



Labour Market Bulletin

Quebec

November 2020



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

OVERVIEW

According to Statistics Canada's *Labour Force Survey*, Quebec reported low employment growth in November, despite the fact that new regions had been affected by government restrictions, including Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean, Estrie and many regional county municipalities bordering areas that were identified as red zones in October. Employment rose by 15,700 (+0.4%) jobs since the previous month, completely offsetting the slight decrease posted in October. Most of the jobs added in November came from full-time employment (+15,400 jobs or +0.4%), while part-time employment increased only slightly (+500 jobs). Employment grew in the public sector and decreased in the private sector. The number of self-employed workers scarcely fluctuated. Low employment growth was also reported in Ontario (+0.5%) and the rest of Canada (+0.3%).

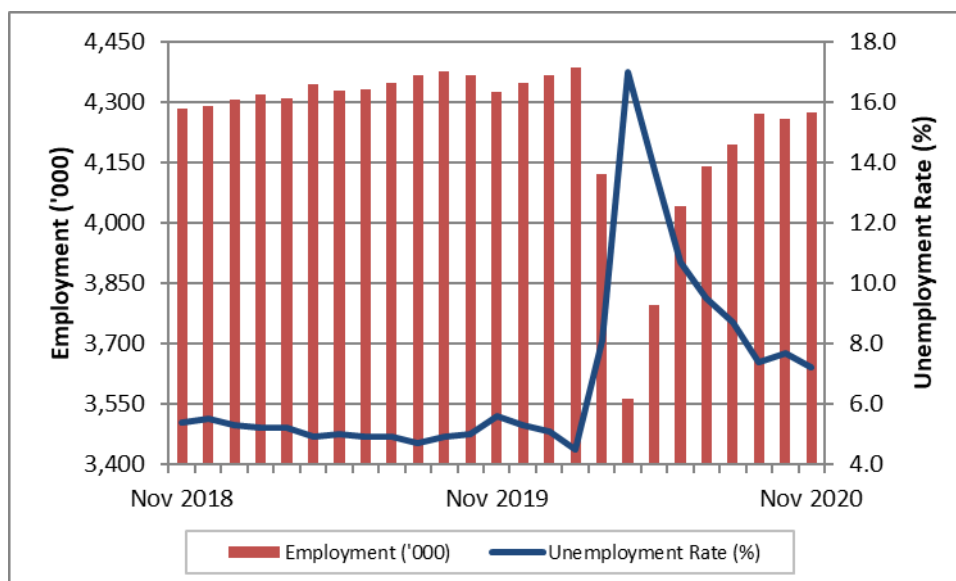
Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics

| Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data | November 2020 | October 2020 | November 2019 | Monthly Variation | | Yearly Variation | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|------|------------------|------|
| | | | | Number | % | Number | % |
| Population 15 + ('000) | 7,142.7 | 7,137.5 | 7,077.0 | 5.2 | 0.1 | 65.7 | 0.9 |
| Labour Force ('000) | 4,603.4 | 4,612.2 | 4,579.3 | -8.8 | -0.2 | 24.1 | 0.5 |
| Employment ('000) | 4,273.7 | 4,258.0 | 4,324.5 | 15.7 | 0.4 | -50.8 | -1.2 |
| Full-Time ('000) | 3,513.8 | 3,498.4 | 3,514.2 | 15.4 | 0.4 | -0.4 | 0.0 |
| Part-Time ('000) | 760.0 | 759.5 | 810.3 | 0.5 | 0.1 | -50.3 | -6.2 |
| Unemployment ('000) | 329.7 | 354.2 | 254.7 | -24.5 | -6.9 | 75.0 | 29.4 |
| Unemployment Rate (%) | 7.2 | 7.7 | 5.6 | -0.5 | - | 1.6 | - |
| Participation Rate (%) | 64.4 | 64.6 | 64.7 | -0.2 | - | -0.3 | - |
| Employment Rate (%) | 59.8 | 59.7 | 61.1 | 0.1 | - | -1.3 | - |

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Quebec Monthly Employment and Unemployment Rate



On an annual basis, Quebec lost 50,800 jobs (-1.2%), most of which were part-time jobs (-50,300 jobs or -6.2%). Full-time employment had almost reached November 2019 levels, with a shortfall of only 400 jobs. Employment in Quebec was still below February levels (-110,800 jobs or -2.5%), with decreases in both full-time (-1.8%) and part-time (-5.9%) employment. The loss of jobs compared to February levels nevertheless remained significant for workers in the 15 to 24 age group, which was down 9.0%.

