



# Labour Market Bulletin

Quebec

April 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, employment in Quebec experienced a slight decline in April. This decline (-13,300 jobs or -0.3% compared to March) coincided with the implementation of stricter health measures in Quebec City, Gatineau and several RCMs of Chaudière-Appalaches during the reference week (April 11 to 17). The decline was posted only in full-time employment (-16,300 or -0.5%), as part-time employment was up slightly (+3,100 or +0.4%). It is worth noting that the drop in employment affected only women and the private sector in April. Canada as a whole also experienced a decrease in employment in April (-1.1%), largely due to job losses in Ontario (-2.1%) and British Columbia (-1.6%).

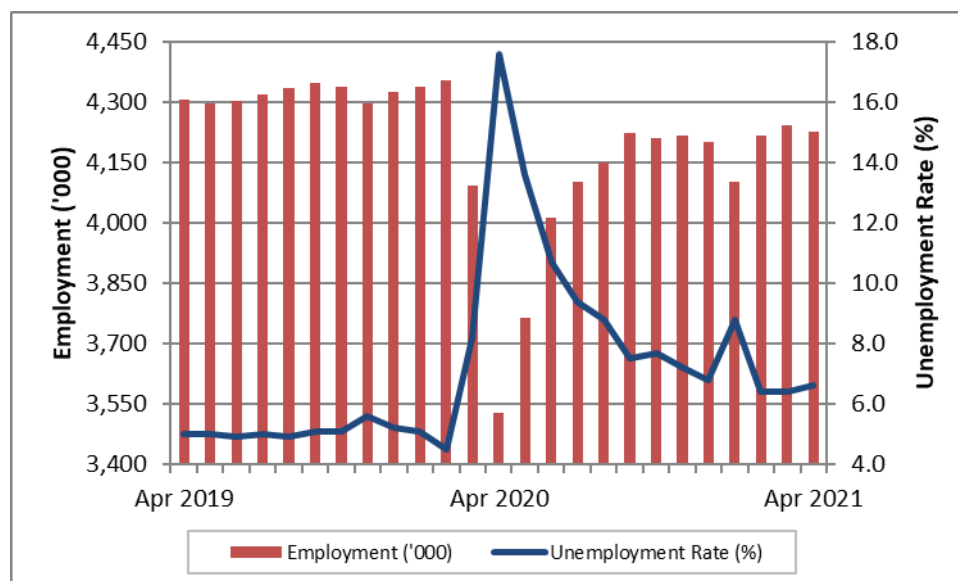
### Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	April 2021	March 2021	April 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	7,090.2	7,088.3	7,042.9	1.9	0.0	47.3	0.7
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	4,523.7	4,529.9	4,283.4	-6.2	-0.1	240.3	5.6
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	4,227.3	4,240.6	3,527.4	-13.3	-0.3	699.9	19.8
Full-Time ('000)	3,510.9	3,527.2	2,993.2	-16.3	-0.5	517.7	17.3
Part-Time ('000)	716.5	713.4	534.2	3.1	0.4	182.3	34.1
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	296.4	289.3	756.0	7.1	2.5	-459.6	-60.8
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	6.6	6.4	17.6	0.2	-	-11.0	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	63.8	63.9	60.8	-0.1	-	3.0	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	59.6	59.8	50.1	-0.2	-	9.5	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

## Quebec Monthly Employment and Unemployment Rate



In comparison with the low recorded in April 2020, employment increased by 699,900 (+19.8%). However, the April 2021 employment level stood at 97.1% of its pre-pandemic level (February 2020). This decline was concentrated mainly in part-time jobs (-95,400 or - 11.8%), while full-time jobs reached similar pre-pandemic levels (-30,500 or - 0.9%). The employment levels of young people aged 15 to 24 (89.1%) and of women (95.4%) continued to fall behind compared to February 2020.

The drop in employment was accompanied by an increase of 7,100 in the number of unemployed people compared to March (+2.5%), reaching a total of 296,400. Among these, 24.9% or 73,700 were long-term unemployed people (27 weeks and more), up from the previous month. Despite a monthly increase (+ 0.2 percentage point), Quebec still had the lowest unemployment rate of all Canadian provinces, at 6.6%. Lastly, both the participation rate (- 0.1 percentage point) and the employment rate (-0.2 percentage point) fell slightly in comparison with the previous month.

