



Labour Market Bulletin

Quebec

October 2021



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

OVERVIEW

After a significant gain in September, the employment level in Quebec showed little change in October compared to the previous month (-300 jobs or 0.0%), according to the latest data from Statistics Canada's *Labour Force Survey*. The gains in part-time employment (+5,000 or +0.7%) were completely cancelled by the decline in full-time employment (-5 300 or -0.1%). It should be noted that employment growth (+23 400 or +0.8%) was recorded for the major core-age workers (aged 25 to 54), particularly for women, while decreases were observed among those aged 15 to 24 (- 13,800 or -2.4%) and those aged 55 and over (-9,900 or -1.1%). As in Quebec, employment remained relatively stable in the whole of Canada (+31,200 jobs or +0.2%), while Ontario posted a slight increase (+37,000 or + 0.5%).

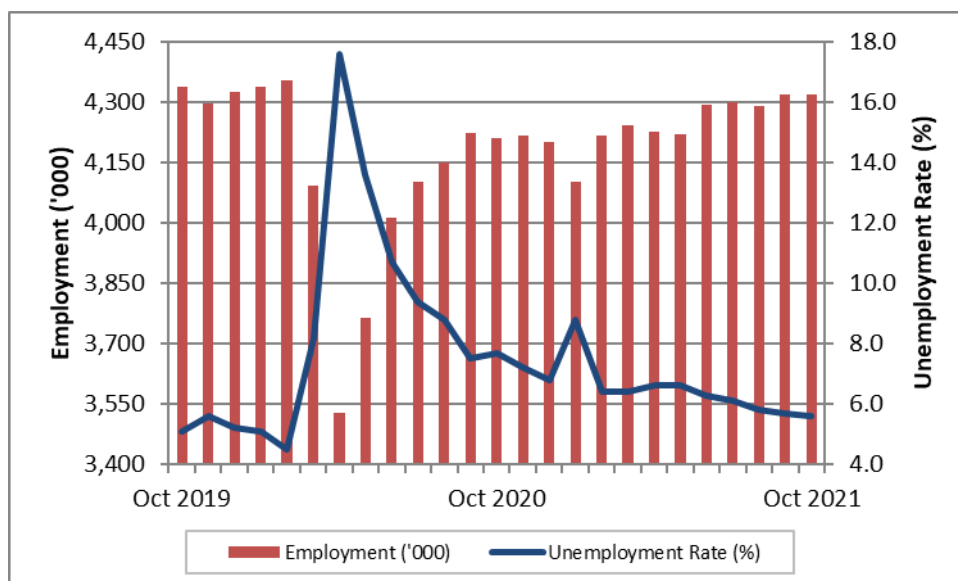
Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Oct. 2021	Sept. 2021	Oct. 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	7,112.3	7,107.3	7,069.2	5.0	0.1	43.1	0.6
Labour Force ('000)	4,574.5	4,581.0	4,563.0	-6.5	-0.1	11.5	0.3
Employment ('000)	4,319.0	4,319.3	4,210.8	-0.3	0.0	108.2	2.6
Full-Time ('000)	3,548.4	3,553.7	3,447.5	-5.3	-0.1	100.9	2.9
Part-Time ('000)	770.6	765.6	763.3	5.0	0.7	7.3	1.0
Unemployment ('000)	255.5	261.7	352.2	-6.2	-2.4	-96.7	-27.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.6	5.7	7.7	-0.1	-	-2.1	-
Participation Rate (%)	64.3	64.5	64.5	-0.2	-	-0.2	-
Employment Rate (%)	60.7	60.8	59.6	-0.1	-	1.1	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Quebec Monthly Employment and Unemployment Rate



As in September, employment in Quebec was 0.8% (-34,300) below its February 2020 level. In spite of the monthly decline, full-time employment remained slightly above its pre-pandemic level (+7,000 or +0.2%), while part-time employment was still posting a 5.1% (-41,300) deficit. For the first time in 19 months, those aged 25 to 54 have caught up with their pre-pandemic employment level (+5,600 jobs or +0.1%). Canada-wide, only two provinces have surpassed their pre-pandemic levels: British Columbia (+1.9%) and Ontario (+0.6%).

In October, the number of unemployed persons was 255,500, a decline of 6,200 (-2.4%) compared to the previous month. Among these workers, 54,200 were experiencing long-term unemployment (27 weeks and over), representing 21.2% of the entire unemployed population. By comparison, in Canada as a whole, 27.8% of the unemployed were experiencing long-term unemployment. The unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage point in October, settling at 5.6%, a lower rate than that for rest of Canada (6.7%). Since employment remained stable, this decline in the number of unemployed was the result of workers leaving the labour force. Thus, the participation rate decreased by 0.2 point, settling at 64.3%. Lastly, the employment rate settled at 60.7%, a decline of 0.1 point.

Quebec Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Oct. 2021	Sept. 2021	Oct. 2020	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	5.6	5.7	7.7	-0.1	-2.1
25 years and over	5.1	5.2	6.6	-0.1	-1.5
Men - 25 years and over	5.4	5.4	6.9	0.0	-1.5
Women - 25 years and over	4.8	5.0	6.3	-0.2	-1.5
15 to 24 years	8.6	8.8	14.7	-0.2	-6.1
Men - 15 to 24 years	11.0	9.6	17.9	1.4	-6.9
Women - 15 to 24 years	6.2	8.0	11.4	-1.8	-5.2

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Only four industries posted a decline in employment in comparison with the previous month: manufacturing (-15,900 or -3.2%); accommodation and food services (-10,900 or -5.6%); business services, building and other support services (-6,200 or -3.7%); and utilities (-1,800 or -6.2%). These decreases were offset by employment increases in other industries, the largest of which were other services (+10,700 or +7.0%); retail and wholesale trade (+5,600 or +0.9%); and finance, insurance, real estate and leasing services (+5,200 or +1.8%).

