



Labour Market Bulletin

Quebec

February 2018



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

OVERVIEW

The Quebec labour market saw a second consecutive decline in February, according to Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey. Although the drop in the number of employed people (0.1%) is lower than in the previous month (0.4%), this month's decline came entirely from full-time jobs. Thus, full-time employment shed 3,200 jobs, while part-time employment remained fairly stable (+200 jobs). It is also worth noting that this employment decline was seen only among self-employed workers, while the private sector and, to a lesser degree, the public sector, saw their employment numbers increase.

In comparison to February 2017, the picture remained positive, with an increase of 73,800 jobs (+1.8%). This growth rate is higher than that seen in the rest of Canada (+1.5%) and Ontario (+1.6%). In Quebec, the increase came entirely from full-time employment (+3.2%), while part-time employment fell by 4.3%.

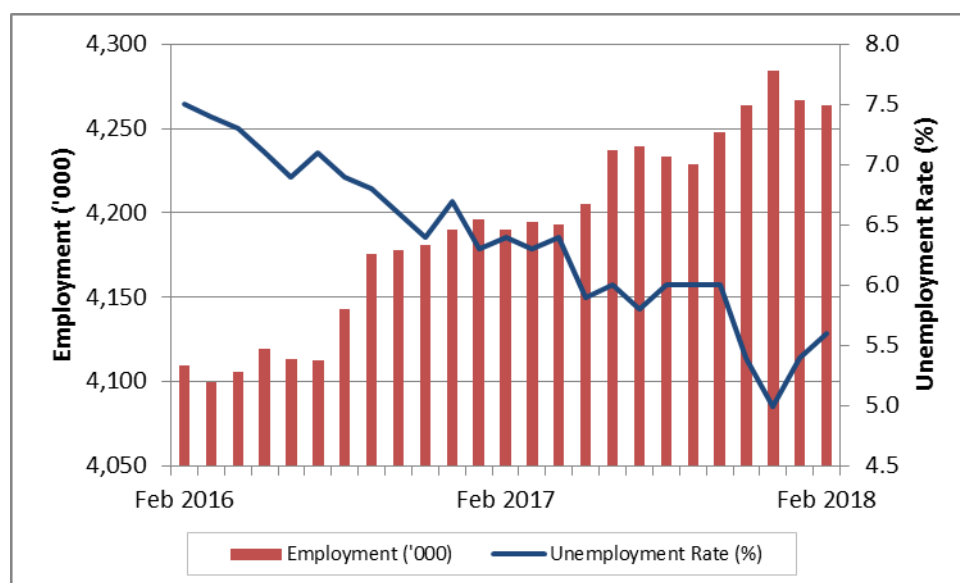
Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	February 2018	January 2018	February 2017	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	6,960.3	6,958.2	6,912.1	2.1	0.0	48.2	0.7
Labour Force ('000)	4,517.5	4,508.6	4,476.9	8.9	0.2	40.6	0.9
Employment ('000)	4,263.6	4,266.5	4,189.8	-2.9	-0.1	73.8	1.8
Full-Time ('000)	3,486.4	3,489.6	3,378.0	-3.2	-0.1	108.4	3.2
Part-Time ('000)	777.1	776.9	811.8	0.2	0.0	-34.7	-4.3
Unemployment ('000)	253.9	242.1	287.1	11.8	4.9	-33.2	-11.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.6	5.4	6.4	0.2	-	-0.8	-
Participation Rate (%)	64.9	64.8	64.8	0.1	-	0.1	-
Employment Rate (%)	61.3	61.3	60.6	0.0	-	0.7	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Quebec Monthly Employment and Unemployment Rate



In comparison to the previous month, 8,900 people were added to the labour force. Since the working-age population remained relatively stable, this means that inactive people (neither employed nor looking for work) joined the labour force. Thus the participation rate gained 0.1 percentage point, reaching 64.9%. The unemployment rate also climbed 0.2 percentage point, reaching 5.5%, due a dip in employment and a growth of the labour force. Although the employment rate remained relatively stable (at 61.3%), there were differences across age groups. Thus, the employment rate for the group aged 55+ (32.5%) dropped by 0.4 percentage point in comparison to January, while 15-24 year-olds (61.5%) and 25-54 year-olds (84.9%) saw an increase in the employment rate (+0.2 percentage point in both cases). It is worth noting that the unemployment rate for youth decreased by 0.4 percentage point over one year, from 10.7% to 9.1%. This can be explained by a significant decline of the unemployment rate for young men (from 13.1% to 8.9%), while the rate for young women gained one percentage point and stood at 9.3%.