## Quebec Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	April 2021	March 2021	April 2020	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	6.6	6.4	17.6	0.2	-11.0
<b>25 years and over</b>	5.5	5.4	15.1	0.1	-9.6
Men - 25 years and over	5.6	6.0	15.5	-0.4	-9.9
Women - 25 years and over	5.4	4.8	14.6	0.6	-9.2
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	13.1	12.4	34.2	0.7	-21.1
Men - 15 to 24 years	14.5	15.2	32.7	-0.7	-18.2
Women - 15 to 24 years	11.5	9.3	35.8	2.2	-24.3

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

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Turning to industries, the goods-producing sector posted a decrease in employment (-9,200 jobs or -1.0%) compared to March, due to declines in manufacturing and agriculture. Compared with their **pre-pandemic levels**, manufacturing (97.2%) and agriculture (96.4%) were the only goods producing industries to post lower employment levels.

The services sector also recorded a slight drop in employment compared to March (-4,200 or -0.1%). Jobs were lost in wholesale and retail trade, in accommodation and food services, and in the other services, as all of these industries were affected by the implementation of stricter health measures in some of Quebec's major cities. However, other services industries recorded job growth compared to March: educational services, information, culture and recreation, as well as professional, scientific and technical services. The services industries with the largest declines compared to their **pre-pandemic levels** were accommodation and food services (67.3%), information, culture and recreation (82.9%) and other services (85.6%).

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	April 2021	March 2021	April 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	4,227.3	4,240.6	3,527.4	-13.3	-0.3	699.9	19.8
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	906.6	915.8	666.5	-9.2	-1.0	240.1	36.0
Agriculture	57.0	64.0	51.5	-7.0	-10.9	5.5	10.7
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	42.0	36.7	31.6	5.3	14.4	10.4	32.9
Utilities	26.6	26.3	23.5	0.3	1.1	3.1	13.2
Construction	292.6	291.4	170.9	1.2	0.4	121.7	71.2
Manufacturing	488.4	497.3	389.1	-8.9	-1.8	99.3	25.5
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	3,320.7	3,324.9	2,860.9	-4.2	-0.1	459.8	16.1
Trade	636.0	654.6	524.6	-18.6	-2.8	111.4	21.2
Transportation and warehousing	224.7	222.2	203.7	2.5	1.1	21.0	10.3
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	261.7	260.6	229.3	1.1	0.4	32.4	14.1
Professional, scientific and technical services	359.0	353.1	320.7	5.9	1.7	38.3	11.9
Business, building and other support services	156.1	160.6	140.1	-4.5	-2.8	16.0	11.4
Educational services	361.5	349.6	264.8	11.9	3.4	96.7	36.5
Health care and social assistance	594.7	597.1	551.5	-2.4	-0.4	43.2	7.8
Information, culture and recreation	150.6	139.0	141.4	11.6	8.3	9.2	6.5
Accommodation and food services	174.0	185.1	127.2	-11.1	-6.0	46.8	36.8
Other services	148.0	154.1	124.3	-6.1	-4.0	23.7	19.1
Public administration	254.4	248.9	233.3	5.5	2.2	21.1	9.0

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

Unsurprisingly, most economic regions in Quebec had an employment rate above their April 2020 level (except Lanaudière and Mauricie). However, only 4 economic regions caught up with their employment rate in April 2019 (a period when the labor market was performing well): Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean, Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Chaudière-Appalaches and, to a lesser extent, Lanaudière.

In terms of unemployment rates, all of Quebec's economic regions have an unemployment rate lower than that recorded in April 2020. However, only 4 regions have unemployment rates lower than those of April 2019: Bas-Saint-Laurent, Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Côte-Nord and Nord-du-Québec and Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean.

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

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	April 2021 ('000)	April 2020 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	April 2021 (%)	April 2020 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Quebec</b>	4,155.1	3,920.0	6.0	7.2	10.6	-3.4
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine	30.3	28.5	6.3	15.2	19.5	-4.3
Bas-Saint-Laurent	84.8	79.9	6.1	5.4	11.7	-6.3
Capitale-Nationale	367.4	346.2	6.1	6.5	10.3	-3.8
Chaudière-Appalaches	214.2	207.8	3.1	4.6	8.7	-4.1
Estrie	157.9	150.8	4.7	6.7	9.3	-2.6
Centre-du-Québec	123.1	121.9	1.0	7.2	8.4	-1.2
Montréal	785.6	755.1	4.0	6.3	10.1	-3.8
Montréal	1,048.3	996.4	5.2	9.1	10.6	-1.5
Laval	222.7	189.5	17.5	8.2	11.4	-3.2
Lanaudière	251.5	258.7	-2.8	5.5	10.9	-5.4
Laurentides	313.4	253.2	23.8	6.1	12.3	-6.2
Outaouais	188.3	184.1	2.3	7.5	10.0	-2.5
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	72.8	65.5	11.1	6.1	9.4	-3.3
Mauricie	117.7	121.7	-3.3	7.1	11.2	-4.1
Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean	126.1	112.2	12.4	6.6	14.9	-8.3
Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec	51.0	48.4	5.4	3.8	10.7	-6.9

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

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