



# Labour Market Bulletin

Quebec



March 2021

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

## OVERVIEW

According to the results of Statistics Canada's *Labour Force Survey*, employment continued to grow in March 2021, reaching its highest level since the beginning of the pandemic, i.e., 4,240,600 jobs. This represented 25,900 more jobs than in February (+0.6%). The increase in full-time employment (+47,400 or +1.4%) was partially offset by the decline in part-time employment (-21,500 or -2.9%). Employment growth was observed in most Canadian provinces over the last month, bringing Canada's total to +1.6% (+303,100).

One year ago, in March 2020, the Quebec labour market was experiencing its first employment decline created by the pandemic and resulting in initial travel restrictions. Thus, employment has grown (+150,200 jobs or +3.7%) in comparison with March 2020. On the other hand, employment has not reached its pre-pandemic level: in March 2021, the employment level represented 97.4% of the February 2020 level. The 15 to 24 age group experienced the largest deficit, their employment level representing 89.2% of the February 2020 level.

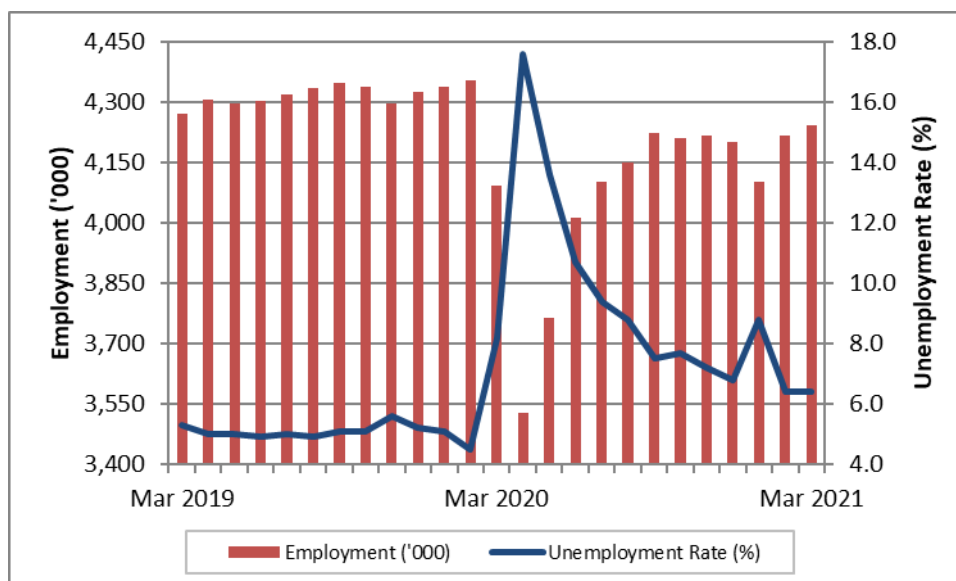
### Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	March 2021	February 2021	March 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	7,088.3	7,085.6	7,040.7	2.7	0.0	47.6	0.7
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	4,529.9	4,504.0	4,455.3	25.9	0.6	74.6	1.7
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	4,240.6	4,214.7	4,090.4	25.9	0.6	150.2	3.7
Full-Time ('000)	3,527.2	3,479.8	3,448.3	47.4	1.4	78.9	2.3
Part-Time ('000)	713.4	734.9	642.2	-21.5	-2.9	71.2	11.1
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	289.3	289.4	364.9	-0.1	0.0	-75.6	-20.7
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	6.4	6.4	8.2	0.0	-	-1.8	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	63.9	63.6	63.3	0.3	-	0.6	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	59.8	59.5	58.1	0.3	-	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



While the unemployment rate remained at the same level as in the previous month at 6.4%, Quebec shows the lowest unemployment rate among Canadian provinces. With the increase in employment, the employment rate grew by 0.3 percentage points, reaching 59.8%. However, it remains below its pre-pandemic rate of February 2020, with a decline of 2.1 percentage points.

## Quebec Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	March 2021	February 2021	March 2020	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	6.4	6.4	8.2	0.0	-1.8
<b>25 years and over</b>	5.4	5.6	6.6	-0.2	-1.2
Men - 25 years and over	6.0	6.2	5.6	-0.2	0.4
Women - 25 years and over	4.8	5.0	7.7	-0.2	-2.9
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	12.4	11.7	18.1	0.7	-5.7
Men - 15 to 24 years	15.2	11.7	15.2	3.5	0.0
Women - 15 to 24 years	9.3	11.6	21.0	-2.3	-11.7

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

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

In terms of industries, the goods-producing sector experienced a 0.3% decline in employment (-2,500) compared to the previous month, which can be explained primarily by a drop in employment in the construction sector (-4,100 jobs or -1.4%). The manufacturing sector shows a slight increase (+2,200 jobs or +0.4%). The goods-producing sector and most of its industries shows a higher level than that of February 2020. Only the forestry, fishing and mining (-3.2%) and manufacturing (-1.0%) industries are below their pre-pandemic levels.

