.2	337.2	-42.7	-13.5	-22.0	-6.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.1	7.1	7.6	-1.0	-	-0.5	-
Participation Rate (%)	64.9	64.6	64.8	0.3	-	-0.2	-
Employment Rate (%)	60.9	60.0	59.9	0.9	-	0.1	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Quebec Annual Employment and Unemployment Rate**Quebec Annual Employment Growth**

The Quebec labour force grew by 47,400 people in 2017, exceeding the increase of the working-age population. This explains the 1.1 percentage point jump of the participation rate, which reached 64.9%. Since the variation in the number of employed people was more significant than that of the labour force, the unemployment rate fell by one percentage point, to 6.1%, the lowest annual unemployment rate since data were first published in 1976. The employment rate gained 0.9 percentage point, reaching 60.9%. Although employment growth has been higher in Quebec than in Canada overall in the past three years, its employment rate remained below the Canadian average (61.6%).

The analysis of the employment rate by age group and by gender takes into account the number of employed people, but also the changes in population size within each group. It is thus a better indicator for the analysis of employment changes. All groups saw an increase in their employment rates, except women aged 15-24. It is interesting to note that, among both men and women, the employment rates for 25-54 year-olds and for the 55+ age group reached in 2017 their highest levels in 20 years.

The employment rate for 15-24 year-olds rose by 0.9 percentage point over the past year, reaching 59.8%. However, the employment rate for 15-24 year-old women dropped from 61.4% in 2016 to 60.8% in 2017. Their unemployment rate shed 0.8 percentage point and reached 9.5%, due to a decline in activity levels. This decrease can be linked to their full-time school enrollment: indeed, the full-time school enrollment rate for women aged 15-24 rose from 65.5% to 68.4% in 2017, the highest rate for this group since 1976. The employment rate for men aged 15-24 increased by 2.7 percentage points, reaching 58.9%. According to LFS estimates, the population aged 15-24 has been declining since 2010. Between 2016 and 2017, their numbers fell by 2.2%. Among men in this age group, the increase in employment, combined with a decline in their numbers and an increase in their full-time school enrollment, led to a decrease in their unemployment rate, from 15.2% to 11.2%.

The employment rate for 25-54 year-olds gained 1.5 percentage point, reaching 84.4%. The employment rate for men in this age group (86.3%) is slightly higher than that for women in the same age group (82.5%). The participation rate is historically higher for men in this age group than for women: in 2017, it stood at 91.4% for men versus 86.8% for women. The unemployment rate for men is however higher (5.6% in comparison to 5.0% for women), despite a significant 1.3 percentage point decline in comparison to 2016.

A sign of population aging, the 55+ age cohort is growing: according to the LFS, their population increased by 2.6% in 2017. Thanks to a major growth in the number of employed people (+5.5%), their employment rate grew from 31.4% in 2016 to 32.3% in 2017. However, a significant difference was noted between men and women: the employment rate for men aged 55 and over was 38.1%, while that for women in the same age group was 27.0%. Despite this gap, the employment rate for people aged 55+ saw a notable increase over the past ten years, for both genders: it rose by 4.9 percentage points for men and by 4.6 percentage points for women.

Quebec Annual Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

	2017	2016	2015	2016 to 2017	2015 to 2016
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	6.1	7.1	7.6	-1.0	-0.5
25 years and over	5.4	6.2	6.7	-0.8	-0.5
Men - 25 years and over	5.7	7.0	7.4	-1.3	-0.4
Women - 25 years and over	5.1	5.2	6.0	-0.1	-0.8
15 to 24 years	10.3	12.7	12.8	-2.4	-0.1
Men - 15 to 24 years	11.2	15.2	15.5	-4.0	-0.3
Women - 15 to 24 years	9.5	10.3	10.2	-0.8	0.1

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

In 2017, the total population aged 15 and over in Quebec was a little over 6.9 million. The Indigenous population off-reserve accounted for 1.4% of this total, or 100,500 persons. During 2017, 51,800 people in the Indigenous population were employed, corresponding to a significant increase of 4,400 jobs (+9.3%) year over year. This growth can be explained mainly by a gain in full-time employment (+4,500 or 12.1%).

