



# Labour Market Bulletin

Quebec

August 2020



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

## OVERVIEW

Quebec's labour market continued to recover in August, but the growth rate had again slowed, according to the latest data from Statistics Canada's *Labour Force Survey*. The labour market grew by 1.3% in July, adding 54,200 jobs. Employment grew at a rate of +2.4% during the previous month. Contrary to the July data, however, gains came exclusively from full-time employment, with 60,900 more jobs than in July (+1.8%), while part-time employment dipped slightly by 6,700 (-0.9%). Employment growth was limited to the private sector, while public-sector and self-employed workers posted losses since July. Employment across Canada increased at a similar rate to Quebec (+1.4%), owing primarily to gains posted in Ontario (+2.0%) and Quebec.

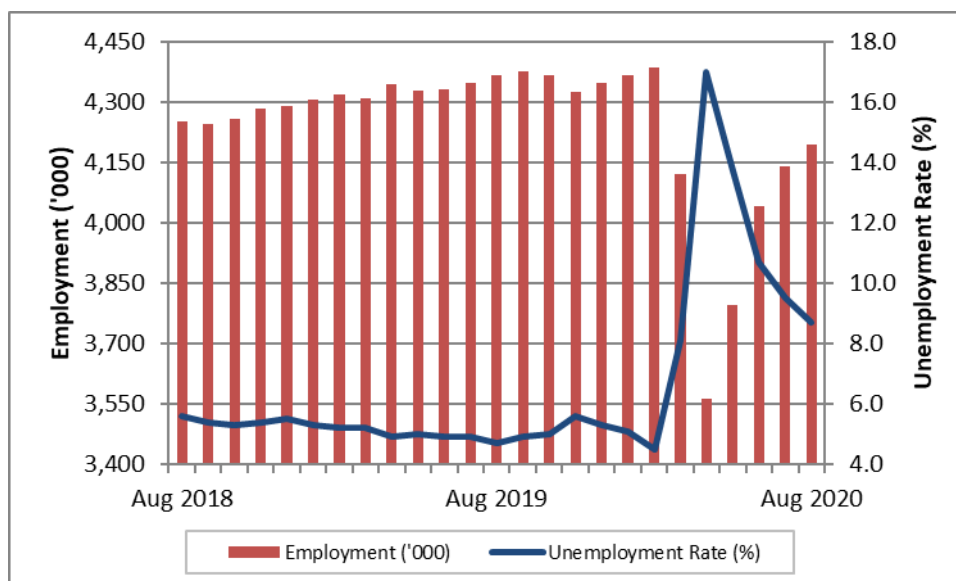
### Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	August 2020	July 2020	August 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	7,125.1	7,119.9	7,060.3	5.2	0.1	64.8	0.9
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	4,592.6	4,576.8	4,581.8	15.8	0.3	10.8	0.2
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	4,194.2	4,140.0	4,364.8	54.2	1.3	-170.6	-3.9
Full-Time ('000)	3,430.9	3,370.0	3,544.8	60.9	1.8	-113.9	-3.2
Part-Time ('000)	763.3	770.0	820.0	-6.7	-0.9	-56.7	-6.9
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	398.4	436.8	217.0	-38.4	-8.8	181.4	83.6
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	8.7	9.5	4.7	-0.8	-	4.0	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	64.5	64.3	64.9	0.2	-	-0.4	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	58.9	58.1	61.8	0.8	-	-2.9	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

## Quebec Monthly Employment and Unemployment Rate



Compared to the figures from February, before public-health measures were imposed, employment was still down by 190,300 (-4.3%) in Quebec. Viewed from another perspective, 76.8% of the jobs lost in March and April had been recovered. Youth aged 15 to 24 were the age group that had lost the most jobs (-10.1%) since February. Year over year, employment had declined by 170,600 (-3.9%). Full-time employment was down by 113,900 (-3.2%) compared to August 2019, while part-time job losses numbered 56,700 (-6.9%).

Compared to July, the number of unemployed decreased by 38,400 in August (-8.8%), settling at 398,400 people. As a result, the unemployment rate contracted to 8.7%, down 0.8 percentage points. The unemployment rate remained lower than in Ontario (10.6%) and Canada as a whole (10.2%). Thanks to the increase in employment, the participation rate crept up by 0.2 percentage points, standing at 64.5%. Lastly, the employment rate was 58.9% in Quebec, up by 0.8 percentage points since July.

## Quebec Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	August 2020	July 2020	August 2019	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	8.7	9.5	4.7	-0.8	4.0
<b>25 years and over</b>	7.3	8.3	4.0	-1.0	3.3
Men - 25 years and over	6.7	8.2	4.4	-1.5	2.3
Women - 25 years and over	8.0	8.3	3.6	-0.3	4.4
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	16.9	17.9	9.2	-1.0	7.7
Men - 15 to 24 years	18.7	23.0	10.3	-4.3	8.4
Women - 15 to 24 years	15.0	12.4	8.0	2.6	7.0

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

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Turning to industries, the goods-producing sector posted an increase of 17,700 jobs (+2.1%) compared to the July data. Employment levels in construction (+11,800 jobs) and manufacturing (+7,300 jobs) were notably higher, while forestry, fishing and mining reported job losses. Compared to data from February, the goods-producing sector lost 46,600 jobs (-5.1%). All goods-producing industries were below their February employment levels.

