



Labour Market Bulletin

Quebec

July 2021



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

OVERVIEW

Employment in Quebec was up slightly in July (+7,500 jobs or +0.2%) over the previous month, according to the latest results of the Statistics Canada *Labour Force Survey*. The easing of health measures that came into effect at the end of June, when several regions in the yellow zone turned green, had very little effect on the labour market. The monthly increase was driven entirely by full-time employment (+16,100 jobs or +0.5%), while part-time employment decreased by 1.1% (- 8,600). In comparison, employment growth across Canada as a whole was slightly better (+0.5%), driven by gains in Ontario (+1.0%) and Alberta (+0.6%), where several health measures were lifted (including opening restaurant dining rooms).

Quebec has still not reached its pre-pandemic level of employment: the level of employment in July was 98% of the February 2020 level (4,353,300 jobs). Only one Canadian province has reached a higher level of employment than in February 2020: British Columbia (100.5%). In Quebec, employment among women is still significantly lower than pre-pandemic levels (-51,000 or -2.5%), while the gap has practically disappeared among men (-3,100 jobs or -0.1%).

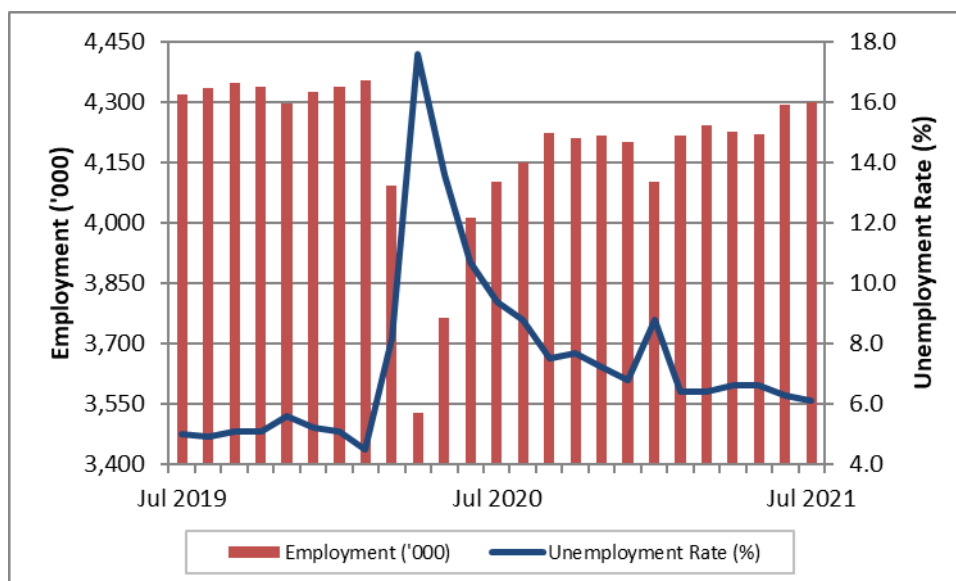
Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	July 2021	June 2021	July 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	7,098.0	7,093.6	7,051.8	4.4	0.1	46.2	0.7
Labour Force ('000)	4,578.7	4,578.6	4,526.9	0.1	0.0	51.8	1.1
Employment ('000)	4,299.1	4,291.6	4,100.1	7.5	0.2	199.0	4.9
Full-Time ('000)	3,515.8	3,499.7	3,346.2	16.1	0.5	169.6	5.1
Part-Time ('000)	783.3	791.9	753.9	-8.6	-1.1	29.4	3.9
Unemployment ('000)	279.6	287.0	426.7	-7.4	-2.6	-147.1	-34.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.1	6.3	9.4	-0.2	-	-3.3	-
Participation Rate (%)	64.5	64.5	64.2	0.0	-	0.3	-
Employment Rate (%)	60.6	60.5	58.1	0.1	-	2.5	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Quebec Monthly Employment and Unemployment Rate



The number of unemployed people continued to decrease to 279,600, of which 72,400 had been unemployed for more than 27 weeks (25.9% of the unemployed). Comparing the current situation with the pre-pandemic situation, there are still 75,500 more unemployed than in February 2020. The unemployment rate dipped by 0.2 percentage points from the previous month to 6.1%, while the participation rate (stable at 64.5%) and the employment rate (+0.1 percentage point to 60.5%) for the population aged 15 and over showed little change. Note that the 15 to 24 age group, with an employment rate of 66.7%, is 0.4 percentage points higher than in February 2020, prior to the pandemic, while the 25 to 54 and 55+ age groups are below their pre-pandemic employment rates.

Quebec Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	July 2021	June 2021	July 2020	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	6.1	6.3	9.4	-0.2	-3.3
25 years and over	6.0	6.0	8.0	0.0	-2.0
Men - 25 years and over	6.0	6.1	8.0	-0.1	-2.0
Women - 25 years and over	6.0	5.9	8.0	0.1	-2.0
15 to 24 years	6.7	8.0	18.2	-1.3	-11.5
Men - 15 to 24 years	7.4	8.5	23.2	-1.1	-15.8
Women - 15 to 24 years	5.9	7.4	12.8	-1.5	-6.9

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Turning to industries, only the services sector posted gains (+22,900 jobs or +0.7%) compared to June data, thanks in part to gains in information, culture and recreation (+12,000 or +7.4%), in finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (+9,000 or +3.3%) and in public administration (+7,800 or +3.2%). Employment in accommodation and food services, which has been significantly affected by the health measures since January 2021, continues to grow, with an increase of 5,800 (+3.1%). In contrast, the goods-producing sector posted job losses (-15,300 or

-1.7%), owing to losses in manufacturing (-10,800 or -2.3%) and, to a lesser extent, from construction (-3,400 or -1.2%).

