



Labour Market Bulletin

Quebec



December 2020

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

OVERVIEW

With the vast majority of the province's population residing in the red zone, employment in Quebec was down slightly in December (-16,800 jobs or -0.4%) over the previous month, according to the latest results of Statistics Canada's *Labour Force Survey*. As the reference week is December 6 to 12, 2020, the results do not take into account the closure of non-essential businesses beginning on December 25. Both full-time employment (-7,900 or -0.2%) and part-time employment (-9,000 or -1.2%) were down relative to the previous month. With the exception of British Columbia, all Canadian provinces recorded employment declines in December. In Canada, the decline was 0.3%.

Compared to December 2019, employment in Quebec is down 88,500 jobs (-2.0%). The annual decline in employment is proportionately less than in Ontario (-3.3%) and in Canada overall (-3.0%). In Quebec, more than two-thirds of the decline in employment comes from part-time employment. Employment in the private sector was down from December 2019, while employment in the public sector was up.

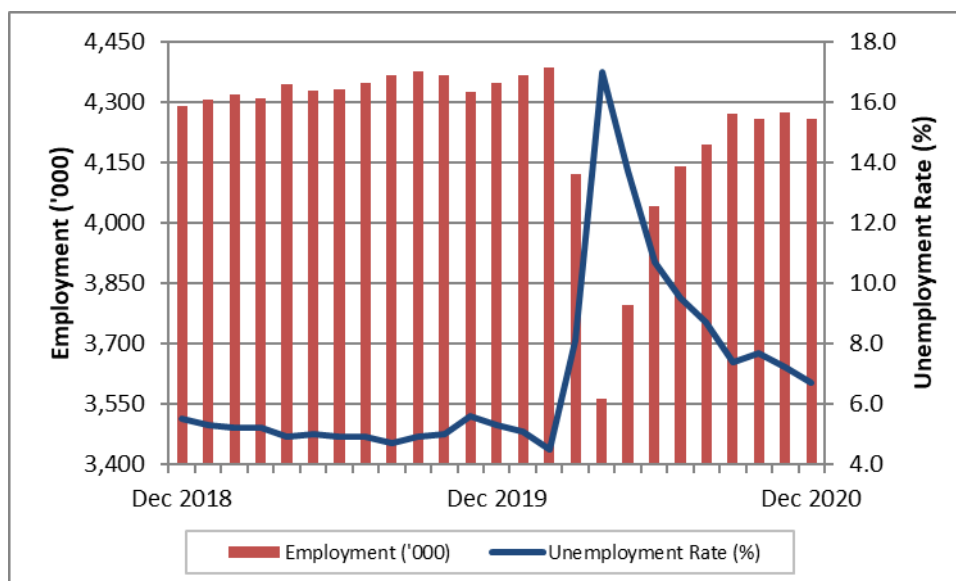
Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	December 2020	November 2020	December 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	7,147.4	7,142.7	7,083.0	4.7	0.1	64.4	0.9
Labour Force ('000)	4,562.7	4,603.4	4,586.4	-40.7	-0.9	-23.7	-0.5
Employment ('000)	4,256.9	4,273.7	4,345.4	-16.8	-0.4	-88.5	-2.0
Full-Time ('000)	3,505.9	3,513.8	3,531.9	-7.9	-0.2	-26.0	-0.7
Part-Time ('000)	751.0	760.0	813.6	-9.0	-1.2	-62.6	-7.7
Unemployment ('000)	305.8	329.7	240.9	-23.9	-7.2	64.9	26.9
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.7	7.2	5.3	-0.5	-	1.4	-
Participation Rate (%)	63.8	64.4	64.8	-0.6	-	-1.0	-
Employment Rate (%)	59.6	59.8	61.3	-0.2	-	-1.7	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Quebec Monthly Employment and Unemployment Rate



This month's decline in employment comes with a large increase in the number of people not in the labour force, causing the number of unemployed people (that is, the number of unemployed people actively looking for work) to fall by 7.2% over November. As a result, the unemployment rate fell by half a percentage point, to 6.7%. Also, because of the increase in the number of people not in the labour force, the labour force participation rate decreased by 0.6 percentage points, to 63.8%. Lastly, with the decline in employment, the employment rate decreased by 0.2 percentage points, to 59.6%.

In terms of age groups, 25 to 54 year olds have a higher level of employment than in December 2019, while 15 to 24 year olds and those 55 years of age and older are at a lower level. The number of hours worked (seasonally unadjusted) decreased by 3.5% over December 2019.

Quebec Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	December 2020	November 2020	December 2019	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	6.7	7.2	5.3	-0.5	1.4
25 years and over	6.2	6.3	4.6	-0.1	1.6
Men - 25 years and over	6.8	7.2	4.9	-0.4	1.9
Women - 25 years and over	5.4	5.3	4.2	0.1	1.2
15 to 24 years	10.5	12.8	9.5	-2.3	1.0
Men - 15 to 24 years	15.4	16.1	11.7	-0.7	3.7
Women - 15 to 24 years	5.4	9.4	7.2	-4.0	-1.8

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

In terms of industries, the largest declines in employment were in health care and social assistance (-9,700 jobs), other services (-7,000 jobs), accommodation and food services (-6,800 jobs), and business, building and other support services (-3,900 jobs). Some industries still recorded employment increases, including professional, scientific and technical services (+10,800 jobs), retail and wholesale trade (+5,100 jobs) and manufacturing (+2,900 jobs).

