



Labour Market Bulletin

Quebec

March 2019



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

OVERVIEW

Despite the decline observed in March (-12,900 jobs), employment growth accelerated in the first quarter of 2019, according to the latest estimates of Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey. The growth rate reached 0.7%, in comparison to 0.5% in the previous quarter. This growth rate is equivalent to the figure registered in Canada as a whole, but lower than in Ontario (+1.1%). In Quebec, the increase was due essentially to full-time employment (+26,700 jobs), while part-time employment also increased, but more modestly (4,400 jobs). The 15-24 and the 55 and over age groups saw the most significant increases, while employment growth was slower for 25-54 year-olds.

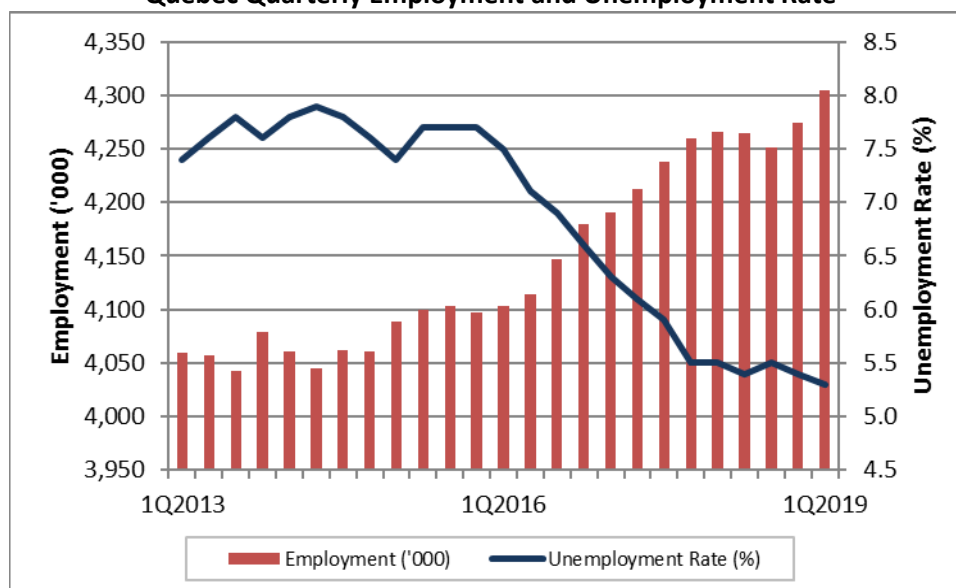
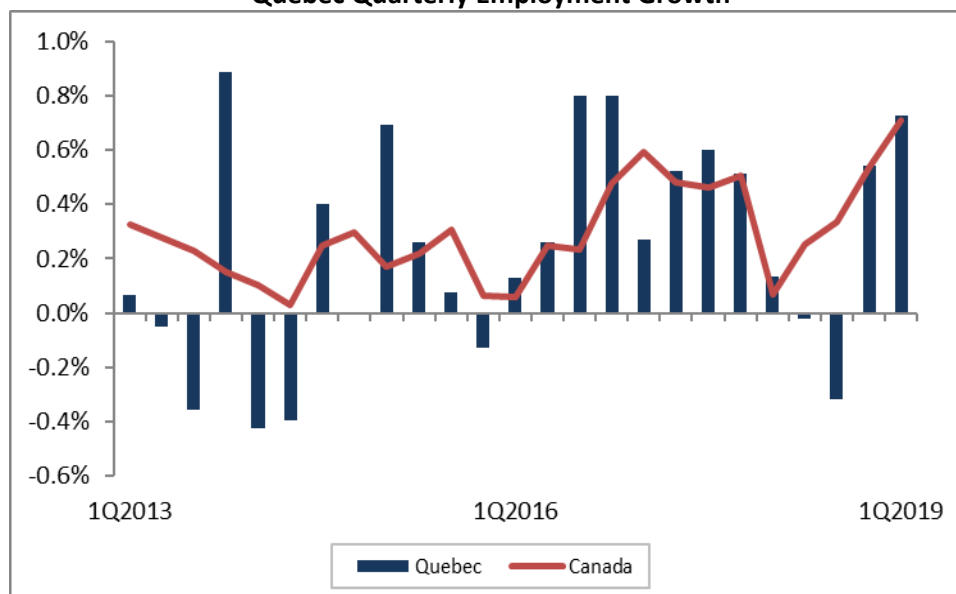
In comparison to the same period last year, employment posted a 0.9% growth (+39,600 jobs), due exclusively to a progression of part-time employment. Full-time employment remained essentially at the same level over the past year, due to declines posted in the second and third quarters of 2018, which were barely offset by growth in the fourth quarter of 2018 and the first quarter of 2019. Still on a yearly basis, employment growth was attributable to the private sector and self-employed workers, while employment levels declined in the public sector.