The number of unemployed workers continued to decrease in November (-24,500), settling at 329,700. By comparison, at the height of the lockdown in April, Quebec had 729,400 unemployed workers, more than double the number recorded in November. The number of unemployed workers nevertheless remained high compared to February levels (204,700 unemployed). In November, the unemployment rate was 7.2%, down 0.5 percentage points since October. Given that the decrease in the number of unemployed workers was higher than the employment increase, the participation rate dipped slightly (-0.2 percentage points) since October, settling at 64.4%. Lastly, the employment rate rose by 0.2 percentage points, standing at 59.8%.

Quebec Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

| Seasonally Adjusted Data | November 2020 | October 2020 | November 2019 | Monthly Variation | Yearly Variation |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | % | % | % | (% points) | (% points) |
| Total | 7.2 | 7.7 | 5.6 | -0.5 | 1.6 |
| 25 years and over | 6.3 | 6.6 | 5.1 | -0.3 | 1.2 |
| Men - 25 years and over | 7.2 | 7.0 | 5.1 | 0.2 | 2.1 |
| Women - 25 years and over | 5.3 | 6.1 | 5.0 | -0.8 | 0.3 |
| 15 to 24 years | 12.8 | 14.8 | 8.7 | -2.0 | 4.1 |
| Men - 15 to 24 years | 16.1 | 17.8 | 11.2 | -1.7 | 4.9 |
| Women - 15 to 24 years | 9.4 | 11.9 | 6.2 | -2.5 | 3.2 |

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Although employment varied only slightly over the course of the month, significant differences were recorded at the industry level. Most industries reported employment gains since October, the highest of which were in professional, scientific and technical services (+11,700 jobs or +3.2%), agriculture (+7,800 jobs or +13.9%), manufacturing (+6,400 jobs or +1.3%) and public administration (+5,500 jobs or +2.3%).

Again this month, the largest monthly employment decreases were reported in the industries most affected by current government restrictions, namely accommodation and food services (-9,300 jobs or -5.1%) and information, culture and recreation (-9,100 jobs or -5.9%). Job losses since October were also reported in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (-6,400 jobs or -2.4%), construction (-4,500 jobs or -1.7%), forestry, fishing and mining (-2,400 jobs or -6.0%) and other services (-2,100 jobs or -1.3%). Compared to February levels, accommodation and food services (-34.1%) and information, culture and recreation (-21.1%) posted the most significant job losses among the industries.

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

| Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000) | November 2020 | October 2020 | November 2019 | Monthly Variation | | Yearly Variation | |
|--|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|------|------------------|-------|
| | | | | Number | % | Number | % |
| Total employed, all industries | 4,273.7 | 4,258.0 | 4,324.5 | 15.7 | 0.4 | -50.8 | -1.2 |
| Goods-producing sector | 877.0 | 869.2 | 881.6 | 7.8 | 0.9 | -4.6 | -0.5 |
| Agriculture | 64.1 | 56.3 | 56.5 | 7.8 | 13.9 | 7.6 | 13.5 |
| Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas | 37.5 | 39.9 | 38.2 | -2.4 | -6.0 | -0.7 | -1.8 |
| Utilities | 25.3 | 24.8 | 23.6 | 0.5 | 2.0 | 1.7 | 7.2 |
| Construction | 266.0 | 270.5 | 278.0 | -4.5 | -1.7 | -12.0 | -4.3 |
| Manufacturing | 484.1 | 477.7 | 485.4 | 6.4 | 1.3 | -1.3 | -0.3 |
| Services-producing sector | 3,396.8 | 3,388.8 | 3,443.0 | 8.0 | 0.2 | -46.2 | -1.3 |
| Trade | 673.6 | 667.8 | 662.2 | 5.8 | 0.9 | 11.4 | 1.7 |
| Transportation and warehousing | 237.9 | 234.7 | 235.0 | 3.2 | 1.4 | 2.9 | 1.2 |
| Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing | 255.6 | 262.0 | 247.5 | -6.4 | -2.4 | 8.1 | 3.3 |
| Professional, scientific and technical services | 372.3 | 360.6 | 349.0 | 11.7 | 3.2 | 23.3 | 6.7 |
| Business, building and other support services | 170.9 | 166.3 | 173.5 | 4.6 | 2.8 | -2.6 | -1.5 |
| Educational services | 353.2 | 350.1 | 303.9 | 3.1 | 0.9 | 49.3 | 16.2 |
| Health care and social assistance | 609.4 | 608.4 | 618.6 | 1.0 | 0.2 | -9.2 | -1.5 |
| Information, culture and recreation | 144.7 | 153.8 | 176.1 | -9.1 | -5.9 | -31.4 | -17.8 |
| Accommodation and food services | 173.8 | 183.1 | 246.9 | -9.3 | -5.1 | -73.1 | -29.6 |
| Other services | 157.8 | 159.9 | 178.2 | -2.1 | -1.3 | -20.4 | -11.4 |
| Public administration | 247.6 | 242.1 | 252.2 | 5.5 | 2.3 | -4.6 | -1.8 |