In 2017, the unemployment rate for the Indigenous population was 8.7%, a decrease of 2.5 percentage points in comparison to 2016, twice the decline for the non-Indigenous population (1.1 percentage point since the previous year), who posted an unemployment rate of 6.0%. In 2017, the participation rate for the Indigenous population increased by 0.9 percentage point year over year and stood at 56.4%, while the rate for the non-Indigenous population edged up, from 64.7% to 64.9%. Finally, the employment rate for the Indigenous population increased in 2017 (+2.2 percentage points), reaching 51.5%. This rate also increased for the non-Indigenous population year over year, from 60.1% to 61.0% (+0.9 percentage point).

Quebec Labour Market Indicators for Indigenous People

Annual averages Seasonally unadjusted data	Indigenous		Yearly variation (Indigenous)		Non-Indigenous		Yearly variation (non-Indigenous)	
	2017	2016	Number	%	2017	2016	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	100.5	96.3	4.2	4.4	6,831.5	6,791.7	39.8	0.6
Labour Force ('000)	56.7	53.5	3.2	6.0	4,435.7	4,392.2	43.5	1.0
Employment ('000)	51.8	47.4	4.4	9.3	4,168.0	4,082.4	85.6	2.1
Full-Time ('000)	41.6	37.1	4.5	12.1	3,365.0	3,303.8	61.2	1.9
Part-Time ('000)	10.1	10.3	-0.2	-1.9	803.0	778.6	24.4	3.1
Unemployment ('000)	4.9	6.0	-1.1	-18.3	267.8	309.8	-42.0	-13.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	8.7	11.2	-2.5	-	6.0	7.1	-1.1	-
Participation Rate (%)	56.4	55.5	0.9	-	64.9	64.7	0.2	-
Employment Rate (%)	51.5	49.3	2.2	-	61.0	60.1	0.9	-

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

Estimates are based on annual 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.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The goods-producing and service sectors both saw an increase in their employment levels in 2017. The goods-producing sector had 11,900 additional jobs in comparison to a year earlier, amounting to a 1.4% growth rate. Although this sector had seen growth for two consecutive years, it was not sufficient to offset the decline seen in 2015 (-3.0%). The share of the goods-producing sector in the labour market has been increasingly smaller, dropping from 22.8% in 2007 to 20.3% in 2017.

Within the subsectors of the goods-producing industry, construction (+9,800 jobs) posted the most significant gains in 2017. Following the peak reached in 2013, employment levels in the construction industry saw significant declines in 2014 and 2015, mainly due to tightened government spending, a decline in the mining sector and a slowdown in residential construction. In 2016, employment levels saw a modest increase (+0.6%), due to, amongst other things, a slow growth in industrial and residential construction. Thus, employment growth accelerated in 2017, at a rate of 4.2%, due to the good performance of all segments.

The forestry, fishing and mining subsector posted a growth of 5,000 jobs in comparison to 2016. The mining industry enjoyed a positive momentum over the past year, thanks to an improvement in commodity prices and rising investments.

Two industries saw employment declines in 2017. The most significant decrease occurred in utilities (-2,300 jobs) which created a limited number of jobs, despite significant investments. The manufacturing industry also posted a slight decline in comparison to 2016 (-1,000 jobs), following a gain of 4,500 jobs in the previous year. Some of the factors that can partly explain this decline include the rising uncertainty due to the implementation of measures restricting trade by the main trading partner of Quebec, the United States. Over the past ten years, employment in manufacturing decreased by 9.6%, while total employment grew by 10.0% across all sectors.

The service sector has posted employment gains each year since 2010. Over the past year, 78,200 jobs were added in the service sector, amounting to a 2.4% increase. Of the 11 subsectors, 8 saw employment gains since 2016. The most significant growth came from the following industries: finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (+17,800 jobs or +8.2%), professional, scientific and technical services (+16,300 jobs or +5.2%), educational services (+12,900 jobs or +4.6%) and transportation and warehousing (+11,200 jobs or +5.7%).