Compared to December 2019, the largest declines in employment are in accommodation and food services (-96,000 jobs or -36.5%), information, culture and recreation (-35,900 jobs or -20.3%) and other services (-28,100 jobs or -15.7%). Conversely, the industries with the largest employment increases are educational services (+53,600 jobs or +18.0%), professional, scientific and technical services (+33,800 jobs or +9.7%) and retail and wholesale trade (+13,800 jobs or +2.1%).

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	December 2020	November 2020	December 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	4,256.9	4,273.7	4,345.4	-16.8	-0.4	-88.5	-2.0
Goods-producing sector	874.4	877.0	889.6	-2.6	-0.3	-15.2	-1.7
Agriculture	60.7	64.1	58.9	-3.4	-5.3	1.8	3.1
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	36.5	37.5	39.2	-1.0	-2.7	-2.7	-6.9
Utilities	26.7	25.3	23.4	1.4	5.5	3.3	14.1
Construction	263.4	266.0	275.7	-2.6	-1.0	-12.3	-4.5
Manufacturing	487.0	484.1	492.4	2.9	0.6	-5.4	-1.1
Services-producing sector	3,382.6	3,396.8	3,455.8	-14.2	-0.4	-73.2	-2.1
Trade	678.7	673.6	664.9	5.1	0.8	13.8	2.1
Transportation and warehousing	238.0	237.9	237.5	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.2
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	255.6	255.6	251.5	0.0	0.0	4.1	1.6
Professional, scientific and technical services	383.1	372.3	349.3	10.8	2.9	33.8	9.7
Business, building and other support services	167.0	170.9	168.6	-3.9	-2.3	-1.6	-0.9
Educational services	352.0	353.2	298.4	-1.2	-0.3	53.6	18.0
Health care and social assistance	599.7	609.4	616.2	-9.7	-1.6	-16.5	-2.7
Information, culture and recreation	141.1	144.7	177.0	-3.6	-2.5	-35.9	-20.3
Accommodation and food services	167.0	173.8	263.0	-6.8	-3.9	-96.0	-36.5
Other services	150.8	157.8	178.9	-7.0	-4.4	-28.1	-15.7
Public administration	249.5	247.6	250.6	1.9	0.8	-1.1	-0.4

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 December data therefore correspond to an average of October, November and December.

Most of Quebec's economic regions recorded a decrease in employment in December relative to the same time the previous year. The regions with the largest employment declines were Montérégie (-49,400 jobs or -6.0%), Montréal (-39,800 jobs or -3.6%), Outaouais (-10,700 jobs or -5.2%), Capitale-Nationale (-10,700 jobs or -2.7%) and Centre-du-Québec (-8,900 jobs or -6.9%). Employment increases were observed in five regions, including Laval (+23,600 jobs or +11.3%), Chaudière-Appalaches (+3,300 jobs or +1.5%) and Bas-Saint-Laurent (+3,200 jobs or +3.6%). The Montréal census metropolitan area (CMA), which includes the Montréal region and the northern and southern suburbs, posted a 1.0% decrease in employment over December 2019.

The unemployment rate was up in 12 economic regions. The four regions showing a decrease in the unemployment rate are resource regions: Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Bas-Saint-Laurent, Côte-Nord and Nord-du-Québec, as well as Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean. However, these lower unemployment rates are due to increases in the number of people not in the labour force, as employment in these regions was down, with the exception of Bas-Saint-Laurent, where employment increased.

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	December 2020 ('000)	December 2019 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	December 2020 (%)	December 2019 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Quebec	4,259.6	4,355.7	-2.2	6.7	4.7	2.0
Economic Regions						
Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine	29.9	32.2	-7.1	10.2	15.3	-5.1
Bas-Saint-Laurent	93.1	89.9	3.6	3.7	4.6	-0.9
Capitale-Nationale	384.7	395.4	-2.7	4.6	3.3	1.3
Chaudière-Appalaches	229.2	225.9	1.5	3.7	3.2	0.5
Estrie	164.8	166.1	-0.8	6.0	4.2	1.8
Centre-du-Québec	119.2	128.1	-6.9	5.2	x ¹	-
Montérégie	780.7	830.1	-6.0	7.1	3.5	3.6
Montréal	1,079.5	1,119.3	-3.6	8.2	6.8	1.4
Laval	232.1	208.5	11.3	6.3	3.3	3.0
Lanaudière	264.1	266.3	-0.8	6.4	4.0	2.4
Laurentides	314.4	306.3	2.6	8.5	5.2	3.3
Outaouais	194.0	204.7	-5.2	6.3	4.6	1.7
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	72.1	75.3	-4.2	5.0	3.5	1.5
Mauricie	122.5	120.7	1.5	6.3	5.9	0.4
Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean	128.0	130.6	-2.0	4.9	5.1	-0.2
Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec	51.1	56.6	-9.7	4.8	5.0	-0.2

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0293

¹ X: confidentiality threshold for the unemployment estimate less than 1,500

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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