



# Labour Market Bulletin

Quebec

October 2020



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

## OVERVIEW

The Labour Force Survey was conducted from October 11 to 17, 2020, roughly two weeks after the Government of Quebec had ordered the closure of some businesses, including restaurants, bars and art and recreation facilities in many populous areas (including Montreal and Quebec City). We therefore noted that, compared to September, 12,900 jobs (-0.3%) were lost across Quebec. This was the first decrease since the recovery that began in May. Only part-time employment (-35,200 jobs or -4.4%) was affected by this decline, whereas full-time employment continued to rise (+22,200 jobs or +0.6%). Employment contracted in both the public sector and the private sector, albeit to a lesser extent, while the number of self-employed workers grew. Across the country, employment increased by 0.5% owing to gains in British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario.

Year over year, employment slipped by 107,100 jobs (-2.5%) in Quebec. This setback affected both full-time (-45,700) and part-time (-61,500) employment. Job losses were twice as high for women (-3.5%) than for men (-1.5%).

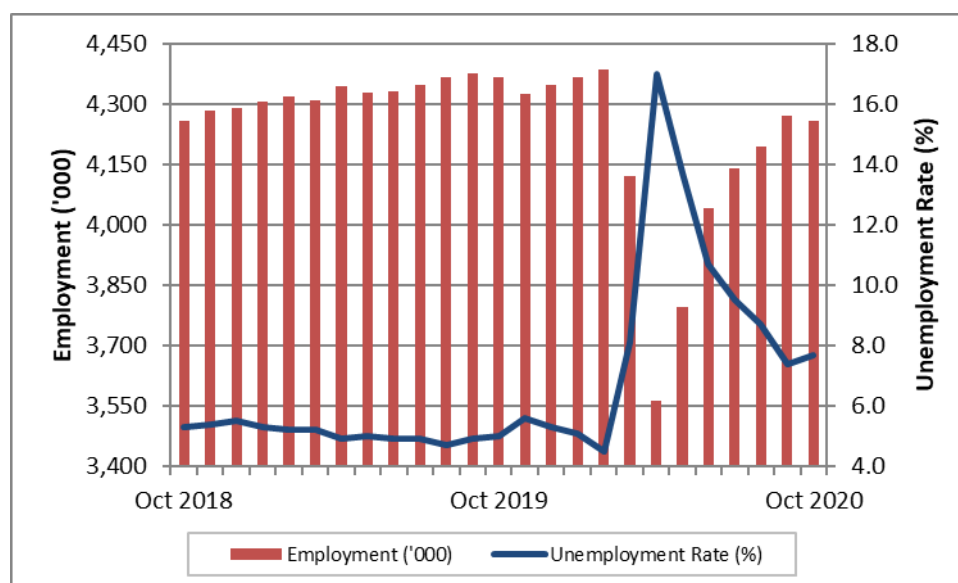
### Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	October 2020	September 2020	October 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	7,137.5	7,132.4	7,071.8	5.1	0.1	65.7	0.9
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	4,612.2	4,612.8	4,596.1	-0.6	0.0	16.1	0.4
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	4,258.0	4,270.9	4,365.1	-12.9	-0.3	-107.1	-2.5
Full-Time ('000)	3,498.4	3,476.2	3,544.1	22.2	0.6	-45.7	-1.3
Part-Time ('000)	759.5	794.7	821.0	-35.2	-4.4	-61.5	-7.5
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	354.2	341.9	231.0	12.3	3.6	123.2	53.3
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	7.7	7.4	5.0	0.3	-	2.7	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	64.6	64.7	65.0	-0.1	-	-0.4	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	59.7	59.9	61.7	-0.2	-	-2.0	-

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 rose to 354,200 in October, an increase of 12,300 (+3.6%) since September. As a result, the unemployment rate increased by 0.3 percentage points to 7.7%. This rate was nevertheless lower than in Ontario (9.6%) and Canada as a whole (8.9%). Given that job losses were offset by increased unemployment, the participation rate wavered only slightly (-0.1 percentage point), while the employment rate dipped by 0.2 percentage points compared to the previous month.

## Quebec Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	October 2020	September 2020	October 2019	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	7.7	7.4	5.0	0.3	2.7
<b>25 years and over</b>	6.6	6.5	4.3	0.1	2.3
Men - 25 years and over	7.0	6.5	4.6	0.5	2.4
Women - 25 years and over	6.1	6.5	4.1	-0.4	2.0
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	14.8	13.1	9.2	1.7	5.6
Men - 15 to 24 years	17.8	14.3	11.5	3.5	6.3
Women - 15 to 24 years	11.9	11.9	6.8	0.0	5.1

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

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Turning to industries, employment in the goods-producing sector posted its first setback (-5,800 jobs or -0.7%) after five consecutive months of growth. This reduction was entirely attributable to the manufacturing industry, while construction remained at the same level. Year over year, the goods-producing sector lost 17,900 jobs (-2.0%) since October 2019. Manufacturing, forestry, fishing and mining accounted for the bulk of these losses.

In the services-producing sector, a decline of 7,100 jobs was reported (-0.2%) since September. However, only three industries posted job losses: accommodation and food services (-41,600 jobs or -18.5%), information, culture and recreation (-11,400 jobs or -6.9%) and trade (-5,300 jobs or -0.8%). All other industries reported employment growth. Year over year, the services-producing sector dropped 89,200 jobs (-2.6%). The most significant job losses were in accommodation and food services; information, culture and recreation; and other services (except public administration). Four industries reported higher employment levels than in October 2019: educational services; finance, insurance, real estate and leasing; professional, scientific and technical services; and trade.

**Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry**

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	October 2020	September 2020	October 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	4,258.0	4,270.9	4,365.1	-12.9	-0.3	-107.1	-2.5
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	869.2	875.0	887.1	-5.8	-0.7	-17.9	-2.0
Agriculture	56.3	55.9	52.1	0.4	0.7	4.2	8.1
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	39.9	37.2	41.7	2.7	7.3	-1.8	-4.3
Utilities	24.8	24.8	25.0	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-0.8
Construction	270.5	269.7	267.2	0.8	0.3	3.3	1.2
Manufacturing	477.7	487.3	501.0	-9.6	-2.0	-23.3	-4.7
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	3,388.8	3,395.9	3,478.0	-7.1	-0.2	-89.2	-2.6
Trade	667.8	673.1	655.7	-5.3	-0.8	12.1	1.8
Transportation and warehousing	234.7	226.8	242.7	7.9	3.5	-8.0	-3.3
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	262.0	248.0	251.3	14.0	5.6	10.7	4.3
Professional, scientific and technical services	360.6	353.2	349.7	7.4	2.1	10.9	3.1
Business, building and other support services	166.3	162.8	177.3	3.5	2.1	-11.0	-6.2
Educational services	350.1	341.1	305.6	9.0	2.6	44.5	14.6
Health care and social assistance	608.4	605.5	617.5	2.9	0.5	-9.1	-1.5
Information, culture and recreation	153.8	165.2	179.4	-11.4	-6.9	-25.6	-14.3
Accommodation and food services	183.1	224.7	263.3	-41.6	-18.5	-80.2	-30.5
Other services	159.9	156.9	178.7	3.0	1.9	-18.8	-10.5
Public administration	242.1	238.5	256.9	3.6	1.5	-14.8	-5.8

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Labour Force Survey data for the economic regions are three-month non-seasonally adjusted moving averages; the Month data therefore correspond to an average of August, September and October.

Employment levels remained below what they were 12 months earlier in most of Quebec's economic regions. The most significant decreases were reported in the following regions: Montreal (-73,600 jobs or -6.5%), Quebec City (-21,400 jobs or -5.3%), Montérégie (-19,200 jobs or -2.3%) and Outaouais (-16,300 jobs or -7.7%). Conversely, the following four regions reported higher year-over-year employment levels: Laval (+20,100 jobs or +9.5%), Lanaudière (+5,900 jobs or +2.2%), Mauricie (+5,200 jobs or +4.3%) and Chaudière–Appalaches (+2,800 jobs or +1.2%). Employment levels remained below what they were 12 months earlier in most of Quebec's economic regions. The most significant decreases were reported in the following regions: Montreal (-73,600 jobs or -6.5%), Quebec City (-21,400 jobs or -5.3%), Montérégie (-19,200 jobs or -2.3%) and Outaouais (-16,300 jobs or -7.7%). Conversely, the following four regions reported higher year-over-year employment levels: Laval (+20,100 jobs or +9.5%), Lanaudière (+5,900 jobs or +2.2%), Mauricie (+5,200 jobs or +4.3%) and Chaudière–Appalaches (+2,800 jobs or +1.2%).

Only two economic regions posted unemployment rates that were lower than in October 2019: Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine (-1.0 percentage point) and Bas-Saint-Laurent (-0.3 percentage points). The economic regions with the highest unemployment rates in Quebec were Montreal (11.2%), Laurentides (9.7%) and Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine (8.9%). The regions with the province's lowest unemployment rates were Bas-Saint-Laurent (3.6%), Chaudière–Appalaches (3.9%) and Centre-du-Québec (4.3%).

**Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region**

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	October 2020 ('000)	October 2019 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	October 2020 (%)	October 2019 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Quebec</b>	4,277.0	4,406.2	-2.9	7.5	4.6	2.9
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine	31.7	35.3	-10.2	8.9	9.9	-1.0
Bas-Saint-Laurent	91.3	93.4	-2.2	3.6	3.9	-0.3
Capitale-Nationale	384.3	405.7	-5.3	4.6	2.8	1.8
Chaudière-Appalaches	233.4	230.6	1.2	3.9	2.7	1.2
Estrie	164.6	168.4	-2.3	5.8	5.0	0.8
Centre-du-Québec	121.2	126.4	-4.1	4.3	3.0	1.3
Montérégie	805.2	824.4	-2.3	6.7	3.3	3.4
Montréal	1,056.6	1,130.2	-6.5	11.2	6.8	4.4
Laval	232.7	212.6	9.5	6.4	3.0	3.4
Lanaudière	273.9	268.0	2.2	7.1	4.0	3.1
Laurentides	304.7	314.2	-3.0	9.7	5.3	4.4
Outaouais	194.9	211.2	-7.7	7.5	4.3	3.2
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	71.7	76.1	-5.8	4.4	3.4	1.0
Mauricie	126.3	121.1	4.3	5.7	5.1	0.6
Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean	131.7	133.0	-1.0	4.7	4.5	0.2
Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec	52.9	55.7	-5.0	5.5	4.8	0.7

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.

**Prepared by:** Labour Market Analysis Directorate, Service Canada, Quebec

**For further information,** please contact the LMI team at:

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**For information on the Labour Force Survey,** please visit the Statistics Canada website at:

[www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

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