Quebec Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	February 2018	January 2018	February 2017	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	5.6	5.4	6.4	0.2	-0.8
25 years and over	5.1	4.8	5.7	0.3	-0.6
Men - 25 years and over	5.2	5.0	6.1	0.2	-0.9
Women - 25 years and over	5.0	4.5	5.4	0.5	-0.4
15 to 24 years	9.1	9.2	10.7	-0.1	-1.6
Men - 15 to 24 years	8.9	9.1	13.1	-0.2	-4.2
Women - 15 to 24 years	9.3	9.2	8.3	0.1	1.0

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

From an industrial perspective, the goods-producing sector had 900 fewer jobs than in January 2018, amounting to a decline of 0.1%. Forestry, fishing and mining, as well as construction, saw their employment levels increase, while employment levels in agriculture and manufacturing decreased. This was a third consecutive month of decline in the manufacturing industry. On a yearly basis, employment in the goods-producing sector increased by 2.1%, thanks to gains in manufacturing, construction, and in forestry, fishing and mining. Employment in the service sector dipped 0.1% (-2,100 jobs). The most significant declines were seen in professional, scientific and technical services (-12,000 jobs), information, culture and recreation (-5,200 jobs) and in business and building services (-5,000 jobs). Conversely, the following subsectors saw the most significant increases: other services (+8,300 jobs), healthcare and social assistance (+6,100 jobs) and public administration (+6,000 jobs). Over the last year, the service sector gained 56,000 jobs (+1.7%), thus making a substantial contribution to employment growth.

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	February 2018	January 2018	February 2017	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	4,263.6	4,266.5	4,189.8	-2.9	-0.1	73.8	1.8
Goods-producing sector	859.4	860.3	841.6	-0.9	-0.1	17.8	2.1
Agriculture	52.5	58.0	56.0	-5.5	-9.5	-3.5	-6.3
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	39.4	35.0	35.0	4.4	12.6	4.4	12.6
Utilities	23.2	22.4	26.0	0.8	3.6	-2.8	-10.8
Construction	245.7	243.7	241.5	2.0	0.8	4.2	1.7
Manufacturing	498.6	501.3	483.0	-2.7	-0.5	15.6	3.2
Services-producing sector	3,404.1	3,406.2	3,348.2	-2.1	-0.1	55.9	1.7
Trade	665.1	668.9	681.9	-3.8	-0.6	-16.8	-2.5
Transportation and warehousing	218.3	220.7	199.1	-2.4	-1.1	19.2	9.6
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	236.5	235.8	226.2	0.7	0.3	10.3	4.6
Professional, scientific and technical services	321.3	333.3	313.7	-12.0	-3.6	7.6	2.4
Business, building and other support services	187.8	192.8	185.2	-5.0	-2.6	2.6	1.4
Educational services	294.1	293.7	290.0	0.4	0.1	4.1	1.4
Health care and social assistance	586.3	580.2	570.2	6.1	1.1	16.1	2.8
Information, culture and recreation	182.8	188.0	179.1	-5.2	-2.8	3.7	2.1
Accommodation and food services	271.8	266.9	276.4	4.9	1.8	-4.6	-1.7
Other services	186.4	178.1	172.7	8.3	4.7	13.7	7.9
Public administration	253.7	247.7	253.6	6.0	2.4	0.1	0.0

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Seasonally unadjusted data (3-month moving averages) showed that 79,000 jobs were added in Quebec over the past year. The following economic regions saw the most significant employment increases: Montérégie (+40,300 jobs), Laval (23,300 jobs), Lanaudière (+21,000 jobs), Montréal (+15,200 jobs) and Chaudière-Appalaches (+12,000 jobs). In addition, employment grew for an 11th consecutive month in Lanaudière, in comparison to the same month of the previous year. On the other hand, some economic regions saw employment declines, the most significant of which occurred in Laurentides (-31,300 jobs), Centre-du-Québec (-7,100 jobs) and Mauricie (-6,400 jobs).

The unemployment rates dropped in almost all economic regions, except in Estrie (+0.1 percentage point) and Laurentides (+1.3 percentage point). The most significant declines were seen in Bas-Saint-Laurent (-4.7 percentage points), where this rate fell from 10.3% in February 2017 to 5.6% in February 2018, and in Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean (-3.3 percentage points).

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	February 2018 ('000)	February 2017 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	February 2018 (%)	February 2017 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Quebec	4,205.3	4,126.3	1.9	5.7	6.8	-1.1
Economic Regions						
Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine	33.5	35.4	-5.4	14.3	14.5	-0.2
Bas-Saint-Laurent	85.9	82.3	4.4	5.6	10.3	-4.7
Capitale-Nationale	408.6	406.3	0.6	3.8	5.3	-1.5
Chaudière-Appalaches	221.2	209.2	5.7	3.0	5.2	-2.2
Estrie	150.9	152.0	-0.7	5.4	5.3	0.1
Centre-du-Québec	111.9	119.0	-6.0	4.9	7.2	-2.3
Montérégie	813.9	773.6	5.2	4.7	5.8	-1.1
Montréal	1,035.0	1,019.8	1.5	7.1	8.1	-1.0
Laval	233.6	210.3	11.1	6.3	8.6	-2.3
Lanaudière	260.6	239.6	8.8	6.5	7.2	-0.7
Laurentides	284.7	316.0	-9.9	6.3	5.0	1.3
Outaouais	200.6	196.5	2.1	4.8	5.9	-1.1
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	75.4	74.0	1.9	4.7	6.4	-1.7
Mauricie	106.3	112.7	-5.7	7.0	7.8	-0.8
Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean	127.8	125.4	1.9	5.5	8.8	-3.3
Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec	55.3	54.1	2.2	5.6	7.4	-1.8

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

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 LMI team at:

http://www.esdc.gc.ca/cgi-bin/contact/edsc-esdc/eng/contact_us.aspx?section=lmi

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, 2018, all rights reserved