



Labour Market Bulletin

Quebec

May 2020



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

OVERVIEW

With the gradual return of economic activity, the number of employed persons in Quebec was on the rise in May, in comparison with the data of the previous months, according to Statistics Canada's Labour Market Survey. While employment posted a monthly increase of 230,900 jobs (+6.5%), the employment level remained below 589,600 (-13.4%) in comparison with February, that is, prior to the implementation of the sanitary measures intended for the protection of public health. Last month's additional jobs were mostly full time (+229,600 jobs or +7.6%), while there has been very little change in part-time employment (+1,300 jobs or +0.2%). The majority of the additional jobs are in the private sector. Monthly employment growth in Quebec is the highest among the 10 Canadian provinces and represents close to 80% of the additional jobs in all of Canada. In Ontario, where several economic restrictions were still in force in mid-May, employment declined by 1.0% in comparison with April.

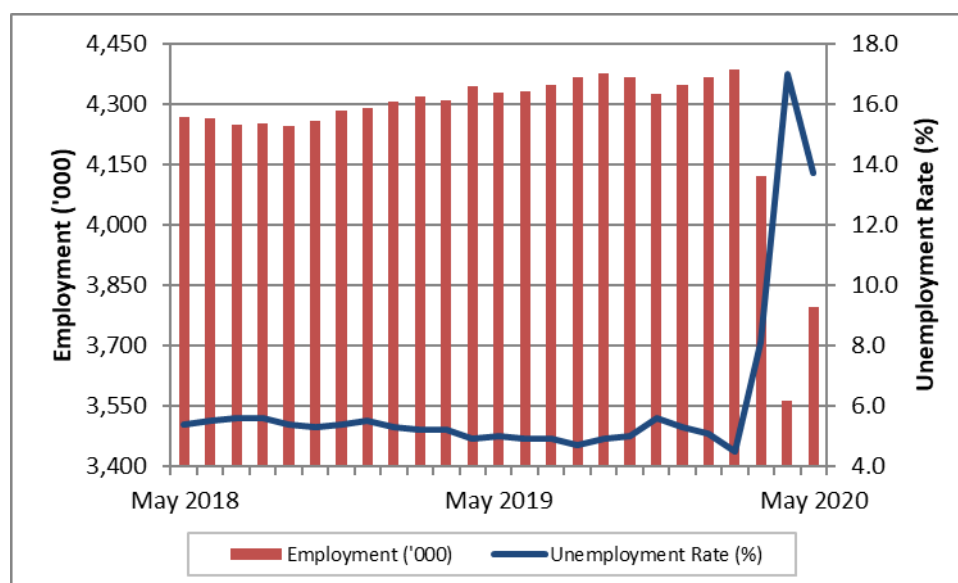
Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	May 2020	April 2020	May 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	7,111.0	7,106.8	7,040.7	4.2	0.1	70.3	1.0
Labour Force ('000)	4,398.9	4,293.3	4,554.4	105.6	2.5	-155.5	-3.4
Employment ('000)	3,794.9	3,564.0	4,327.9	230.9	6.5	-533.0	-12.3
Full-Time ('000)	3,263.5	3,033.9	3,514.3	229.6	7.6	-250.8	-7.1
Part-Time ('000)	531.4	530.1	813.5	1.3	0.2	-282.1	-34.7
Unemployment ('000)	603.9	729.4	226.6	-125.5	-17.2	377.3	166.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	13.7	17.0	5.0	-3.3	-	8.7	-
Participation Rate (%)	61.9	60.4	64.7	1.5	-	-2.8	-
Employment Rate (%)	53.4	50.1	61.5	3.3	-	-8.1	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Quebec Monthly Employment and Unemployment Rate



On a yearly basis, employment declined significantly by 533,000 jobs (-12.3%), due to both full-time employment (250,800 jobs or -7.1%) and part-time employment (-282,100 jobs or -34.7%). The yearly decrease in employment is somewhat higher for women (-13.9%) than for men (-10.9%), as the latter benefitted most from the recovery of the previous month. Young people aged 15 to 24 are still in the age group that is the most affected by the decline in employment from the previous year.

After recording a major increase in April, the number of unemployed persons has decreased by 125,500 (-17.2%) in May. Thus, the unemployment rate has dropped by 3.3 percentage points, to 13.7%. Along with an increase in the employment level, the participation rate (+1.5 percentage points) and the employment rate (+3.3 percentage points) have also increased in comparison with the data for April.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Statistics Canada has been publishing additional indicators to get a better grasp of the impact on the Canadian labour market. In May, the number of employed persons who had not worked any hours decreased by 27.7% in Quebec, while those who worked less than half their regular hours posted an increase of 18.6%.

Quebec Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	May 2020	April 2020	May 2019	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	13.7	17.0	5.0	-3.3	8.7
25 years and over	11.3	14.3	4.6	-3.0	6.7
Men - 25 years and over	11.3	14.2	5.3	-2.9	6.0
Women - 25 years and over	11.2	14.4	3.7	-3.2	7.5
15 to 24 years	30.3	34.4	7.5	-4.1	22.8
Men - 15 to 24 years	30.1	32.6	9.1	-2.5	21.0
Women - 15 to 24 years	30.5	36.4	5.9	-5.9	24.6

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

At the industrial level, employment in the goods-producing sector increased by 124,100 (+18.6%) in comparison with April. All industries posted monthly employment growth, but the gains were particularly significant in construction and manufacturing, as well as in forestry, fishing and mines. Employment in the good-producing sector, however, declined significantly in comparison with its February level (-115,700 jobs of -12.7%), as well as in comparison with May 2019 (-90,500 jobs or -10.3%).

