



Labour Market Bulletin

Quebec

August 2021



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

OVERVIEW

Employment was down slightly in Quebec (-11,000 or -0.3%) in August according to Statistic Canada's latest *Labour Force Survey*. This was entirely attributable to a drop in part-time employment (-22,300 or -2.8%), while full-time employment rose slightly (+11,300 or +0.3%). Most of the job losses were among self-employed workers. That contrasts with the situation in Canada overall, which saw a slight increase in employment (+0.5%), thanks largely to gains in Ontario (+0.7%), Alberta (+0.9%), British Columbia (+0.5%) and Saskatchewan (+1.8 %). In Quebec, the losses recorded in August were among youth aged 15 to 24 and adults 55 years and older, while gains were posted by those in the 25–54 age group.

Employment in Quebec is still below the pre-pandemic level (February 2020) by 65,200 jobs (-1.5%). This is largely due to part-time job losses (-50,900 jobs), while nearly all the full-time jobs lost during the health crisis have been recovered reaching 99.6% of pre-pandemic level (-14,300 jobs). Among the three main age groups (15–24 years, 25–54 years and 55 and older), only Quebecers 55 and over had an employment level higher than in February 2020.

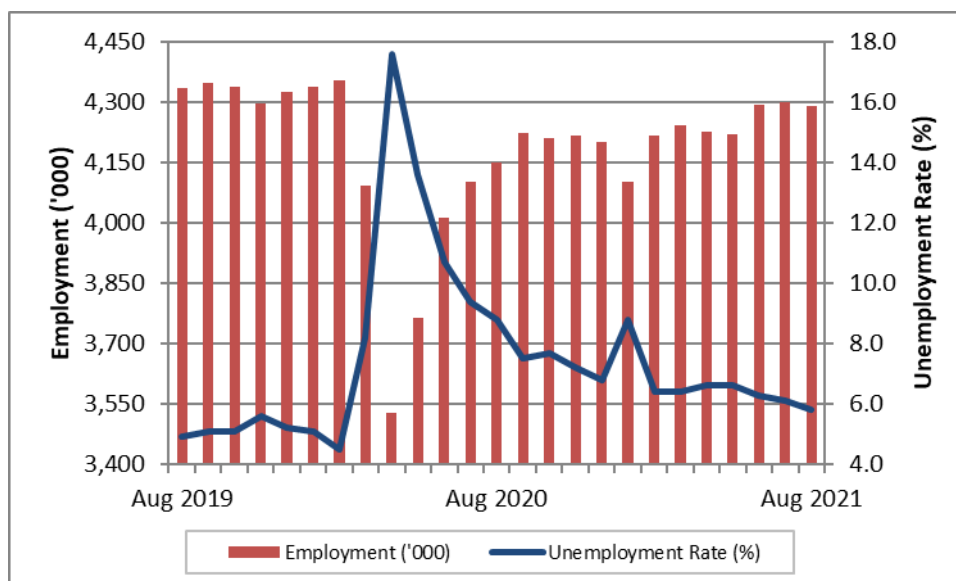
Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	August 2021	July 2021	August 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	7,103.4	7,098.0	7,057.1	5.4	0.1	46.3	0.7
Labour Force ('000)	4,553.3	4,578.7	4,550.7	-25.4	-0.6	2.6	0.1
Employment ('000)	4,288.1	4,299.1	4,150.6	-11.0	-0.3	137.5	3.3
Full-Time ('000)	3,527.1	3,515.8	3,404.1	11.3	0.3	123.0	3.6
Part-Time ('000)	761.0	783.3	746.5	-22.3	-2.8	14.5	1.9
Unemployment ('000)	265.1	279.6	400.1	-14.5	-5.2	-135.0	-33.7
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.8	6.1	8.8	-0.3	-	-3.0	-
Participation Rate (%)	64.1	64.5	64.5	-0.4	-	-0.4	-
Employment Rate (%)	60.4	60.6	58.8	-0.2	-	1.6	-

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 August, the number of employed totalled 265,100, down 14,500 over the previous month (-5.2%). This situation, where we see a decrease in the number of unemployed at the same time as a drop in the number of jobs, results in a shrinking labour force (-30,800 or -1.2%). This seems to indicate that a certain number of unemployed have left the labour force. Quebec's unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage points to 5.8%, the second lowest rate among the Canadian provinces, behind only Manitoba at 5.7%. In comparison, the national unemployment rate was 7.1%.

With the drop in the labour force, the participation rate fell 0.4 percentage points to 64.1%. The employment rate also declined (-0.2 percentage points) to 60.4%, and remains 1.5 percentage points below the February 2020 rate. Compared with pre-pandemic employment rates, women experienced a greater decline (-2.0 percentage points) than men (-1.0 point).

