



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Quebec

January 2021



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

### OVERVIEW

As was expected following the imposition of new health measures, 2021 began with a decline in employment across Quebec compared to December 2020, according to the latest results from Statistics Canada's *Labour Force Survey*. The province had 97,900 fewer jobs than in December (-2.3%), for a total of 4,102,100 jobs. This was the lowest level of employment since August 2020. The decrease in employment was primarily the result of a drop in part-time employment (-92,500 jobs or -12.3%), while full-time employment scarcely wavered (-5,500 jobs or -0.2%). The downturn in employment occurred mainly in the private sector. The number of jobs also decreased across Canada as a whole (-1.2%), largely because of losses posted in Quebec and Ontario (-2.1%).

Year over year, there were 236,400 fewer jobs than in January 2020 (-5.4%). Roughly 60% of this decline was attributable to reduced part-time employment (-144,500 jobs or -18.0%). The three main age groups (15 to 24, 25 to 54 and 55+) reported employment levels below what they were 12 months earlier, although the 15-to-24 age group remained the most affected (-109,900 jobs or -18.5%).

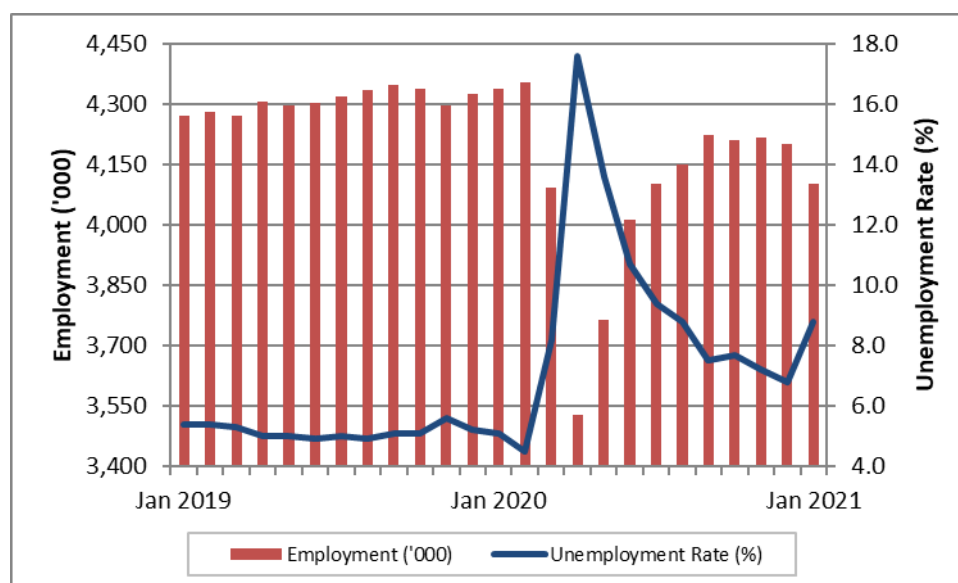
### Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	January 2021	December 2020	January 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	7,081.0	7,077.7	7,033.4	3.3	0.0	47.6	0.7
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	4,496.7	4,504.3	4,569.5	-7.6	-0.2	-72.8	-1.6
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	4,102.1	4,200.0	4,338.5	-97.9	-2.3	-236.4	-5.4
Full-Time ('000)	3,442.8	3,448.3	3,534.8	-5.5	-0.2	-92.0	-2.6
Part-Time ('000)	659.2	751.7	803.7	-92.5	-12.3	-144.5	-18.0
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	394.6	304.3	231.0	90.3	29.7	163.6	70.8
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	8.8	6.8	5.1	2.0	-	3.7	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	63.5	63.6	65.0	-0.1	-	-1.5	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	57.9	59.3	61.7	-1.4	-	-3.8	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

## Quebec Monthly Employment and Unemployment Rate



Given the new lockdown to control the second wave of the pandemic, the number of unemployed workers rose by 90,300 (+29.7%) compared to the previous month to reach 394,600 unemployed workers. Of these, 21.3% were long-term unemployed (27 weeks or more). The unemployment rate rose 2.0 percentage points to 8.8%. Strongly represented in the industries affected by second-wave health measure, youth aged 15 to 24 saw their unemployment rate jump 7.3 percentage points to reach 18.0%.

## Quebec Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	January 2021	December 2020	January 2020	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	8.8	6.8	5.1	2.0	3.7
<b>25 years and over</b>	7.4	6.2	4.5	1.2	2.9
Men - 25 years and over	7.6	6.7	5.0	0.9	2.6
Women - 25 years and over	7.1	5.5	3.8	1.6	3.3
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	18.0	10.7	8.7	7.3	9.3
Men - 15 to 24 years	17.9	15.6	9.7	2.3	8.2
Women - 15 to 24 years	18.1	5.8	7.6	12.3	10.5

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

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Turning to industries, the decline in employment since the previous month was limited to the services-producing sector (-131,200 jobs or -3.9%). Conversely, the goods-producing sector reported growth (+33,200 jobs or +3.8%) thanks to increases in construction and, to a lesser extent, manufacturing. Despite last month's growth, employment in the goods-producing sector remained below its January 2020 level (-4,900 jobs or -0.5%), which was essentially the result of contraction in manufacturing.

