



# Labour Market Bulletin

Quebec

May 2021



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

## OVERVIEW

Employment dipped slightly across Quebec for a second consecutive month, according to the latest results from Statistics Canada's *Labour Force Survey*. The Quebec labour market numbered 8,000 fewer jobs compared to April (-0.2%). Job losses occurred primarily in full-time employment (-7,200 jobs, or -0.2%), while part-time employment wavered only slightly (-900 jobs, or -0.1%). The employment slowdown was slightly more pronounced across Canada as a whole (-0.4%), particularly as a result of the losses posted in Nova Scotia (-4.8%) and Ontario (-0.4%), where the third wave of the pandemic ushered in stricter health measures in May.

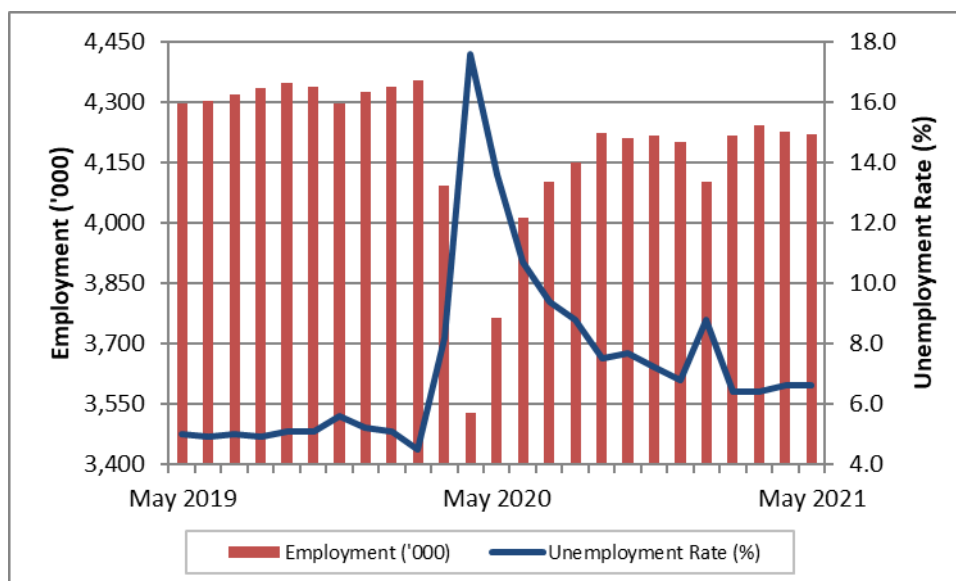
### Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	May 2021	April 2021	May 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	7,091.5	7,090.2	7,045.0	1.3	0.0	46.5	0.7
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	4,515.3	4,523.7	4,359.7	-8.4	-0.2	155.6	3.6
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	4,219.3	4,227.3	3,765.1	-8.0	-0.2	454.2	12.1
Full-Time ('000)	3,503.7	3,510.9	3,228.8	-7.2	-0.2	274.9	8.5
Part-Time ('000)	715.6	716.5	536.3	-0.9	-0.1	179.3	33.4
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	296.0	296.4	594.6	-0.4	-0.1	-298.6	-50.2
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	6.6	6.6	13.6	0.0	-	-7.0	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	63.7	63.8	61.9	-0.1	-	1.8	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	59.5	59.6	53.4	-0.1	-	6.1	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

## Quebec Monthly Employment and Unemployment Rate



Compared with pre-pandemic data from February 2020, there has been a loss of 134,000 jobs (-3.1%). Part-time jobs accounted for roughly ¾ of this decrease (-96,300 jobs, or -11.9%); fewer full-time jobs were lost (-37,700 jobs, or -1.1%). Compared to pre-pandemic levels, women lost significantly more jobs (-4.9%) than men (-1.4%). Indeed, women lost more jobs than men in all three of the main age groups (15 to 24, 25 to 54 and 55+).

Over the last month, the unemployment rate held steady at 6.6%. However, the number of long-term unemployed increased by 4,100 (+5.6%), indicating that over 25% of workers had been unemployed for over 27 weeks. Lastly, the employment rate dipped by 0.1 percentage point, settling at 59.5%. Compared to February 2020, the employment rate was still down by 2.4 percentage points. Employment rates dropped most dramatically among women (-7.2 percentage points) and men (-5.2 percentage points) in the 15 to 24 age group.

## Quebec Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	May 2021	April 2021	May 2020	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	6.6	6.6	13.6	0.0	-7.0
<b>25 years and over</b>	6.0	5.5	11.2	0.5	-5.2
Men - 25 years and over	6.0	5.6	11.2	0.4	-5.2
Women - 25 years and over	6.0	5.4	11.3	0.6	-5.3
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	10.0	13.1	29.5	-3.1	-19.5
Men - 15 to 24 years	9.9	14.5	30.3	-4.6	-20.4
Women - 15 to 24 years	10.1	11.5	28.5	-1.4	-18.4

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

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Turning to industries, the largest monthly job losses were in accommodation and food services (-16,400 jobs, or -9.4%), manufacturing (-13,600 jobs, or -2.8%) and construction (-5,800 jobs, or -2.0%). However, these losses were offset by increased employment in some industries, including retail and wholesale trade (+10,800 jobs, or +1.7%) and information, culture and recreation (+8,300 jobs, or +5.5%). These increases can be explained by the end of special emergency measures in the Quebec City metropolitan community and in many regional county municipalities (MRCs) in the Chaudière–Appalaches and Outaouais regions, which allowed non-essential businesses and some cultural and recreational facilities to reopen.

