



Labour Market Bulletin

Quebec

January 2020



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

OVERVIEW

According to the latest estimates of *Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey*, the Quebec labour force is getting off to a good start in 2020. Some 19,100 jobs have been created since last month, an increase of 0.4% which is higher than that for Ontario and Canada as a whole (+0.2% respectively). The vitality of employment is entirely due to the creation of full-time employment (+31,200 jobs or 0.9%), while part-time employment declined during the same period (12,200 jobs or -1.5%). Increases were mostly posted for public and private sector workers, while employment for the self-employed declined.

On an annual basis, the Quebec situation remains positive, as it has benefitted from the creation of 60,300 jobs (or +1.4%) since January 2019, which is exclusively attributable to salaried employment (in the public and private sectors). Similar trends can be observed in Ontario and in Canada as a whole for the last year, when employment growth reached 2.8% and 1.4%, respectively. It should be noted that Prince Edward Island posted the highest annual growth in Canada with a rate of 6.4%.

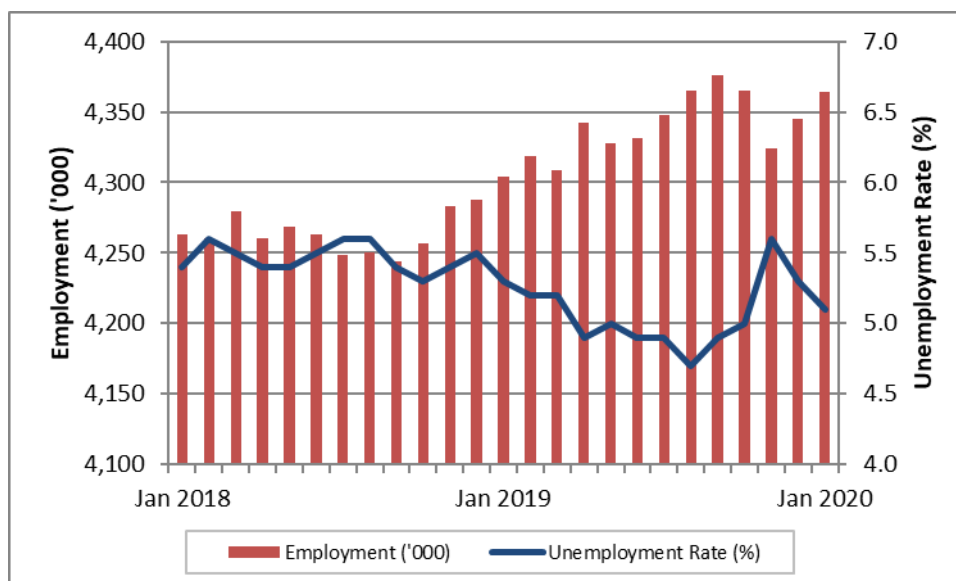
Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	January 2020	December 2019	January 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	7,089.1	7,083.0	7,023.3	6.1	0.1	65.8	0.9
Labour Force ('000)	4,597.2	4,586.4	4,547.1	10.8	0.2	50.1	1.1
Employment ('000)	4,364.5	4,345.4	4,304.2	19.1	0.4	60.3	1.4
Full-Time ('000)	3,563.1	3,531.9	3,494.5	31.2	0.9	68.6	2.0
Part-Time ('000)	801.4	813.6	809.7	-12.2	-1.5	-8.3	-1.0
Unemployment ('000)	232.7	240.9	242.9	-8.2	-3.4	-10.2	-4.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.1	5.3	5.3	-0.2	-	-0.2	-
Participation Rate (%)	64.8	64.8	64.7	0.0	-	0.1	-
Employment Rate (%)	61.6	61.3	61.3	0.3	-	0.3	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Quebec Monthly Employment and Unemployment Rate



Thus, the significant increase in full-time employment (+68,600 jobs or 2.0%) in Quebec in the last year has easily made up for the decrease in part-time employment (-8,300 jobs or -1.0%). Since the number of workers has grown more rapidly than the working age population, the employment rate has increased by 0.3 percentage points, to 61.6%.

The number of unemployed has decreased by 8,200 since the previous month, a drop of 3.4%. This decline, along with a small increase in the labour force, has led to a 0.2% decline in the unemployment rate, which has fallen to 5.1%, a level that is historically low. On a yearly basis, the trend remains the same; Quebec has 10,200 unemployed persons less in January 2020 than it did in January 2019, which represents a decrease of 4.2% in one year. This decrease in the number of the unemployed, combined with a moderate growth in the labour force, has led to a decrease of 0.2 percentage points in the unemployment rate. The greatest decline was observed among women aged 25 and over (-0.8 percentage points), thus raising the employment rate of this group to 3.7%.