With respect to services, a significant proportion of the job losses came from decreases in retail and wholesale trade (-84,600 jobs or -12.6%). This industry was greatly affected by the shutdown of non-essential businesses since December 25 and reduced business hours imposed by the curfew. Decreases in employment were also reported in other service industries, including professional, scientific and technical services, educational services and transportation and warehousing. Compared to January 2020, the services-producing sector lost 231,600 jobs (-6.7%), mainly as a result of decreased employment in accommodation and food services, retail and wholesale trade and information, culture and recreation.

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

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	January 2021	December 2020	January 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	4,102.1	4,200.0	4,338.5	-97.9	-2.3	-236.4	-5.4
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	899.6	866.4	904.5	33.2	3.8	-4.9	-0.5
Agriculture	61.7	61.3	60.0	0.4	0.7	1.7	2.8
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	37.4	36.5	37.1	0.9	2.5	0.3	0.8
Utilities	26.0	26.5	23.7	-0.5	-1.9	2.3	9.7
Construction	282.4	256.5	282.9	25.9	10.1	-0.5	-0.2
Manufacturing	492.1	485.6	500.8	6.5	1.3	-8.7	-1.7
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	3,202.4	3,333.6	3,434.0	-131.2	-3.9	-231.6	-6.7
Trade	578.8	663.4	661.7	-84.6	-12.8	-82.9	-12.5
Transportation and warehousing	229.2	238.2	248.7	-9.0	-3.8	-19.5	-7.8
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	266.6	253.6	247.8	13.0	5.1	18.8	7.6
Professional, scientific and technical services	355.4	372.8	340.7	-17.4	-4.7	14.7	4.3
Business, building and other support services	163.7	168.7	163.3	-5.0	-3.0	0.4	0.2
Educational services	338.9	350.3	311.0	-11.4	-3.3	27.9	9.0
Health care and social assistance	576.6	584.1	609.3	-7.5	-1.3	-32.7	-5.4
Information, culture and recreation	136.8	144.2	176.1	-7.4	-5.1	-39.3	-22.3
Accommodation and food services	168.8	165.4	259.8	3.4	2.1	-91.0	-35.0
Other services	140.0	147.5	170.1	-7.5	-5.1	-30.1	-17.7
Public administration	247.7	245.3	245.7	2.4	1.0	2.0	0.8

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

In January, most of the economic regions reported year-over-year job losses. The regions with the most significant job losses were Montérégie (-58,900 jobs or -7.1%), the Island of Montreal (-48,700 jobs or -4.5%), Centre-du-Québec (-11,600 jobs or -8.9%) and Lanaudière (-11,500 jobs or -4.3%). Laval (+16,200 jobs or +8.0%), Bas-Saint-Laurent (+3,000 jobs or +3.5%) and Laurentides (+2,000 jobs or +0.7%) were the only three economic regions in Quebec to report higher levels of employment since January 2020.

Most economic regions also posted higher unemployment rates compared to January 2020. Only Côte-Nord and Nord-du-Québec and Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine reported lower unemployment rates, despite declining employment levels. This situation was the result of a sharp rise in the number of people not in the workforce.

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

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	January 2021 ('000)	January 2020 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	January 2021 (%)	January 2020 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Quebec</b>	4,135.4	4,285.6	-3.5	7.6	5.2	2.4
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine	29.6	32.5	-8.9	12.4	17.1	-4.7
Bas-Saint-Laurent	89.8	86.8	3.5	6.2	5.8	0.4
Capitale-Nationale	370.7	380.3	-2.5	5.8	4.6	1.2
Chaudière-Appalaches	223.4	223.4	0.0	4.2	4.1	0.1
Estrie	160.1	161.7	-1.0	7.6	4.4	3.2
Centre-du-Québec	119.4	131.0	-8.9	7.3	1.5	5.8
Montérégie	770.7	829.6	-7.1	7.9	3.9	4.0
Montréal	1,041.5	1,090.2	-4.5	8.6	7.1	1.5
Laval	219.7	203.5	8.0	8.4	4.0	4.4
Lanaudière	253.5	265.0	-4.3	6.6	4.3	2.3
Laurentides	307.9	302.3	1.9	9.3	5.1	4.2
Outaouais	187.3	198.0	-5.4	7.1	4.9	2.2
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	69.0	73.3	-5.9	7.5	3.9	3.6
Mauricie	116.6	125.3	-6.9	8.0	5.9	2.1
Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean	126.0	127.6	-1.3	6.5	6.0	0.5
Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec	50.3	55.2	-8.9	4.9	6.0	-1.1

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding*

*Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0387*

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

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