Quebec Annual Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

	2017	2016	2015	2016 to 2017		2015 to 2016	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	4,223.3	4,133.1	4,097.0	90.2	2.2	36.1	0.9
Goods-producing sector	856.3	844.4	837.0	11.9	1.4	7.4	0.9
Agriculture	57.1	56.5	54.5	0.6	1.1	2.0	3.7
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	36.2	31.2	31.3	5.0	16.0	-0.1	-0.3
Utilities	25.2	27.5	27.9	-2.3	-8.4	-0.4	-1.4
Construction	245.8	236.0	234.7	9.8	4.2	1.3	0.6
Manufacturing	492.1	493.1	488.6	-1.0	-0.2	4.5	0.9
Services-producing sector	3,366.9	3,288.7	3,260.0	78.2	2.4	28.7	0.9
Trade	664.9	652.4	662.5	12.5	1.9	-10.1	-1.5
Transportation and warehousing	206.8	195.6	196.5	11.2	5.7	-0.9	-0.5
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	233.8	216.0	215.1	17.8	8.2	0.9	0.4
Professional, scientific and technical services	328.2	311.9	315.7	16.3	5.2	-3.8	-1.2
Business, building and other support services	181.8	182.0	169.3	-0.2	-0.1	12.7	7.5
Educational services	293.1	280.2	278.0	12.9	4.6	2.2	0.8
Health care and social assistance	577.7	581.8	576.5	-4.1	-0.7	5.3	0.9
Information, culture and recreation	185.3	179.5	171.3	5.8	3.2	8.2	4.8
Accommodation and food services	272.4	284.0	279.4	-11.6	-4.1	4.6	1.6
Other services	175.1	167.2	159.5	7.9	4.7	7.7	4.8
Public administration	247.8	238.1	236.3	9.7	4.1	1.8	0.8

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Resource Regions

The Resource based Regions, which include the Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Bas-Saint-Laurent, Côte-Nord/Nord-du-Québec, Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine and Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean regions, accounted for 9.0% of Quebec employment in 2017. Employment grew for a second year in a row in Resource based Regions. Only Bas-Saint-Laurent registered employment losses (-2,400 jobs) in 2017, which completely offset the gains of the previous year. All regions experienced a decrease in their unemployment rates. These declines can be explained essentially by employment increases, except in the Bas-Saint-Laurent region, where the drop in the unemployment rate was due to a decline of the labour force, a reflection of population aging. The Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine region saw the biggest increase in the employment rate (a 2.9 percentage gain), but remained the economic region with the lowest employment rate in Quebec (48.4%).

Intermediary Regions

The Intermediary Regions, which include the Centre-du-Québec, Chaudière-Appalaches, Estrie and Mauricie regions, accounted for 14.5% of provincial employment in 2017. Following a gain of 7,100 jobs the previous year, employment dropped slightly within the Intermediary Regions (-900 jobs) in 2017. Only the Estrie region posted an employment increase, with an additional 3,500 jobs in comparison to 2016. Thanks to this increase in the number of employed people, the Estrie employment rate fell by 1.1 percentage point. Due to a decline of their labour force, the employment rate also fell in Chaudière-Appalaches (-2.0 percentage points) and Mauricie (-1.1 percentage point). These two regions were negatively impacted by a weak population growth combined with population aging, which could explain the decrease of their labour force.

Greater Montréal Area and surrounding areas

In 2017, 62.2% of jobs were generated by the Greater Montréal Area and surrounding areas, consisting of the Lanaudière, Laurentides, Laval, Montérégie and Montréal economic regions. Their employment levels grew by 3.3%, amounting to a gain of 84,600 jobs. Four of the five economic regions contributed to the positive employment dynamics, while the Laurentides region experienced an employment decline (-5,900 jobs). This drop in employment, combined with a decrease of the labour force, explains the 0.4 percentage increase of the unemployment rate in that region. The other four regions experienced unemployment rate declines, which varied from 0.6 percentage point in the Laval region to 1.4 percentage point in Montérégie.

