



Labour Market Bulletin

Quebec

April 2020



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

OVERVIEW

Employment nosedived in April according to the latest data from Statistics Canada's *Labour Force Survey*. The monthly variation in employment in April (-556,500 or -13.5%) was nearly twice as much as that in March (-264,000 or -6.0%). In addition, unlike March data, the decline in employment affected full-time employment (-451,500 or -13.0%) more than part-time employment (-105,000 or -16.5%). Most of the employment losses were in the private sector. Of the 10 provinces, Quebec recorded the largest percentage decline in employment. In Canada as a whole, employment declined 11.0% compared with the previous month.

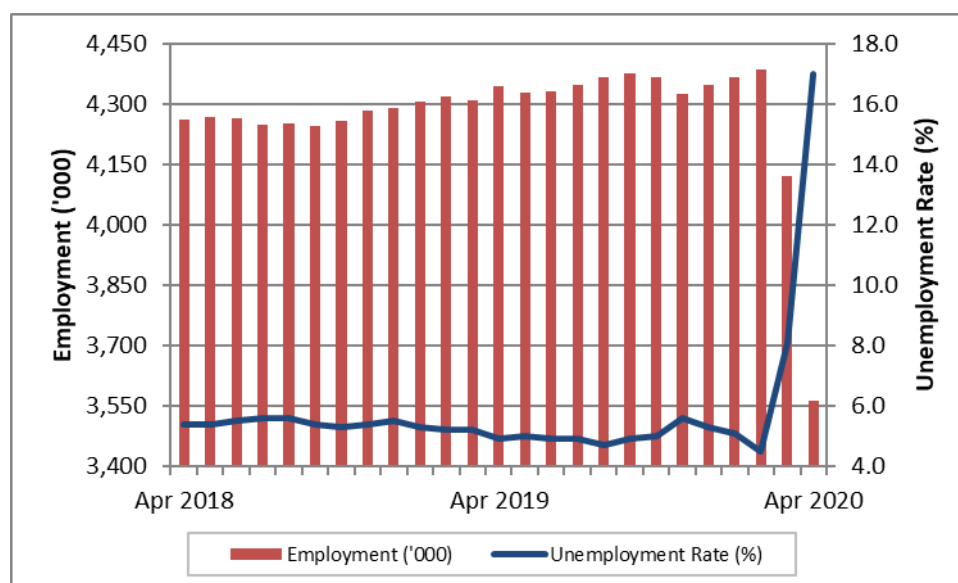
Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	April 2020	March 2020	April 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	7,106.8	7,102.4	7,036.0	4.4	0.1	70.8	1.0
Labour Force ('000)	4,293.3	4,483.3	4,567.3	-190.0	-4.2	-274.0	-6.0
Employment ('000)	3,564.0	4,120.5	4,342.3	-556.5	-13.5	-778.3	-17.9
Full-Time ('000)	3,033.9	3,485.4	3,516.5	-451.5	-13.0	-482.6	-13.7
Part-Time ('000)	530.1	635.1	825.8	-105.0	-16.5	-295.7	-35.8
Unemployment ('000)	729.4	362.8	225.0	366.6	101.0	504.4	224.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	17.0	8.1	4.9	8.9	-	12.1	-
Participation Rate (%)	60.4	63.1	64.9	-2.7	-	-4.5	-
Employment Rate (%)	50.1	58.0	61.7	-7.9	-	-11.6	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Quebec Monthly Employment and Unemployment Rate



In the past month, the number of unemployed more than doubled to 729,400. As a result, the unemployment rate rose from 8.1% to 17.0% (+8.9 percentage points), the highest rate since data were first published in 1976. This means that the unemployment rate went from its lowest historical value in February—when the unemployment rate was 4.5%—to its highest value in just two months. As a result of an increase in the number of people not in the labour force, the participation rate, which was 60.4% in March, fell 2.7 percentage points. The employment rate dropped sharply by 7.9 percentage points to 50.1%, the lowest published employment rate since 1976.

Compared with April 2019, employment plummeted by 778,300, or 17.9%, for both full-time employment (-482,600 or -13.7%) and part-time employment (-295,700 or -35.8%). Employment in all three main age groups (15–24, 25–54, and 55 and over) dropped, but it is the 15–24 age group that was proportionally most affected.

Quebec Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	April 2020	March 2020	April 2019	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	17.0	8.1	4.9	8.9	12.1
25 years and over	14.3	6.5	4.6	7.8	9.7
Men - 25 years and over	14.2	5.5	5.3	8.7	8.9
Women - 25 years and over	14.4	7.7	3.8	6.7	10.6
15 to 24 years	34.4	17.9	7.2	16.5	27.2
Men - 15 to 24 years	32.6	14.3	8.2	18.3	24.4
Women - 15 to 24 years	36.4	21.5	6.3	14.9	30.1

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

For industries, the goods-producing sector recorded a decrease of 230,800 jobs (-25.7%) compared with March. Employment declines were seen in all goods-producing industries, but the employment declines were particularly significant in construction, manufacturing, forestry, fishing and mining. The yearly variation in employment was almost as significant, with a decline of 209,700 jobs (-23.9%), and the same sectors posting the largest decreases.