Although the employment level for all industries did not reach pre-pandemic levels, 7 of the 16 major industries reported employment levels that exceeded their pre-pandemic levels. In the goods-producing sector, utilities (+5,100 jobs, or +20.4%), forestry, fishing and mining (+5,700 jobs, or +15.0%) and construction (+4,900 jobs, or +1.7%) had increased since February 2020. In the services-producing sector, the same was true in educational services (+45,300 jobs, or +14.3%), finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing services (+16,900 jobs, or +6.7%), public administration (+12,000 jobs, or +5.0%) and professional, scientific and technical services (+7,500 jobs, or +2.2%).

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

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	May 2021	April 2021	May 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	4,219.3	4,227.3	3,765.1	-8.0	-0.2	454.2	12.1
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	892.3	906.6	795.2	-14.3	-1.6	97.1	12.2
Agriculture	56.9	57.0	55.4	-0.1	-0.2	1.5	2.7
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	43.6	42.0	37.9	1.6	3.8	5.7	15.0
Utilities	30.1	26.6	25.1	3.5	13.2	5.0	19.9
Construction	286.8	292.6	230.2	-5.8	-2.0	56.6	24.6
Manufacturing	474.8	488.4	446.6	-13.6	-2.8	28.2	6.3
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	3,327.0	3,320.7	2,969.9	6.3	0.2	357.1	12.0
Trade	646.8	636.0	580.9	10.8	1.7	65.9	11.3
Transportation and warehousing	229.0	224.7	191.1	4.3	1.9	37.9	19.8
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	267.6	261.7	244.4	5.9	2.3	23.2	9.5
Professional, scientific and technical services	356.0	359.0	329.8	-3.0	-0.8	26.2	7.9
Business, building and other support services	155.0	156.1	139.8	-1.1	-0.7	15.2	10.9
Educational services	363.0	361.5	291.6	1.5	0.4	71.4	24.5
Health care and social assistance	591.9	594.7	564.6	-2.8	-0.5	27.3	4.8
Information, culture and recreation	158.9	150.6	148.4	8.3	5.5	10.5	7.1
Accommodation and food services	157.6	174.0	126.5	-16.4	-9.4	31.1	24.6
Other services	147.6	148.0	127.9	-0.4	-0.3	19.7	15.4
Public administration	253.6	254.4	224.8	-0.8	-0.3	28.8	12.8

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

All economic regions across Quebec reported employment levels that were higher than in May 2020. However, only four economic regions posted employment levels that were higher than May 2019, when economic conditions were more positive. These were Lanaudière (+2.6%), the Island of Montreal (+1.6%), Côte-Nord and Nord-du-Québec (+1.0%), and, to a lesser extent, Centre-du-Québec (+0.2%). It should be noted that the Montreal Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) was the only Quebec CMA with an employment level that was higher than in May 2019 (+17,900 jobs, or +0.8%).

The unemployment rate (seasonally unadjusted data) stood at 7.0% in Quebec in May. Only three economic regions posted unemployment rates that were higher than the provincial rate: Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine (14.9%), the Island of Montreal (9.6%) and Laval (8.3%). The regions with the lowest unemployment rates were Côte-Nord and Nord-du-Québec (3.6%), Chaudière-Appalaches (4.3%) and Abitibi-Témiscamingue (4.9%).

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

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	May 2021 ('000)	May 2020 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	May 2021 (%)	May 2020 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Quebec</b>	4,194.8	3,762.5	11.5	7.0	13.5	-6.5
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine	31.4	27.5	14.2	14.9	18.6	-3.7
Bas-Saint-Laurent	83.8	78.3	7.0	6.5	13.4	-6.9
Capitale-Nationale	372.3	333.9	11.5	5.7	12.4	-6.7
Chaudière-Appalaches	213.5	204.5	4.4	4.3	10.1	-5.8
Estrie	158.4	149.0	6.3	5.8	10.9	-5.1
Centre-du-Québec	127.1	116.1	9.5	5.8	11.3	-5.5
Montréal	1,059.7	946.9	11.9	9.6	14.0	-4.4
Laval	221.9	182.5	21.6	8.3	14.5	-6.2
Lanaudière	258.6	254.8	1.5	5.0	14.4	-9.4
Laurentides	308.8	238.3	29.6	6.3	14.7	-8.4
Outaouais	190.7	177.3	7.6	6.7	12.0	-5.3
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	74.3	61.5	20.8	4.9	13.0	-8.1
Mauricie	119.6	115.9	3.2	6.9	14.1	-7.2
Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean	124.9	107.7	16.0	6.7	18.1	-11.4
Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec	51.1	45.7	11.8	3.6	14.4	-10.8

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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