Quebec Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	January 2020	December 2019	January 2019	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	5.1	5.3	5.3	-0.2	-0.2
25 years and over	4.5	4.6	4.8	-0.1	-0.3
Men - 25 years and over	5.1	4.9	5.0	0.2	0.1
Women - 25 years and over	3.7	4.2	4.5	-0.5	-0.8
15 to 24 years	8.7	9.5	9.1	-0.8	-0.4
Men - 15 to 24 years	10.0	11.7	10.3	-1.7	-0.3
Women - 15 to 24 years	7.4	7.2	7.9	0.2	-0.5

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

In terms of industry, employment in the goods-producing sector grew by 1.9%, representing 17,300 more jobs than in December 2019. Most sectors posted employment gains, the largest one occurring in construction (+2.7%). From an annual perspective, an increase has also been observed, with much larger gains, since the goods-producing sector posted 3.8% in employment growth. Since January 2019, job creation has occurred mostly in construction, which posted a significant increase of 8.8% in 12 months.

Some 1,800 jobs were also added to the service-producing sector in comparison the previous month. The largest gains were recorded in educational services and transportation and warehousing. In the last 12 months, the service-producing sector benefitted from a growth of 0.8%, representing a total of 27,000 new jobs. Most service-producing industries contributed to this increase. Those that made the greatest contribution were finance, insurance, real estate and leasing, as well as transportation and warehousing.

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	January 2020	December 2019	January 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	4,364.5	4,345.4	4,304.2	19.1	0.4	60.3	1.4
Goods-producing sector	906.9	889.6	873.5	17.3	1.9	33.4	3.8
Agriculture	60.1	58.9	50.8	1.2	2.0	9.3	18.3
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	38.9	39.2	42.0	-0.3	-0.8	-3.1	-7.4
Utilities	23.9	23.4	29.0	0.5	2.1	-5.1	-17.6
Construction	283.1	275.7	260.2	7.4	2.7	22.9	8.8
Manufacturing	501.0	492.4	491.5	8.6	1.7	9.5	1.9
Services-producing sector	3,457.6	3,455.8	3,430.6	1.8	0.1	27.0	0.8
Trade	661.8	664.9	656.4	-3.1	-0.5	5.4	0.8
Transportation and warehousing	245.7	237.5	230.4	8.2	3.5	15.3	6.6
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	251.5	251.5	234.6	0.0	0.0	16.9	7.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	345.1	349.3	348.3	-4.2	-1.2	-3.2	-0.9
Business, building and other support services	169.1	168.6	191.3	0.5	0.3	-22.2	-11.6
Educational services	309.6	298.4	302.2	11.2	3.8	7.4	2.4
Health care and social assistance	611.6	616.2	605.1	-4.6	-0.7	6.5	1.1
Information, culture and recreation	175.3	177.0	171.4	-1.7	-1.0	3.9	2.3
Accommodation and food services	263.4	263.0	262.4	0.4	0.2	1.0	0.4
Other services	172.8	178.9	176.7	-6.1	-3.4	-3.9	-2.2
Public administration	251.6	250.6	251.9	1.0	0.4	-0.3	-0.1

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Most economic regions saw an increase in employment in the last year. The most significant variation occurred in the Centre-du-Québec (+11.1%). At the same time, there were fewer workers in six regions, such as Laval (-10.7%) and the Laurentides (-7.9%).

Again in comparison with January 2019, unemployment rates have dropped in half of Quebec's economic regions. The largest decline has been observed in Centre-du Québec, with a loss of 4.4 percentage points, setting the rate at 1.4%. Inversely, the highest rate was in Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine (+2.1 percentage points), which brings the unemployment rate to 16.7%.

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	January 2020 ('000)	January 2019 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	January 2020 (%)	January 2019 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Quebec	4,317.8	4,254.7	1.5	5.1	5.4	-0.3
Economic Regions						
Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine	31.9	30.5	4.6	16.7	14.6	2.1
Bas-Saint-Laurent	87.4	92.0	-5.0	5.7	5.9	-0.2
Capitale-Nationale	386.4	397.5	-2.8	4.5	4.0	0.5
Chaudière-Appalaches	223.0	215.7	3.4	4.0	4.0	0.0
Estrie	163.2	160.5	1.7	4.4	4.2	0.2
Centre-du-Québec	130.4	117.4	11.1	1.4	5.8	-4.4
Montréal	827.0	785.2	5.3	3.8	4.9	-1.1
Montréal	1,111.0	1,072.2	3.6	7.0	6.7	0.3
Laval	207.1	232.0	-10.7	4.0	5.1	-1.1
Lanaudière	266.6	249.2	7.0	4.3	4.6	-0.3
Laurentides	302.9	328.8	-7.9	5.0	5.2	-0.2
Outaouais	200.3	203.8	-1.7	4.8	5.0	-0.2
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	74.2	78.4	-5.4	3.8	2.8	1.0
Mauricie	123.6	118.9	4.0	5.8	4.3	1.5
Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean	127.1	118.0	7.7	5.9	6.6	-0.7
Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec	55.8	54.6	2.2	5.7	4.0	1.7

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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