As a result of cumulative declines in employment over the previous two months, the accommodation and food services industry remained the sector posting the largest employment deficit in comparison with its pre-pandemic level (-75,500 or -29.2%). Information, culture and recreation (-23,500 or -12.9%), as well as transportation and warehousing (-21,000 or -8.5%), also have a lot of catching up to do. The industries that posted the greatest increases in comparison with their pre-pandemic levels are finance, insurance, retail and leasing services (+39,700 or +15.8%), educational services (+36,000 or +11.3%) and public administration (+26,200 or +10.8%).

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Oct. 2021	Sept. 2021	Oct. 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	4,319.0	4,319.3	4,210.8	-0.3	0.0	108.2	2.6
Goods-producing sector	885.1	899.6	861.7	-14.5	-1.6	23.4	2.7
Agriculture	53.4	52.3	56.6	1.1	2.1	-3.2	-5.7
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	40.4	40.2	39.9	0.2	0.5	0.5	1.3
Utilities	27.3	29.1	24.6	-1.8	-6.2	2.7	11.0
Construction	289.1	287.2	267.0	1.9	0.7	22.1	8.3
Manufacturing	474.9	490.8	473.6	-15.9	-3.2	1.3	0.3
Services-producing sector	3,433.9	3,419.7	3,349.0	14.2	0.4	84.9	2.5
Trade	650.8	645.2	655.8	5.6	0.9	-5.0	-0.8
Transportation and warehousing	226.5	225.8	233.7	0.7	0.3	-7.2	-3.1
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	290.4	285.2	260.8	5.2	1.8	29.6	11.3
Professional, scientific and technical services	377.1	375.1	349.3	2.0	0.5	27.8	8.0
Business, building and other support services	159.2	165.4	167.1	-6.2	-3.7	-7.9	-4.7
Educational services	353.7	350.4	348.5	3.3	0.9	5.2	1.5
Health care and social assistance	604.1	601.9	594.7	2.2	0.4	9.4	1.6
Information, culture and recreation	158.1	156.5	159.6	1.6	1.0	-1.5	-0.9
Accommodation and food services	183.2	194.1	181.5	-10.9	-5.6	1.7	0.9
Other services	163.2	152.5	157.2	10.7	7.0	6.0	3.8
Public administration	267.8	267.7	240.9	0.1	0.0	26.9	11.2

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 October data therefore correspond to an average of August, September and October.

Only five economic regions posted a lower employment level than in October 2020: Chaudière-Appalaches (-17,900 or -7.7%), Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean (-11,000 or -8.3%), Lanaudière (-10,300 or -3.8%), Côte-Nord and Nord-du-Québec (-3,800 or -7.3%) and lastly, Mauricie (-1,400 or -1.1%). The others posted employment gains for the year from +0.7% for l'Estrie to +15.3% for Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine.

However, when compared with their employment levels over a two-year period, prior to the impacts of the pandemic, in October 2021, only five regions surpassed their employment levels of October 2019: the regions of Laval (+20,800 jobs or +10.0%), Centre-du-Québec (+9,000 jobs or +7.1%), Laurentides (+8,300 jobs or +2.6%), Mauricie (+3,100 jobs or +2.5%), and Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine (+1,100 jobs or +3.1%).

In October 2021, 12 of the 16 economic regions recorded a decline in their unemployment rate from one year earlier. The largest declines were observed in the regions of Laurentides (-5.1 percentage points), Montréal (-4.1 points) and Outaouais (-3.8 points). Moreover, 10 regions posted unemployment rates below 5.0%, the lowest of which were in Chaudière-Appalaches (3.3%), Abitibi-Témiscamingue (3.6%) and the Capitale-Nationale (3.6%).

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Oct. 2021 ('000)	Oct. 2020 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Oct. 2021 (%)	Oct. 2020 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Quebec	4,341.1	4,230.1	2.6	5.4	7.6	-2.2
Economic Regions						
Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine	36.9	32.0	15.3	10.7	9.3	1.4
Bas-Saint-Laurent	91.3	90.3	1.1	3.8	3.7	0.1
Capitale-Nationale	397.7	376.4	5.7	3.6	4.6	-1.0
Chaudière-Appalaches	215.2	233.1	-7.7	3.3	4.0	-0.7
Estrie	163.4	162.2	0.7	4.4	5.9	-1.5
Centre-du-Québec	135.6	122.0	11.1	3.9	4.4	-0.5
Montréal	826.0	807.2	2.3	5.0	6.8	-1.8
Montréal	1,089.7	1,033.3	5.5	7.3	11.4	-4.1
Laval	229.5	226.9	1.1	7.5	6.4	1.1
Lanaudière	260.6	270.9	-3.8	5.0	7.2	-2.2
Laurentides	321.8	302.9	6.2	4.8	9.9	-5.1
Outaouais	205.7	191.2	7.6	4.1	7.9	-3.8
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	73.2	70.8	3.4	3.6	4.3	-0.7
Mauricie	125.3	126.7	-1.1	4.0	5.9	-1.9
Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean	121.0	132.0	-8.3	5.2	4.8	0.4
Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec	48.3	52.1	-7.3	4.5	5.6	-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.

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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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