



Labour Market Bulletin

Quebec

February 2019



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

OVERVIEW

Employment continued to grow in February, according to the latest estimates of Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey. The Quebec labour market added 14,900 additional jobs since January, amounting to a 0.3% increase. These gains came from full-time employment (+9,000 jobs) and from part-time employment (+5,900 jobs). This rate of employment growth was the same as the one for Canada as a whole and lower than the one for Ontario (+0.5%).

In comparison to February 2018, the number of employed people increased by 1.3% (+54,600 jobs). It is worth noting that the yearly rate of employment growth (in comparison to the same month of the previous year) has not reached 1% since May 2018. This growth was due to a sharp increase in part-time employment (+4.9%) and, to a lesser degree, to full-time employment (+0.5%). The private sector (+46,700 jobs) and self-employed workers (+17,400 jobs) saw their employment levels increase, while the private sector posted a decrease (+9,500 jobs).

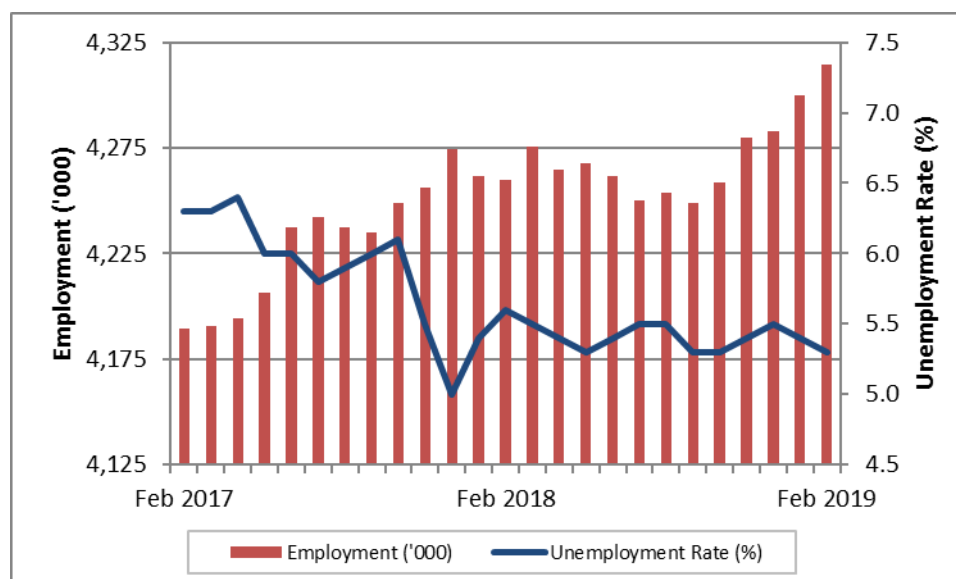
Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics

| Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data | February 2019 | January 2019 | February 2018 | Monthly Variation | | Yearly Variation | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|------|------------------|------|
| | | | | Number | % | Number | % |
| Population 15 + ('000) | 7,026.9 | 7,023.3 | 6,960.3 | 3.6 | 0.1 | 66.6 | 1.0 |
| Labour Force ('000) | 4,554.1 | 4,544.1 | 4,512.8 | 10.0 | 0.2 | 41.3 | 0.9 |
| Employment ('000) | 4,314.5 | 4,299.6 | 4,259.9 | 14.9 | 0.3 | 54.6 | 1.3 |
| Full-Time ('000) | 3,501.1 | 3,492.1 | 3,484.8 | 9.0 | 0.3 | 16.3 | 0.5 |
| Part-Time ('000) | 813.4 | 807.5 | 775.1 | 5.9 | 0.7 | 38.3 | 4.9 |
| Unemployment ('000) | 239.6 | 244.5 | 252.9 | -4.9 | -2.0 | -13.3 | -5.3 |
| Unemployment Rate (%) | 5.3 | 5.4 | 5.6 | -0.1 | - | -0.3 | - |
| Participation Rate (%) | 64.8 | 64.7 | 64.8 | 0.1 | - | 0.0 | - |
| Employment Rate (%) | 61.4 | 61.2 | 61.2 | 0.2 | - | 0.2 | - |

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0287

Quebec Monthly Employment and Unemployment Rate



The number of unemployed people decreased by 4,900 in comparison to January, thanks to a significant increase in the number of employed people. For this reason, the unemployment rate shed 0.1 percentage point and reached 5.3%, a rate that was lower than that for Canada as a whole (5.8%). In comparison to twelve months earlier, the unemployment rate decreased by 0.3 percentage point. In comparison to the previous month, the participation rate climbed 0.1 percentage point and stood at 64.8%, thanks to an increase in the labour force that was higher than that of the population 15 years and over. Finally, the employment rate gained 0.2 percentage point in comparison to January and stood at 61.4%. It was also higher than in February 2018, due to a significant increase in the employment rate for women in the 15-24 age group and the 25-54 age group.