The Capitals

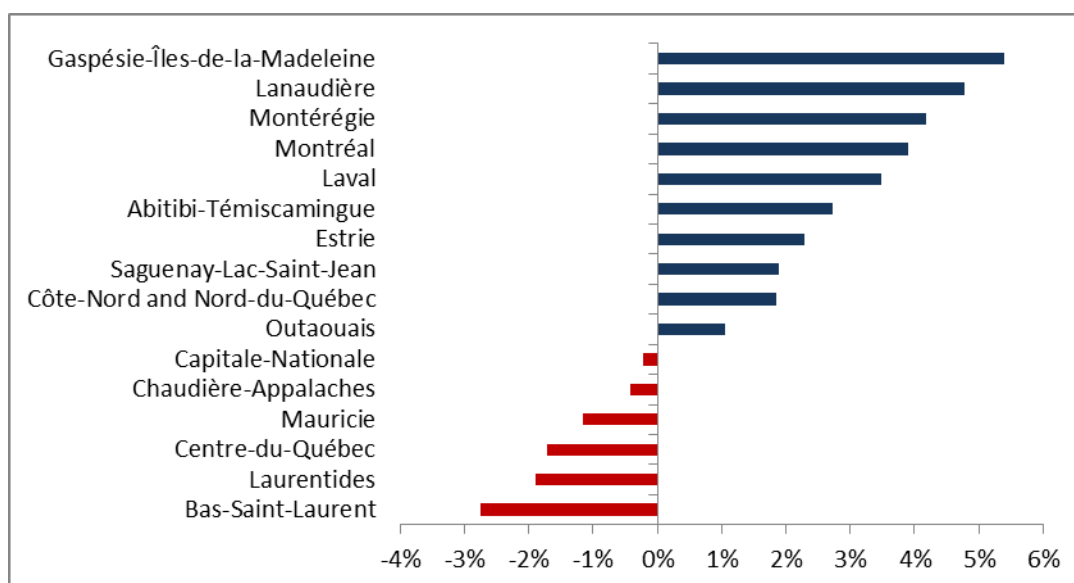
The Outaouais and Capitale-Nationale regions make up the Capitals, which account for 14.3% of employment in Quebec. These two regions experienced contrasting employment dynamics: Outaouais saw an employment increase (2,100 jobs), while employment dipped in Capitale-Nationale (-900 jobs). Despite a 0.6 percentage point decrease in its employment rate, the Capitale-Nationale region still had the highest employment rate among all Quebec economic regions (64.7%). Finally, the unemployment rate dropped by 1.6 percentage point in Outaouais, while it rose by 0.1 percentage point in Capitale-Nationale.

Quebec Annual Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

Employment ('000)	2017	2016	2015	2016 to 2017		2015 to 2016	
				Number	%	Number	%
Quebec	4,223.3	4,133.1	4,097.0	90.2	2.2	36.1	0.9
Economic Regions							
Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine	37.1	35.2	35.9	1.9	5.4	-0.7	-1.9
Bas-Saint-Laurent	84.5	86.9	84.5	-2.4	-2.8	2.4	2.8
Capitale-Nationale	404.8	405.7	400.9	-0.9	-0.2	4.8	1.2
Chaudière-Appalaches	214.3	215.2	218.7	-0.9	-0.4	-3.5	-1.6
Estrie	156.5	153.0	153.7	3.5	2.3	-0.7	-0.5
Centre-du-Québec	120.8	122.9	116.4	-2.1	-1.7	6.5	5.6
Montréal	804.6	772.3	776.1	32.3	4.2	-3.8	-0.5
Montréal	1,035.9	997.0	969.0	38.9	3.9	28.0	2.9
Laval	219.7	212.3	209.1	7.4	3.5	3.2	1.5
Lanaudière	260.7	248.8	254.9	11.9	4.8	-6.1	-2.4
Laurentides	304.5	310.4	311.8	-5.9	-1.9	-1.4	-0.4
Outaouais	200.8	198.7	200.2	2.1	1.1	-1.5	-0.7
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	75.1	73.1	70.6	2.0	2.7	2.5	3.5
Mauricie	119.8	121.2	116.4	-1.4	-1.2	4.8	4.1
Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean	129.1	126.7	128.3	2.4	1.9	-1.6	-1.2
Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec	54.9	53.9	50.6	1.0	1.9	3.3	6.5

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
2016 to 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:

www.statcan.gc.ca

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