Quebec Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Quarterly Data	1st Quarter 2019	4th Quarter 2018	1st Quarter 2018	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	7,026.9	7,011.7	6,961.1	15.2	0.2	65.8	0.9
Labour Force ('000)	4,545.1	4,517.9	4,514.5	27.2	0.6	30.6	0.7
Employment ('000)	4,305.2	4,274.1	4,265.6	31.1	0.7	39.6	0.9
Full-Time ('000)	3,492.9	3,466.2	3,493.3	26.7	0.8	-0.4	0.0
Part-Time ('000)	812.3	807.9	772.3	4.4	0.5	40.0	5.2
Unemployment ('000)	239.9	243.9	248.9	-4.0	-1.6	-9.0	-3.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.3	5.4	5.5	-0.1	-	-0.2	-
Participation Rate (%)	64.7	64.4	64.9	0.3	-	-0.2	-
Employment Rate (%)	61.3	61.0	61.3	0.3	-	0.0	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Quebec Quarterly Employment and Unemployment Rate**Quebec Quarterly Employment Growth**

Due to a significant employment growth (on a quarterly basis), the number of unemployed people decreased by 4,000 in comparison to the previous quarter. Thus, the unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage point in comparison to the previous quarter, settling at 5.3%. As the labour force grew faster than the working-age population, the participation rate rose by 0.3 percentage point, reaching 64.7%. However, this indicator showed a decrease in comparison to the first quarter of 2018 (when the participation rate stood at 64.9%). Finally, the employment rate rose by 0.3 percentage point in comparison to the fourth quarter of 2018. At 61.3%, the employment rate was identical to the figure registered in the first quarter of 2018. However, women age 15 to 24 and age 25 to 54 posted higher employment rates in comparison to the previous year.

Quebec Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	1st Quarter 2019 (%)	4th Quarter 2018 (%)	1st Quarter 2018 (%)	Quarterly Variation	Yearly Variation
				(% points)	(% points)
Total	5.3	5.4	5.5	-0.1	-0.2
25 years and over	4.8	4.7	4.9	0.1	-0.1
Men - 25 years and over	5.2	4.8	5.1	0.4	0.1
Women - 25 years and over	4.2	4.6	4.7	-0.4	-0.5
15 to 24 years	8.6	9.8	9.4	-1.2	-0.8
Men - 15 to 24 years	10.0	12.2	10.0	-2.2	0.0
Women - 15 to 24 years	7.4	7.4	8.7	0.0	-1.3

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

Quebec - Labour Market Indicators for Indigenous People

3-month moving averages Seasonally unadjusted data	Indigenous		Yearly variation (Indigenous)		Non-Indigenous		Yearly variation (non-Indigenous)	
	Q1 2019	Q1 2018	Number	%	Q1 2019	Q1 2018	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	105.8	102.4	3.4	3.3	6,921.1	6,858.9	62.2	0.9
Labour Force ('000)	60.5	62.4	-1.9	-3.0	4,434.5	4,398.9	35.6	0.8
Employment ('000)	54.3	57.4	-3.1	-5.4	4,172.4	4,129.3	43.1	1.0
Full-Time ('000)	43.3	42.7	0.6	1.4	3,336.5	3,333.6	2.9	0.1
Part-Time ('000)	10.9	14.7	-3.8	-25.9	835.9	795.6	40.3	5.1
Unemployment ('000)	6.3	5.0	1.3	26.0	262.1	269.7	-7.6	-2.8
Unemployment Rate (%)	10.4	8.0	2.4	-	5.9	6.1	-0.2	-
Participation Rate (%)	57.2	61.0	-3.8	-	64.1	64.1	0.0	-
Employment Rate (%)	51.3	56.1	-4.8	-	60.3	60.2	0.1	-

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 first quarter of 2019, the total population aged 15 and over in Quebec was 7.0 million. The Indigenous population living off-reserve accounted for 1.5% of this total, or 105,800 persons. During the first quarter of 2019, 54,300 people in the Indigenous population were employed, corresponding to a decrease of 3,100 jobs (-5.4%) year over year. This decline is explained by a decrease in part-time jobs (-3,800) despite a gain in full-time jobs (+600).

