



Labour Market Bulletin

Quebec



February 2021

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*, the Quebec labour market recovered in February following two months of decline. The monthly employment gain of 112,600 jobs (+2.7%) was virtually sufficient to offset the losses of the preceding two months (-113,900). There was an increase in full-time (+37,000 or +1.1%) and part-time (+75,700 or +11.5%) employment. The number of those who were employed but did not work any hours dropped by 6.2%. Employment gains were primarily in the private sector. Quebec recorded the strongest monthly employment growth in February, ranking ahead of Manitoba (+2.6%) and Ontario (+1.4%). Canada also saw positive numbers, with a growth of +1.4%.

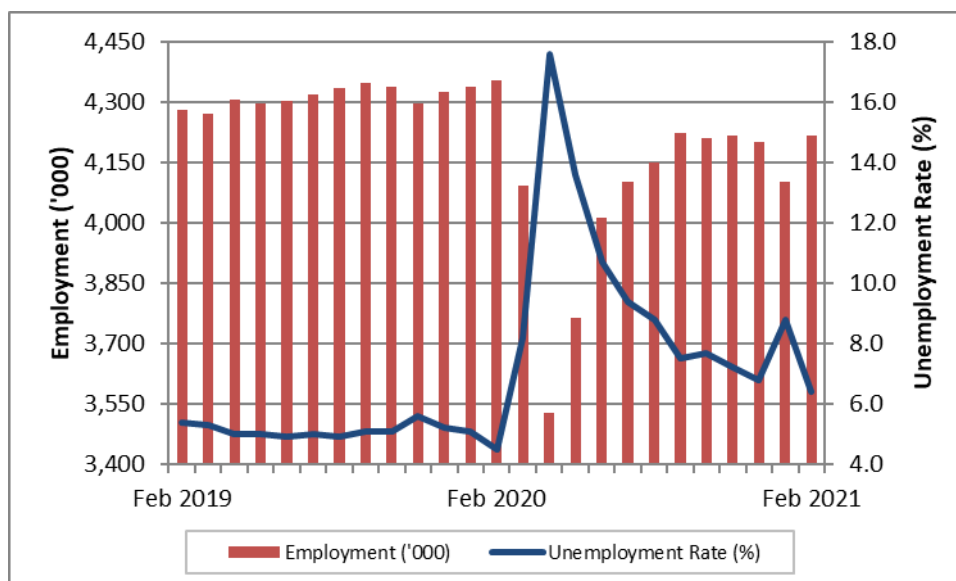
Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	February 2021	January 2021	February 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	7,085.6	7,081.0	7,037.0	4.6	0.1	48.6	0.7
Labour Force ('000)	4,504.0	4,496.7	4,557.3	7.3	0.2	-53.3	-1.2
Employment ('000)	4,214.7	4,102.1	4,353.3	112.6	2.7	-138.6	-3.2
Full-Time ('000)	3,479.8	3,442.8	3,541.4	37.0	1.1	-61.6	-1.7
Part-Time ('000)	734.9	659.2	811.9	75.7	11.5	-77.0	-9.5
Unemployment ('000)	289.4	394.6	204.1	-105.2	-26.7	85.3	41.8
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.4	8.8	4.5	-2.4	-	1.9	-
Participation Rate (%)	63.6	63.5	64.8	0.1	-	-1.2	-
Employment Rate (%)	59.5	57.9	61.9	1.6	-	-2.4	-

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 February 2020 before the impact of the health measures associated with the first lockdown, employment levels continued to register a deficit (-138,600 jobs) to stand at 96.8% of the employment levels for February 2020. Full-time employment fell by 61,600 while part-time employment decreased by 77,000. The employment level of men was the same as last year (98.0%), while the level for women was lower, at 95.5%. The year-over-year employment declines were higher for women and men aged 15 to 24, and women aged 55 and over.

Given the rising number of employed people, the number of unemployed workers dropped by 26.7%, settling at 289,400. Within the unemployed population as a whole, however, 23.7% were long-term unemployed (27 weeks or more), which represented 68,500 people. The drop in the number of unemployed pushed down the unemployment rate to 6.4% (-2.3 percentage points since January), which was the lowest unemployment rate since the start of the pandemic. The employment rate rose by 1.6 percentage points, standing at 59.5%. It nevertheless remained lower than it was one year ago (61.9%).

Quebec Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	February 2021	January 2021	February 2020	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	6.4	8.8	4.5	-2.4	1.9
25 years and over	5.6	7.4	4.1	-1.8	1.5
Men - 25 years and over	6.2	7.6	4.3	-1.4	1.9
Women - 25 years and over	5.0	7.1	3.8	-2.1	1.2
15 to 24 years	11.7	18.0	7.0	-6.3	4.7
Men - 15 to 24 years	11.7	17.9	8.2	-6.2	3.5
Women - 15 to 24 years	11.6	18.1	5.6	-6.5	6.0

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Turning to industries, the goods-producing sector posted an increase of 18,700 jobs (+2.1%) since January. This increase was reflected in all of its industries with the exception of forestry, fishing and mining, which reported job losses. It should be noted that utilities (+8.0%), agriculture (+8.0%) and construction (+4.8%) posted employment levels that were higher than in February 2020. Conversely, manufacturing (-1.5%) and forestry, fishing and mining (-2.4%) were still below last year's levels.