The services-producing sector increased by 106,800 jobs (+3.7%) in comparison with April. The largest increases in employment growth were in the wholesale and retail trades and educational services, as well as in health care and social assistance. Some industries in the services-producing sector however posted decreases in comparison with the previous month, including transportation and warehousing, public administration, accommodations and food services. All industries in the services-producing sector posted decreases in employment in comparison with the February data, prior to the first impacts of the pandemic. The largest declines were in accommodations and food services—where the employment level declined by over 50%—and other services (that include personal services, such hair and esthetics salons and other services), and transportation and warehousing.

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	May 2020	April 2020	May 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	3,794.9	3,564.0	4,327.9	230.9	6.5	-533.0	-12.3
Goods-producing sector	792.3	668.2	882.8	124.1	18.6	-90.5	-10.3
Agriculture	54.3	52.7	55.9	1.6	3.0	-1.6	-2.9
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	39.9	33.0	43.2	6.9	20.9	-3.3	-7.6
Utilities	25.1	23.5	27.1	1.6	6.8	-2.0	-7.4
Construction	229.3	171.4	256.2	57.9	33.8	-26.9	-10.5
Manufacturing	443.8	387.7	500.4	56.1	14.5	-56.6	-11.3
Services-producing sector	3,002.6	2,895.8	3,445.1	106.8	3.7	-442.5	-12.8
Trade	585.2	531.6	669.1	53.6	10.1	-83.9	-12.5
Transportation and warehousing	187.0	201.9	234.4	-14.9	-7.4	-47.4	-20.2
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	242.3	235.7	244.8	6.6	2.8	-2.5	-1.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	343.5	329.3	347.3	14.2	4.3	-3.8	-1.1
Business, building and other support services	141.5	144.1	183.1	-2.6	-1.8	-41.6	-22.7
Educational services	298.3	263.1	301.4	35.2	13.4	-3.1	-1.0
Health care and social assistance	567.0	551.2	603.5	15.8	2.9	-36.5	-6.0
Information, culture and recreation	144.9	138.7	173.0	6.2	4.5	-28.1	-16.2
Accommodation and food services	126.7	130.3	250.5	-3.6	-2.8	-123.8	-49.4
Other services	131.1	127.5	188.1	3.6	2.8	-57.0	-30.3
Public administration	235.1	242.4	250.0	-7.3	-3.0	-14.9	-6.0

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

The *Labour Force Survey* data for the economic regions are 3-month moving averages, seasonally unadjusted; the data for May therefore correspond to an average for March, April and May.

Considering the seasonally unadjusted data, Quebec recorded a drop of 500,900 jobs (-11.7%) in May in comparison with the same period in the previous year. Employment has declined in all economic regions, except for Lanaudière. The largest decreases in employment were posted in the Montreal region (-95,600 jobs or -9.0%), Laurentides (-82,500 jobs or -25.6%), Montérégie (-79,700 jobs or -10.0%) and the Capitale Nationale (-79,700 jobs or -19.0%).

The unemployment rate has increased in all economic regions. The largest increases were recorded in Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean (+11.5 percentage points, settling at 17.9%), in Laurentides (+11.1 percentage points, settling at 14.7%) and in the Lanaudière region (+9.6 percentage points, settling at 14.3%). In these three cases, these are the highest unemployment rates recorded since the beginning of the publication of data in 2001. It should be noted that eight other economic regions also had their highest unemployment rate since 2001: the Capitale Nationale, Chaudière-Appalaches, Estrie, the Montreal region, Montérégie, the Laval region, Outaouais and Mauricie.

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	May 2020 ('000)	May 2019 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	May 2020 (%)	May 2019 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Quebec	3,794.9	4,295.8	-11.7	13.4	5.4	8.0
Economic Regions						
Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine	27.0	32.3	-16.4	18.7	15.7	3.0
Bas-Saint-Laurent	78.6	91.6	-14.2	13.3	7.4	5.9
Capitale-Nationale	339.4	419.1	-19.0	12.4	3.9	8.5
Chaudière-Appalaches	204.5	216.0	-5.3	10.1	3.7	6.4
Estrie	150.0	160.8	-6.7	10.9	3.9	7.0
Centre-du-Québec	115.4	125.5	-8.0	11.1	5.4	5.7
Montérégie	719.5	799.2	-10.0	13.3	4.6	8.7
Montréal	967.6	1,063.2	-9.0	14.0	6.9	7.1
Laval	186.7	226.2	-17.5	14.3	5.0	9.3
Lanaudière	256.8	252.8	1.6	14.3	4.7	9.6
Laurentides	239.6	322.1	-25.6	14.7	3.6	11.1
Outaouais	180.0	210.1	-14.3	11.8	5.8	6.0
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	62.0	76.7	-19.2	13.0	5.3	7.7
Mauricie	114.6	122.8	-6.7	14.0	6.0	8.0
Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean	107.2	126.3	-15.1	17.9	6.4	11.5
Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec	46.0	51.2	-10.2	14.6	6.2	8.4

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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