In the first quarter of 2019, the unemployment rate for the Indigenous population was 10.4%, an increase of 2.4 percentage points in comparison to the first quarter of 2018. The unemployment rate for the non-Indigenous population decreased by 0.2 percentage point since the previous year, and stood at 5.9%. The participation rate for the Indigenous population decreased by 3.8 percentage points and stood at 57.2%, while this rate remained the same for the non-Indigenous population, at 64.1%. The employment rate for the Indigenous population decreased during the first quarter of 2019 (-4.8 percentage points), to settle at 51.3%, and the rate for the non-Indigenous population rose slightly to 60.3% (+0.1 percentage point) in the first quarter of 2019, in comparison to the same period in 2018.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

At the industry level, a growth in employment was observed in the goods-producing sector (+7,100 jobs or +0.8%) in comparison to the fourth quarter of 2018. Essentially, this growth was linked to manufacturing (+8,500 jobs) and the forestry, fishing and mining industry (+2,300 jobs). It is worth noting that this was a first quarter of growth for the manufacturing industry following four consecutive quarters of declines. Agriculture, utilities and construction experienced employment declines in comparison to the previous quarter. Year over year, the goods-producing sector showed a growth of 14,100 jobs (+1.6%), thanks to gains in forestry, fishing and mining, in construction and in utilities.

Employment also grew in the services sector in comparison to the previous quarter (+24,000 jobs or +0.7%). Professional, scientific and technical services, transportation and warehousing, as well as other services, saw the most significant employment growth. Only four industries registered employment decreases, the most significant of which was seen in accommodation and food services. In comparison to the previous year, the picture for the services sector was positive, with gains of 25,400 jobs (+0.7%). Employment increases were registered, amongst others, in professional, scientific and technical services, in health care and social assistance, as well as in transportation and warehousing. Conversely, information, culture and recreation, accommodation and food services, as well as trade, saw employment numbers decline in comparison to the first quarter of 2018.

Quebec Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	1st Quarter 2019	4th Quarter 2018	1st Quarter 2018	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	4,305.2	4,274.1	4,265.6	31.1	0.7	39.6	0.9
Goods-producing sector	872.8	865.7	858.7	7.1	0.8	14.1	1.6
Agriculture	55.2	57.0	55.2	-1.8	-3.2	0.0	0.0
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	42.9	40.6	37.2	2.3	5.7	5.7	15.3
Utilities	27.8	29.2	23.5	-1.4	-4.8	4.3	18.3
Construction	253.4	254.0	247.9	-0.6	-0.2	5.5	2.2
Manufacturing	493.4	484.9	495.0	8.5	1.8	-1.6	-0.3
Services-producing sector	3,432.4	3,408.4	3,407.0	24.0	0.7	25.4	0.7
Trade	658.0	662.3	665.2	-4.3	-0.6	-7.2	-1.1
Transportation and warehousing	228.4	219.0	219.7	9.4	4.3	8.7	4.0
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	234.8	237.3	237.6	-2.5	-1.1	-2.8	-1.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	352.3	333.6	324.9	18.7	5.6	27.4	8.4
Business, building and other support services	196.7	195.8	188.4	0.9	0.5	8.3	4.4
Educational services	301.8	300.2	295.6	1.6	0.5	6.2	2.1
Health care and social assistance	600.0	596.2	586.4	3.8	0.6	13.6	2.3
Information, culture and recreation	169.4	173.8	183.4	-4.4	-2.5	-14.0	-7.6
Accommodation and food services	259.3	272.9	271.1	-13.6	-5.0	-11.8	-4.4
Other services	181.1	171.9	182.6	9.2	5.4	-1.5	-0.8
Public administration	250.5	245.4	252.1	5.1	2.1	-1.6	-0.6

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Among Quebec's economic regions, the most significant employment growth was registered in Laurentides (+42,500 jobs or +14.9%). This region's unemployment rate decreased by 1.6 percentage point, settling at 4.7%. The island of Montréal (+27,800 jobs or +2.7%) also saw a significant increase in employment. The unemployment rate for Montréal, the second highest among all Quebec economic regions, decreased by 0.1 percentage point, reaching 7.4%. Finally, the Mauricie region (+11,400 jobs or +10.8%) also saw significant employment growth. Thanks to this employment increase, the unemployment rate decreased by 2.0 percentage points, settling at 5.8%.