As for the service industries, employment has increased by 28,500 jobs (+0.9%), owing to gains made in health care and social assistance, information, culture and leisure, retail and wholesale trade, as well as accommodation and food services. It should be noted that during the Survey's reference week in March, from March 14 to 20, the government authorized the opening of several recreational and cultural facilities as well as restaurants in

several regions, except for the Montreal region and its surrounding areas. In comparison with the pre-pandemic situation, the services sector is still showing a deficit of 122,100 jobs (-3.5%) compared to February 2020; this can be explained primarily by job losses in accommodation and food services, information, culture and leisure, as well as transportation and storage. However, some industries are posting employment growth compared to February 2020: educational services, finance, insurance and real property services, public administrations, as well as professional, scientific and technical services.

### Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	March 2021	February 2021	March 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	4,240.6	4,214.7	4,090.4	25.9	0.6	150.2	3.7
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	915.8	918.3	902.3	-2.5	-0.3	13.5	1.5
Agriculture	64.0	63.8	51.9	0.2	0.3	12.1	23.3
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	36.7	37.0	39.5	-0.3	-0.8	-2.8	-7.1
Utilities	26.3	27.0	23.5	-0.7	-2.6	2.8	11.9
Construction	291.4	295.5	283.3	-4.1	-1.4	8.1	2.9
Manufacturing	497.3	495.1	504.1	2.2	0.4	-6.8	-1.3
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	3,324.9	3,296.4	3,188.2	28.5	0.9	136.7	4.3
Trade	654.6	645.9	624.5	8.7	1.3	30.1	4.8
Transportation and warehousing	222.2	235.1	231.9	-12.9	-5.5	-9.7	-4.2
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	260.6	261.2	247.6	-0.6	-0.2	13.0	5.3
Professional, scientific and technical services	353.1	356.0	348.8	-2.9	-0.8	4.3	1.2
Business, building and other support services	160.6	163.5	151.8	-2.9	-1.8	8.8	5.8
Educational services	349.6	347.8	246.8	1.8	0.5	102.8	41.7
Health care and social assistance	597.1	581.2	588.0	15.9	2.7	9.1	1.5
Information, culture and recreation	139.0	124.0	157.7	15.0	12.1	-18.7	-11.9
Accommodation and food services	185.1	176.5	196.1	8.6	4.9	-11.0	-5.6
Other services	154.1	158.6	160.4	-4.5	-2.8	-6.3	-3.9
Public administration	248.9	246.7	234.6	2.2	0.9	14.3	6.1

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

Most economic regions are showing an employment level that is below the previous year's level. The regions showing the highest declines (in percentage terms) are Mauricie (-13,900 jobs or -10.9%), Centre-du-Québec (-10,900 jobs or -8.3%) and Lanaudière (-19,800 jobs or -7.4%). Only four economic regions are posting employment growth over 12 months: Laurentides (+32,600 jobs or +11.6%), Laval (+14,500 jobs or +7.1%), Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean (+4,200 jobs or +3.5%) and, to a lesser degree, Abitibi–Témiscamingue (+100 jobs or +0.1%). In the Greater Montreal Area (i.e., the Island of Montreal and its surrounding suburbs), employment is showing a loss of 7,700 jobs (-0.4%).

With the exception of Abitibi-Témiscamingue, all resource regions are showing declines in their unemployment rate. However, the only region where this decline in the unemployment rate is accompanied by an increase in employment is Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean. In the three other regions (Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Bas-Saint-Laurent and Côte-Nord and Nord-du-Québec), the decline in the unemployment rate can be explained by an increase in the population not in the labour force. The unemployment rate also declined in Chaudière-Appalaches. All other regions experienced an increase in their unemployment rate.

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

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	March 2021 ('000)	March 2020 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	March 2021 (%)	March 2020 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Quebec</b>	4,102.5	4,178.2	-1.8	7.9	6.5	1.4
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine	29.4	31.1	-5.5	15.5	17.7	-2.2
Bas-Saint-Laurent	83.9	84.2	-0.4	6.9	7.6	-0.7
Capitale-Nationale	362.1	367.5	-1.5	6.9	6.8	0.1
Chaudière-Appalaches	214.2	220.5	-2.9	4.8	4.9	-0.1
Estrie	156.6	159.7	-1.9	8.0	5.3	2.7
Centre-du-Québec	119.9	130.8	-8.3	9.0	3.1	5.9
Montréal	777.2	810.2	-4.1	7.0	4.9	2.1
Montréal	1,032.9	1,055.6	-2.2	9.3	7.5	1.8
Laval	218.9	204.4	7.1	9.7	6.6	3.1
Lanaudière	248.2	268.0	-7.4	6.7	6.5	0.2
Laurentides	312.8	280.2	11.6	8.0	7.3	0.7
Outaouais	185.8	193.8	-4.1	8.1	6.5	1.6
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	71.1	71.0	0.1	8.1	5.2	2.9
Mauricie	113.3	127.2	-10.9	8.8	7.8	1.0
Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean	125.9	121.7	3.5	6.9	9.2	-2.3
Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec	50.5	52.3	-3.4	4.9	6.4	-1.5

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:

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**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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