The services-producing sector reported a monthly gain of 36,500 jobs (+1.1%). The largest job increases were in wholesale and retail trade; business, building and other support services; and other services. However, health care and social assistance; information, culture and recreation; and, to a lesser extent, public administration posted job losses since July. Compared to the February employment levels, the service industries that were most affected in terms of job losses were accommodation and food services; information, culture and recreation; transportation and warehousing; and other services.

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

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	August 2020	July 2020	August 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	4,194.2	4,140.0	4,364.8	54.2	1.3	-170.6	-3.9
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	861.4	843.7	899.0	17.7	2.1	-37.6	-4.2
Agriculture	55.4	55.0	54.3	0.4	0.7	1.1	2.0
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	35.9	37.7	42.9	-1.8	-4.8	-7.0	-16.3
Utilities	23.1	23.1	24.2	0.0	0.0	-1.1	-4.5
Construction	269.6	257.8	269.7	11.8	4.6	-0.1	0.0
Manufacturing	477.4	470.1	507.9	7.3	1.6	-30.5	-6.0
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	3,332.8	3,296.3	3,465.8	36.5	1.1	-133.0	-3.8
Trade	668.8	654.1	657.3	14.7	2.2	11.5	1.7
Transportation and warehousing	219.9	215.5	238.1	4.4	2.0	-18.2	-7.6
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	247.1	244.9	249.4	2.2	0.9	-2.3	-0.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	345.6	341.9	344.0	3.7	1.1	1.6	0.5
Business, building and other support services	166.9	156.1	174.4	10.8	6.9	-7.5	-4.3
Educational services	317.2	316.8	311.2	0.4	0.1	6.0	1.9
Health care and social assistance	601.2	610.8	611.9	-9.6	-1.6	-10.7	-1.7
Information, culture and recreation	159.7	161.2	189.2	-1.5	-0.9	-29.5	-15.6
Accommodation and food services	211.2	207.2	260.8	4.0	1.9	-49.6	-19.0
Other services	160.5	152.6	179.4	7.9	5.2	-18.9	-10.5
Public administration	234.7	235.1	249.9	-0.4	-0.2	-15.2	-6.1

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 August data therefore correspond to an average of June, July and August.

Most of the economic regions posted job losses in August, compared to the same time last year. The most significant losses were reported in the Montreal (-98,900 jobs or -8.9%), Laurentides (-35,400 jobs or -11.1%), Quebec City (-31,700 jobs or -7.5%) and Outaouais (-20,600 jobs or -9.6%) regions. Lanaudière (+8,800 jobs or +3.2%), Laval (+8,600 jobs or +3.9%), Chaudière–Appalaches (+8,200 jobs or +3.6%) and Mauricie (+600 jobs or +0.5%) were the only economic regions that reported year-over-year job increases.

All economic regions posted unemployment rates that were higher than those in August 2019. It should be noted, however, that the 2019 unemployment rates were historically low in most regions. The largest unemployment-rate increases were in the Montreal (+7.2 percentage points, standing at 15.3%), Laurentides (+5.7 percentage points, standing at 9.9%) and Montérégie (+4.9 percentage points, standing at 8.6%) regions. The regions with the highest unemployment rates in August were Montreal (15.3%), Laurentides (9.9%) and Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine (9.1%).

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

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	August2020 ('000)	August 2019 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	August2020 (%)	August 2019 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Quebec</b>	4,203.3	4,418.6	-4.9	9.4	4.8	4.6
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine	32.8	37.6	-12.8	9.1	8.3	0.8
Bas-Saint-Laurent	91.1	98.3	-7.3	4.9	3.4	1.5
Capitale-Nationale	388.6	420.3	-7.5	5.7	2.6	3.1
Chaudière-Appalaches	234.4	226.2	3.6	5.1	2.3	2.8
Estrie	163.2	167.7	-2.7	6.8	4.7	2.1
Centre-du-Québec	119.1	127.0	-6.2	5.1	3.8	1.3
Montérégie	802.9	817.6	-1.8	8.6	3.7	4.9
Montréal	1,012.4	1,111.3	-8.9	15.3	8.1	7.2
Laval	227.5	218.9	3.9	7.4	3.6	3.8
Lanaudière	280.4	271.6	3.2	7.9	3.2	4.7
Laurentides	282.4	317.8	-11.1	9.9	4.2	5.7
Outaouais	194.0	214.6	-9.6	8.1	3.9	4.2
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	70.1	76.9	-8.8	4.5	3.6	0.9
Mauricie	125.9	125.3	0.5	7.4	4.1	3.3
Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean	127.2	132.9	-4.3	7.8	4.8	3.0
Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec	51.2	54.7	-6.4	5.5	3.7	1.8

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

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