Quebec Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

| Seasonally Adjusted Data | February 2019 | January 2019 | February 2018 | Monthly Variation | Yearly Variation |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | % | % | % | (% points) | (% points) |
| Total | 5.3 | 5.4 | 5.6 | -0.1 | -0.3 |
| 25 years and over | 4.7 | 4.8 | 5.0 | -0.1 | -0.3 |
| Men - 25 years and over | 5.4 | 4.9 | 5.2 | 0.5 | 0.2 |
| Women - 25 years and over | 4.0 | 4.6 | 4.9 | -0.6 | -0.9 |
| 15 to 24 years | 8.7 | 9.3 | 9.2 | -0.6 | -0.5 |
| Men - 15 to 24 years | 10.3 | 10.7 | 9.4 | -0.4 | 0.9 |
| Women - 15 to 24 years | 7.3 | 7.9 | 8.9 | -0.6 | -1.6 |

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0287

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

In terms of industry, the goods-producing sector saw an decrease in employment levels for a second consecutive month. This sector had 3,300 fewer jobs in comparison to January (-0.4%) due to a significant employment decline in the construction industry and to a lesser degree in utilities. However, employment gains were noted in agriculture, manufacturing, as well as in forestry, fishing and mining. In comparison to last year, the figure for the goods-producing sector is however positive, with a growth of 11,800 jobs (+1.4%), due to the contribution of all sectors except manufacturing.

Thus, the growth of employment over one month was essentially due to the services sector, where employment grew by 0.5% (+18,200 jobs). The following subsectors posted the strongest growth: other services, business services, building and other support services, as well as professional, scientific and technical services. Employment declines were registered in five subsectors, mainly in information, culture and recreation, as well as in health care and social assistance. In comparison to February 2018, the services sector added 42,800 jobs (+1.3%), thanks to employment increases primarily in professional, scientific and technical services, health care and social assistance, as well as in business services, building services and other support services.

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

| Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000) | February 2019 | January 2019 | February 2018 | Monthly Variation | | Yearly Variation | |
|--|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|------|------------------|------|
| | | | | Number | % | Number | % |
| Total employed, all industries | 4,314.5 | 4,299.6 | 4,259.9 | 14.9 | 0.3 | 54.6 | 1.3 |
| Goods-producing sector | 869.7 | 873.0 | 857.9 | -3.3 | -0.4 | 11.8 | 1.4 |
| Agriculture | 57.3 | 50.9 | 52.8 | 6.4 | 12.6 | 4.5 | 8.5 |
| Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas | 42.0 | 41.5 | 39.1 | 0.5 | 1.2 | 2.9 | 7.4 |
| Utilities | 27.9 | 29.0 | 23.4 | -1.1 | -3.8 | 4.5 | 19.2 |
| Construction | 250.5 | 261.4 | 246.0 | -10.9 | -4.2 | 4.5 | 1.8 |
| Manufacturing | 492.0 | 490.1 | 496.6 | 1.9 | 0.4 | -4.6 | -0.9 |
| Services-producing sector | 3,444.8 | 3,426.6 | 3,402.0 | 18.2 | 0.5 | 42.8 | 1.3 |
| Trade | 654.5 | 655.6 | 663.8 | -1.1 | -0.2 | -9.3 | -1.4 |
| Transportation and warehousing | 226.8 | 229.8 | 218.2 | -3.0 | -1.3 | 8.6 | 3.9 |
| Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing | 234.7 | 234.1 | 237.1 | 0.6 | 0.3 | -2.4 | -1.0 |
| Professional, scientific and technical services | 354.8 | 347.9 | 321.6 | 6.9 | 2.0 | 33.2 | 10.3 |
| Business, building and other support services | 199.2 | 190.9 | 187.5 | 8.3 | 4.3 | 11.7 | 6.2 |
| Educational services | 304.3 | 301.3 | 294.2 | 3.0 | 1.0 | 10.1 | 3.4 |
| Health care and social assistance | 602.0 | 605.4 | 586.4 | -3.4 | -0.6 | 15.6 | 2.7 |
| Information, culture and recreation | 166.1 | 171.0 | 182.2 | -4.9 | -2.9 | -16.1 | -8.8 |
| Accommodation and food services | 262.6 | 264.2 | 272.0 | -1.6 | -0.6 | -9.4 | -3.5 |
| Other services | 187.9 | 175.2 | 185.9 | 12.7 | 7.2 | 2.0 | 1.1 |
| Public administration | 251.9 | 251.1 | 253.0 | 0.8 | 0.3 | -1.1 | -0.4 |