Of the eight industries that have surpassed their pre-pandemic employment levels, those with the largest growth (in %) are finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (+34,900 or +13.9%), educational services (+42,900 or +13.5%) as well as utilities (+2,200 or +8.8%). Meanwhile, eight industries are still below their February 2020 levels. The most significant losses were reported from accommodation and food services (-63,100 or -24.4%), manufacturing (-38,300 or -7.6%), transportation and warehousing (-22,600 or -9.1%), and other services (-14,800 or -8.6%).

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	July 2021	June 2021	July 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	4,299.1	4,291.6	4,100.1	7.5	0.2	199.0	4.9
Goods-producing sector	870.8	886.1	839.1	-15.3	-1.7	31.7	3.8
Agriculture	57.7	58.5	54.5	-0.8	-1.4	3.2	5.9
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	38.3	37.8	35.9	0.5	1.3	2.4	6.7
Utilities	27.2	28.1	22.5	-0.9	-3.2	4.7	20.9
Construction	283.4	286.8	256.0	-3.4	-1.2	27.4	10.7
Manufacturing	464.1	474.9	470.1	-10.8	-2.3	-6.0	-1.3
Services-producing sector	3,428.4	3,405.5	3,261.1	22.9	0.7	167.3	5.1
Trade	656.4	660.5	647.1	-4.1	-0.6	9.3	1.4
Transportation and warehousing	224.9	228.1	215.7	-3.2	-1.4	9.2	4.3
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	285.6	276.6	244.1	9.0	3.3	41.5	17.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	362.6	357.7	329.7	4.9	1.4	32.9	10.0
Business, building and other support services	156.8	162.2	157.7	-5.4	-3.3	-0.9	-0.6
Educational services	360.6	373.1	316.3	-12.5	-3.4	44.3	14.0
Health care and social assistance	603.6	600.3	607.1	3.3	0.5	-3.5	-0.6
Information, culture and recreation	173.4	161.4	162.7	12.0	7.4	10.7	6.6
Accommodation and food services	195.6	189.8	205.1	5.8	3.1	-9.5	-4.6
Other services	158.0	152.7	147.5	5.3	3.5	10.5	7.1
Public administration	250.9	243.1	228.1	7.8	3.2	22.8	10.0

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 July data therefore correspond to an average of May, June and July.

At the economic region level, only one region reported a decrease in employment compared to July 2020, namely Chaudière-Appalaches (-8,700 jobs or -3.8%), while employment was stable in Lanaudière. The 14 other economic regions posted employment levels that are higher than July 2020. Note that at the time, the labour market was recovering from the initial lockdown in the spring of 2020. The economic regions with the most significant job growth (in %) are the Laurentides (+56,200 jobs or +21.1%), Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine

(+5,200 jobs or +16.4%), Abitibi-Témiscamingue (+10,000 jobs or +15.1%) and Montréal (+112,800 jobs or +11.6%).

All economic regions show decreases in their unemployment rates compared to July 2020, with the largest decreases in Lanaudière (-7.0 percentage points to 3.6%), Montréal (-6.1 percentage points to 9.7%) and lastly, Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean (-5.9 percentage points to 5.7%). Eight regions have unemployment rates below 5%, while Montréal remains the region with the highest unemployment rate at 9.7%.

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	July 2021 ('000)	July 2020 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	July 2021 (%)	July 2020 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Quebec	4,345.2	4,033.4	7.7	6.0	10.9	-4.9
Economic Regions						
Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine	37.0	31.8	16.4	8.2	10.7	-2.5
Bas-Saint-Laurent	92.1	86.8	6.1	3.6	7.9	-4.3
Capitale-Nationale	387.8	366.6	5.8	3.7	8.0	-4.3
Chaudière-Appalaches	217.3	226.0	-3.8	3.1	6.1	-3.0
Estrie	162.6	159.7	1.8	4.4	7.3	-2.9
Centre-du-Québec	130.7	119.1	9.7	3.9	7.2	-3.3
Montréal	832.6	779.9	6.8	5.2	10.3	-5.1
Montréal	1,082.3	969.5	11.6	9.7	15.8	-6.1
Laval	231.6	211.9	9.3	6.7	9.1	-2.4
Lanaudière	270.2	270.3	0.0	3.6	10.6	-7.0
Laurentides	322.3	266.1	21.1	5.3	10.4	-5.1
Outaouais	201.9	187.4	7.7	5.1	8.9	-3.8
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	76.2	66.2	15.1	3.8	7.4	-3.6
Mauricie	127.7	122.9	3.9	5.2	9.9	-4.7
Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean	122.8	120.9	1.6	5.7	11.6	-5.9
Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec	50.2	48.3	3.9	4.2	9.4	-5.2

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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