In the services-producing sector, jobs were down 325,700 compared with March (-10.1%). All service industries reported a decline in employment, except for educational services. The largest job declines were in retail and wholesale trade, accommodation and food services, and other services. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the accommodation and food services sector has lost half of its jobs (as of the date of writing?). The services-producing sector posted a year-over-year decrease of 568,600 jobs, affecting all industries.

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	April 2020	March 2020	April 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	3,564.0	4,120.5	4,342.3	-556.5	-13.5	-778.3	-17.9
Goods-producing sector	668.2	899.0	877.9	-230.8	-25.7	-209.7	-23.9
Agriculture	52.7	53.7	57.7	-1.0	-1.9	-5.0	-8.7
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	33.0	40.8	42.6	-7.8	-19.1	-9.6	-22.5
Utilities	23.5	23.8	27.3	-0.3	-1.3	-3.8	-13.9
Construction	171.4	279.2	254.9	-107.8	-38.6	-83.5	-32.8
Manufacturing	387.7	501.5	495.6	-113.8	-22.7	-107.9	-21.8
Services-producing sector	2,895.8	3,221.5	3,464.4	-325.7	-10.1	-568.6	-16.4
Trade	531.6	632.1	678.3	-100.5	-15.9	-146.7	-21.6
Transportation and warehousing	201.9	233.1	234.2	-31.2	-13.4	-32.3	-13.8
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	235.7	251.2	241.1	-15.5	-6.2	-5.4	-2.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	329.3	352.9	344.0	-23.6	-6.7	-14.7	-4.3
Business, building and other support services	144.1	155.9	195.3	-11.8	-7.6	-51.2	-26.2
Educational services	263.1	245.4	301.7	17.7	7.2	-38.6	-12.8
Health care and social assistance	551.2	586.2	599.9	-35.0	-6.0	-48.7	-8.1
Information, culture and recreation	138.7	156.8	171.8	-18.1	-11.5	-33.1	-19.3
Accommodation and food services	130.3	199.3	249.1	-69.0	-34.6	-118.8	-47.7
Other services	127.5	165.8	188.9	-38.3	-23.1	-61.4	-32.5
Public administration	242.4	242.9	260.1	-0.5	-0.2	-17.7	-6.8

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 seasonally unadjusted three-month moving averages; April data are an average of February, March and April.

Looking at the seasonally unadjusted data, Quebec posted a decrease of 299,100 jobs in April year over year. Most economic regions also saw a decrease in employment compared with April 2019, with the largest decreases recorded in the Laurentides region (-71,500 jobs or -21.9%), the Capitale-Nationale region (-59,600 jobs or -14.5%) and on the Island of Montreal (-41,000 jobs or -3.9%). However, two regions posted an increase in employment: Lanaudière (+11,700 jobs or +4.7%) and, to a lesser extent, Mauricie (+800 jobs or +0.7%).

All of Quebec's economic regions recorded an increase in the unemployment rate in April year over year. The largest increases were in Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean (+8.0 percentage points or 14.8%), Laurentides (+7.7 percentage points or 12.2%), Lanaudière (+5.7 percentage points or 10.7%) and Laval (+5.7 percentage points or 11.2%).

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	April 2020 ('000)	April 2019 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	April 2020 (%)	April 2019 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Quebec	3,954.3	4,253.4	-7.0	10.6	5.8	4.8
Economic Regions						
Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine	28.1	30.0	-6.3	19.3	17.6	1.7
Bas-Saint-Laurent	80.2	89.4	-10.3	11.7	8.4	3.3
Capitale-Nationale	351.8	411.4	-14.5	10.2	4.5	5.7
Chaudière-Appalaches	207.8	211.5	-1.7	8.7	4.3	4.4
Estrie	151.9	158.5	-4.2	9.4	4.2	5.2
Centre-du-Québec	121.2	121.3	-0.1	8.3	7.0	1.3
Montréal	1,018.7	1,059.7	-3.9	10.5	6.9	3.6
Laval	193.7	229.6	-15.6	11.2	5.5	5.7
Lanaudière	260.7	249.0	4.7	10.7	5.0	5.7
Laurentides	254.8	326.3	-21.9	12.2	4.5	7.7
Outaouais	186.7	205.8	-9.3	9.9	6.4	3.5
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	66.0	77.3	-14.6	9.5	4.4	5.1
Mauricie	120.3	119.5	0.7	11.1	6.3	4.8
Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean	111.7	121.5	-8.1	14.8	6.8	8.0
Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec	48.7	51.1	-4.7	11.0	5.7	5.3

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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