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0355

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Taking into account seasonally unadjusted data, Quebec had 36,500 additional jobs in comparison to February 2018. Laurentides had the highest employment growth among all economic regions (+43,500 jobs or +15.3%). The unemployment rate for this region saw a significant, 1.4 percentage point decline and reached 4.9%. The Montréal region (+28,000 jobs) also registered a significant employment growth, at a rate of 2.7%. However, the unemployment rate for this region increased by 0.1 percentage point and reached 7.2%, due to a higher growth in the labour force than in the number of employed people. Maurice (+10,000 jobs) ranked third in terms of employment growth and had the highest employment rate decrease (-1.9 percentage point, reaching 5.2%) of all economic regions in Quebec.

Employment declines were registered in half of the economic regions over the past 12 months. The most significant decrease was seen in Montérégie (-32,200 jobs or -4.0%). The regional unemployment rate increased by 0.5 percentage point and reached 5.2%. The Lanaudière region also experienced a significant decline in employment (-9,700 jobs or -3.7%). However, the unemployment rate for this region decreased by 1.8 percentage point during the same period, due to a significant decline of the labour force. Finally, employment also fell in Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean (-8,500 jobs or -8.7%), leading to a 1.2 percentage increase in the unemployment rate, which reached 6.7%.

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

| 3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data | Employment | | | Unemployment Rate | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | February 2019 ('000) | February 2018 ('000) | Yearly Variation (%) | February 2019 (%) | February 2018 (%) | Yearly Variation (% points) |
| Quebec | 4,241.8 | 4,205.3 | 0.9 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 0.0 |
| Economic Regions | | | | | | |
| Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine | 30.1 | 33.5 | -10.1 | 15.2 | 14.3 | 0.9 |
| Bas-Saint-Laurent | 91.5 | 85.9 | 6.5 | 7.2 | 5.6 | 1.6 |
| Capitale-Nationale | 404.6 | 408.6 | -1.0 | 4.4 | 3.8 | 0.6 |
| Chaudière-Appalaches | 213.1 | 221.2 | -3.7 | 4.6 | 3.0 | 1.6 |
| Estrie | 159.8 | 150.9 | 5.9 | 4.1 | 5.4 | -1.3 |
| Centre-du-Québec | 118.2 | 111.9 | 5.6 | 6.6 | 4.9 | 1.7 |
| Montérégie | 781.7 | 813.9 | -4.0 | 5.2 | 4.7 | 0.5 |
| Montréal | 1,063.0 | 1,035.0 | 2.7 | 7.2 | 7.1 | 0.1 |
| Laval | 229.4 | 233.6 | -1.8 | 5.4 | 6.3 | -0.9 |
| Lanaudière | 250.9 | 260.6 | -3.7 | 4.7 | 6.5 | -1.8 |
| Laurentides | 328.2 | 284.7 | 15.3 | 4.9 | 6.3 | -1.4 |
| Outaouais | 203.1 | 200.6 | 1.2 | 5.6 | 4.8 | 0.8 |
| Abitibi-Témiscamingue | 78.7 | 75.4 | 4.4 | 3.4 | 4.7 | -1.3 |
| Mauricie | 116.3 | 106.3 | 9.4 | 5.1 | 7.0 | -1.9 |
| Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean | 119.3 | 127.8 | -6.7 | 6.7 | 5.5 | 1.2 |
| Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec | 53.8 | 55.3 | -2.7 | 4.1 | 5.6 | -1.5 |

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0293

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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