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 September, October and November.

With respect to Quebec's 16 economic regions, 10 regions reported job losses year over year. The largest decreases were in the Montreal (-50,400 jobs or -4.5%), Montérégie (-30,800 jobs or -3.7%), Quebec City (-17,100 jobs or -4.3%), Outaouais (-13,700 jobs or -6.6%) and Centre-du-Québec (-7,200 jobs or -5.6%) regions. Conversely, employment was up in 6 economic regions, including Laval (+23,300 jobs or +11.2%) and Mauricie (+7,500 jobs or +6.3%). The Montreal Census Metropolitan Area, which includes the Island of Montreal and neighbouring communities on its north and south shores, reported a slight decrease in employment of 0.4% since November 2019.

The province's seasonally unadjusted unemployment rate was 6.7% in November. Only 3 regions reported unemployment rates that were higher than the provincial rate: Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine (9.2%), Montreal (9.1%) and Laurentides (8.6%). Since November 2019, the unemployment rate had increased in most economic regions, the only exceptions being Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Bas-Saint-Laurent, Mauricie and Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean.

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

| 3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data | Employment | | | Unemployment Rate | | |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | November 2020 ('000) | November 2019 ('000) | Yearly Variation (%) | November 2020 (%) | November 2019 (%) | Yearly Variation (% points) |
| Quebec | 4,282.2 | 4,378.9 | -2.2 | 6.7 | 4.5 | 2.2 |
| Economic Regions | | | | | | |
| Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine | 31.4 | 33.9 | -7.4 | 9.2 | 12.2 | -3.0 |
| Bas-Saint-Laurent | 92.5 | 91.3 | 1.3 | 3.2 | 4.1 | -0.9 |
| Capitale-Nationale | 382.5 | 399.6 | -4.3 | 4.5 | 2.8 | 1.7 |
| Chaudière-Appalaches | 231.7 | 229.7 | 0.9 | 3.5 | 2.8 | 0.7 |
| Estrie | 164.7 | 167.3 | -1.6 | 5.5 | 4.6 | 0.9 |
| Centre-du-Québec | 120.9 | 128.1 | -5.6 | 4.1 | 1.5 | 2.6 |
| Montérégie | 793.8 | 824.6 | -3.7 | 6.6 | 3.3 | 3.3 |
| Montréal | 1,075.6 | 1,126.0 | -4.5 | 9.1 | 6.4 | 2.7 |
| Laval | 232.2 | 208.9 | 11.2 | 5.9 | 3.2 | 2.7 |
| Lanaudière | 267.8 | 266.0 | 0.7 | 6.5 | 4.5 | 2.0 |
| Laurentides | 313.3 | 311.5 | 0.6 | 8.6 | 5.3 | 3.3 |
| Outaouais | 195.2 | 208.9 | -6.6 | 6.5 | 4.3 | 2.2 |
| Abitibi-Témiscamingue | 71.6 | 76.2 | -6.0 | 4.5 | 2.9 | 1.6 |
| Mauricie | 125.9 | 118.4 | 6.3 | 5.7 | 6.3 | -0.6 |
| Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean | 130.5 | 132.2 | -1.3 | 4.2 | 4.3 | -0.1 |
| Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec | 52.6 | 56.2 | -6.4 | 5.6 | 4.9 | 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:

http://www.esdc.gc.ca/cgi-bin/contact/edsc-esdc/eng/contact_us.aspx?section=lmi

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

www.statcan.gc.ca

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