Employment also increased in the services-producing sector, which gained 94,000 jobs (+2.9%). The services industries that posted the highest gains were other services (+18,600 or +13.3%), trade (+67,100 jobs or +11.6%) and accommodation and food services (+7,700 or +4.6%). This coincides with the reopening of hair salons and non-essential businesses since February 8, as well as restaurants in the few orange zones. Some service industries nevertheless reported job losses, mostly in information, culture and recreation (-12,800 jobs or -9.4%) and finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (-5,400 jobs or -2.0%). Two service industries posted year-over-year job losses of over 30%, namely accommodation and food services (-31.8%) and information, culture and recreation (-31.7%).

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	February 2021	January 2021	February 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	4,214.7	4,102.1	4,353.3	112.6	2.7	-138.6	-3.2
Goods-producing sector	918.3	899.6	906.3	18.7	2.1	12.0	1.3
Agriculture	63.8	61.7	59.1	2.1	3.4	4.7	8.0
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	37.0	37.4	37.9	-0.4	-1.1	-0.9	-2.4
Utilities	27.0	26.0	25.0	1.0	3.8	2.0	8.0
Construction	295.5	282.4	281.9	13.1	4.6	13.6	4.8
Manufacturing	495.1	492.1	502.4	3.0	0.6	-7.3	-1.5
Services-producing sector	3,296.4	3,202.4	3,447.0	94.0	2.9	-150.6	-4.4
Trade	645.9	578.8	664.4	67.1	11.6	-18.5	-2.8
Transportation and warehousing	235.1	229.2	247.5	5.9	2.6	-12.4	-5.0
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	261.2	266.6	250.7	-5.4	-2.0	10.5	4.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	356.0	355.4	348.5	0.6	0.2	7.5	2.2
Business, building and other support services	163.5	163.7	163.1	-0.2	-0.1	0.4	0.2
Educational services	347.8	338.9	317.7	8.9	2.6	30.1	9.5
Health care and social assistance	581.2	576.6	600.4	4.6	0.8	-19.2	-3.2
Information, culture and recreation	124.0	136.8	181.6	-12.8	-9.4	-57.6	-31.7
Accommodation and food services	176.5	168.8	258.7	7.7	4.6	-82.2	-31.8
Other services	158.6	140.0	172.8	18.6	13.3	-14.2	-8.2
Public administration	246.7	247.7	241.6	-1.0	-0.4	5.1	2.1

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

Only four economic regions in Quebec posted an employment level above that of February 2020: the Laval Region (+12,700 jobs or +6.1%), Laurentides (+14,000 jobs or +4.7%), Bas-Saint-Laurent (+2,700 jobs or +3.2%) and Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean, which posted the lowest level (+600 jobs or +0.5%). Of the 12 regions that posted a decline in employment compared to last year, the largest drops (in percentage) occurred in Mauricie (-14,200 jobs or -11.0%), Centre-du-Québec (-12,100 jobs or -9.2%), Lanaudière (-19,500 jobs or -7.3%) and Montérégie (-61,100 jobs or -7.3%).

The unemployment rate went up in most of the economic regions of Quebec, with only two regions posting lower unemployment rates compared to February 2020; these are Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine (-3.7 percentage points or 13.4%) and Côte-Nord and Nord-du-Québec (-0.1 percentage point or 5.1%). The decline in employment in both regions was accompanied by a drop in the labour force. Lastly, the employment rate remained stable in Bas-Saint-Laurent (6.5%) and Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean (6.9%).

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	February 2021 ('000)	February 2020 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	February 2021 (%)	February 2020 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Quebec	4,110.2	4,279.1	-3.9	7.7	5.2	2.5
Economic Regions						
Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine	29.2	32.1	-9.0	13.4	17.1	-3.7
Bas-Saint-Laurent	87.9	85.2	3.2	6.5	6.5	0.0
Capitale-Nationale	363.9	377.5	-3.6	6.8	4.9	1.9
Chaudière-Appalaches	218.2	222.3	-1.8	4.5	4.1	0.4
Estrie	159.0	162.0	-1.9	8.0	4.2	3.8
Centre-du-Québec	119.9	132.0	-9.2	8.5	1.9	6.6
Montérégie	770.7	831.8	-7.3	7.6	3.7	3.9
Montréal	1,036.4	1,086.0	-4.6	8.4	6.9	1.5
Laval	220.7	208.0	6.1	9.1	4.2	4.9
Lanaudière	248.4	267.9	-7.3	6.3	4.3	2.0
Laurentides	309.4	295.4	4.7	8.6	5.7	2.9
Outaouais	186.1	197.2	-5.6	7.9	5.1	2.8
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	69.4	72.9	-4.8	8.4	3.7	4.7
Mauricie	114.4	128.6	-11.0	7.8	5.5	2.3
Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean	126.4	125.8	0.5	6.9	6.9	0.0
Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec	50.2	54.4	-7.7	5.1	5.2	-0.1

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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