Quebec Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	August 2021	July 2021	August 2020	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	5.8	6.1	8.8	-0.3	-3.0
25 years and over	5.6	6.0	7.3	-0.4	-1.7
Men - 25 years and over	5.6	6.0	6.9	-0.4	-1.3
Women - 25 years and over	5.6	6.0	7.9	-0.4	-2.3
15 to 24 years	6.9	6.7	17.4	0.2	-10.5
Men - 15 to 24 years	9.1	7.4	19.5	1.7	-10.4
Women - 15 to 24 years	4.6	5.9	15.3	-1.3	-10.7

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

In terms of industries, the highest monthly declines in employment were seen in information, culture and recreation (-13,100 jobs or -7.6%), educational services (-8,100 jobs or -2.2%), health care and social assistance (-5,900 or -1.0%), and agriculture (-5,400 jobs or -9.4%). These losses were partly offset by employment growth in public administration (+12,700 jobs or +5.1%), trade (+6,300 jobs or +1.0%), accommodation and food services (+5,300 or +2.7%), and construction (+4,100 jobs or +1.4%).

Employment in the goods-producing sector is at 96.0% of its pre-pandemic level, while the services-producing sector sits at 99.2%. The two sectors that have experienced the greatest contraction in comparison with February 2020 are nevertheless in the service sector: accommodation and food services (-22,3%) and information, culture and recreation (-11.7%).

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	August 2021	July 2021	August 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	4,288.1	4,299.1	4,150.6	-11.0	-0.3	137.5	3.3
Goods-producing sector	869.7	870.8	860.2	-1.1	-0.1	9.5	1.1
Agriculture	52.3	57.7	55.3	-5.4	-9.4	-3.0	-5.4
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	36.2	38.3	33.7	-2.1	-5.5	2.5	7.4
Utilities	26.4	27.2	22.6	-0.8	-2.9	3.8	16.8
Construction	287.5	283.4	269.7	4.1	1.4	17.8	6.6
Manufacturing	467.3	464.1	479.0	3.2	0.7	-11.7	-2.4
Services-producing sector	3,418.4	3,428.4	3,290.3	-10.0	-0.3	128.1	3.9
Trade	662.7	656.4	663.5	6.3	1.0	-0.8	-0.1
Transportation and warehousing	220.2	224.9	218.3	-4.7	-2.1	1.9	0.9
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	285.2	285.6	246.6	-0.4	-0.1	38.6	15.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	362.1	362.6	332.0	-0.5	-0.1	30.1	9.1
Business, building and other support services	160.1	156.8	170.7	3.3	2.1	-10.6	-6.2
Educational services	352.5	360.6	314.2	-8.1	-2.2	38.3	12.2
Health care and social assistance	597.7	603.6	593.3	-5.9	-1.0	4.4	0.7
Information, culture and recreation	160.3	173.4	157.8	-13.1	-7.6	2.5	1.6
Accommodation and food services	200.9	195.6	209.3	5.3	2.7	-8.4	-4.0
Other services	153.2	158.0	156.2	-4.8	-3.0	-3.0	-1.9
Public administration	263.6	250.9	228.5	12.7	5.1	35.1	15.4

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

In August, only four economic regions posted employment levels below their year-earlier rates: Chaudière-Appalaches (-19,000 jobs or -8.1%), Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean (-6,300 jobs or -4.9%), Lanaudière (-8,800 jobs or -3.2%) and, finally, Côte-Nord and Nord-du-Québec (-1,000 jobs or -2.0%). Note that in August 2020, Chaudière-Appalaches and Lanaudière were two of the four regions in Quebec where employment had already surpassed pre-pandemic levels (August 2019). In August 2021, six economic regions posted employment levels higher than their pre-pandemic levels (August 2019): Laval, Laurentides, Montérégie, Mauricie, Centre-du-Québec and Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine. Chaudière-Appalaches and Lanaudière no longer fall into this category. Note that the Montréal Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) has gained 47,100 jobs since August 2019 (+2.1%).

Unemployment rates were lower in all of Quebec's economic regions than in August 2020. However, in comparing them with the August 2019 data, only two regions posted unemployment rates below their pre-pandemic rates: Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine and Bas-Saint-Laurent. Nevertheless, in most economic regions, the unemployment rate remains historically low. In fact, in August 2021, the unemployment rate was below 5.0% in eight economic regions.

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	August 2021 ('000)	August 2020 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	August 2021 (%)	August 2020 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Quebec	4,369.0	4,166.0	4.9	6.0	9.5	-3.5
Economic Regions						
Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine	38.2	33.1	15.4	7.7	9.3	-1.6
Bas-Saint-Laurent	94.9	90.4	5.0	2.9	5.1	-2.2
Capitale-Nationale	395.6	381.2	3.8	4.1	5.8	-1.7
Chaudière-Appalaches	215.7	234.7	-8.1	3.6	5.1	-1.5
Estrie	162.3	161.2	0.7	5.0	6.8	-1.8
Centre-du-Québec	129.5	120.1	7.8	4.4	5.2	-0.8
Montérégie	838.2	806.9	3.9	5.2	8.7	-3.5
Montréal	1,085.7	992.2	9.4	9.4	15.3	-5.9
Laval	232.0	222.4	4.3	6.7	7.5	-0.8
Lanaudière	268.5	277.3	-3.2	4.0	8.0	-4.0
Laurentides	328.3	281.8	16.5	4.5	10.0	-5.5
Outaouais	205.0	190.7	7.5	5.1	8.3	-3.2
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	75.9	69.3	9.5	3.8	4.5	-0.7
Mauricie	128.7	126.9	1.4	5.0	7.4	-2.4
Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean	121.2	127.5	-4.9	5.5	8.1	-2.6
Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec	49.3	50.3	-2.0	4.3	6.0	-1.7

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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