Other economic regions experienced employment declines, the most significant of which was registered in Montérégie (-30,600 jobs or -3.8%). The unemployment rate for this region increased by 0.4 percentage point, but still remained low and below the Quebec average (5.9%). The Chaudière-Appalaches region also saw a significant employment decline, with 7,000 fewer jobs in comparison to the first quarter of 2018 (-3.2%). The unemployment rate increased by 1.6 percentage point and reached 5.0%, remaining below the Quebec average. Finally, 6,700 jobs were lost in Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean, amounting to a 5.3% decline. The region's unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage point, reaching 7.1%.

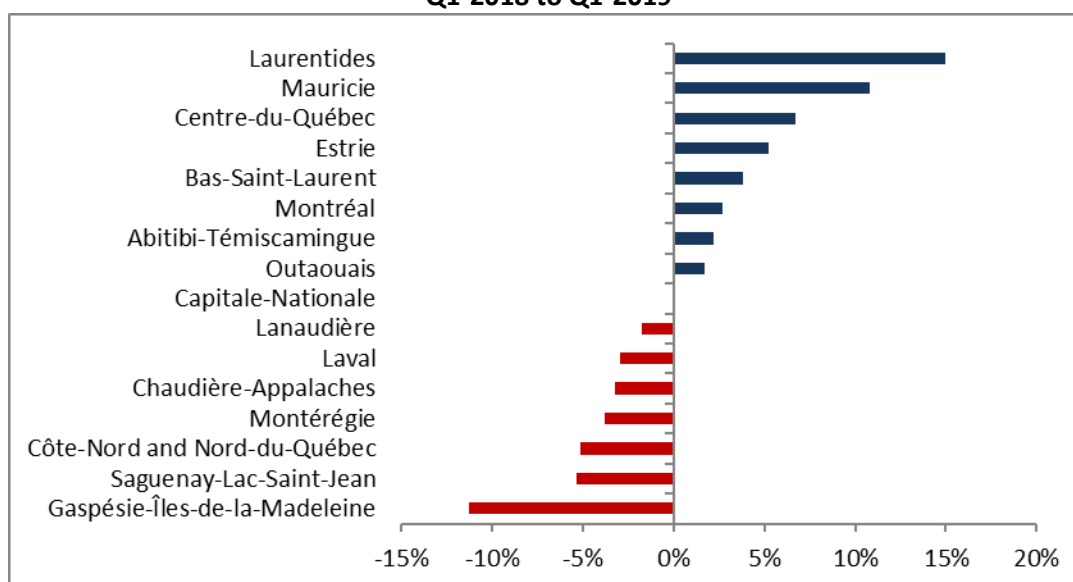
Quebec Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	1st Quarter 2019 ('000)	1st Quarter 2018 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	1st Quarter 2019 (%)	1st Quarter 2018 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Quebec	4,230.7	4,187.7	1.0	5.9	6.2	-0.3
Economic Regions						
Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine	29.9	33.7	-11.3	16.2	14.9	1.3
Bas-Saint-Laurent	89.4	86.1	3.8	8.8	6.8	2.0
Capitale-Nationale	406.6	406.8	0.0	4.7	4.7	0.0
Chaudière-Appalaches	209.9	216.9	-3.2	5.0	3.4	1.6
Estrie	158.7	150.8	5.2	4.4	6.0	-1.6
Centre-du-Québec	118.6	111.1	6.8	6.5	5.8	0.7
Montérégie	783.6	814.2	-3.8	5.3	4.9	0.4
Montréal	1,056.7	1,028.9	2.7	7.4	7.5	-0.1
Laval	229.5	236.5	-3.0	6.0	6.3	-0.3
Lanaudière	251.1	255.6	-1.8	4.7	7.3	-2.6
Laurentides	326.9	284.4	14.9	4.7	6.3	-1.6
Outaouais	203.1	199.7	1.7	6.4	5.6	0.8
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	78.1	76.4	2.2	3.6	4.5	-0.9
Mauricie	117.2	105.8	10.8	5.8	7.8	-2.0
Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean	119.6	126.3	-5.3	7.1	6.9	0.2
Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec	51.7	54.5	-5.1	5.0	6.2	-1.2

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Quebec Quarterly Employment Growth, by Economic Region Q1-2018 to Q1-2019



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, 2019, all rights reserved