



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Quebec



September 2021

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

### OVERVIEW

After stagnating over the previous two months, employment in Quebec increased significantly in September according to the latest data from Statistics Canada's *Labour Force Survey*. There were 31,200 more people participating in the labour market than in the previous month (+0.7%), and more than 85%, or 26,600, of these additional jobs were full-time. Gains were recorded by both men (+16,500) and women (+14,700). Employment increased mainly among those aged 25 to 54 (+49,400), while it decreased among those aged 15 to 24 (-11,700) and 55 and over (-6,500). Employment also increased in Canada overall (+157,100 jobs or +0.8%), with gains in Ontario (+1.0%), Quebec and the four Western provinces (+0.7%).

In comparison with the other provinces, Quebec's unemployment rate, at 5.7%, is the second lowest in the country after Manitoba (at 5.6%). Unemployment rates are also down in Ontario at 7.3% and in British Columbia at 5.9%. However, there has been an increase in Alberta, where the unemployment rate is 8.1%.

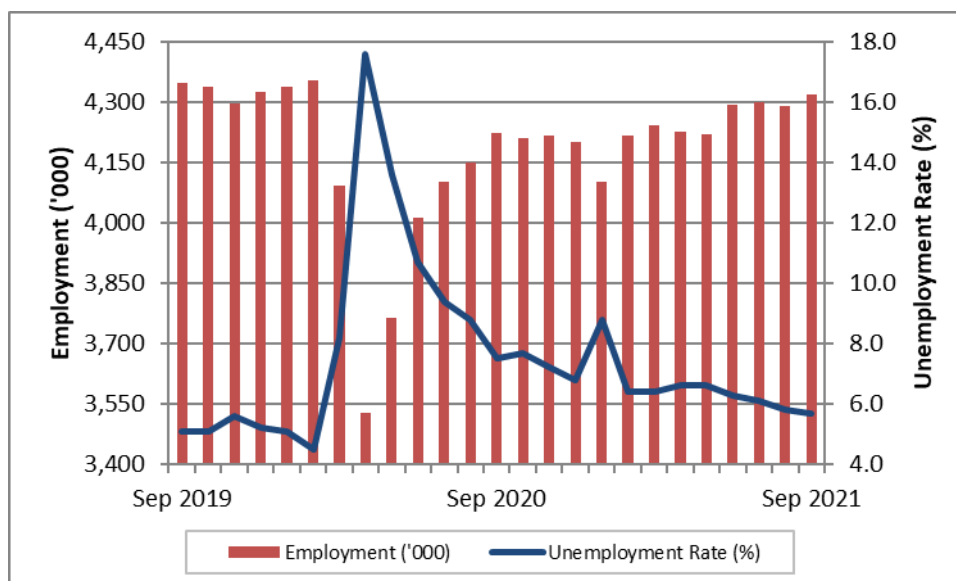
### Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Sept. 2021	August 2021	Sept. 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	7,107.3	7,103.4	7,064.0	3.9	0.1	43.3	0.6
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	4,581.0	4,553.3	4,565.4	27.7	0.6	15.6	0.3
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	4,319.3	4,288.1	4,223.3	31.2	0.7	96.0	2.3
Full-Time ('000)	3,553.7	3,527.1	3,433.6	26.6	0.8	120.1	3.5
Part-Time ('000)	765.6	761.0	789.7	4.6	0.6	-24.1	-3.1
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	261.7	265.1	342.1	-3.4	-1.3	-80.4	-23.5
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	5.7	5.8	7.5	-0.1	-	-1.8	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	64.5	64.1	64.6	0.4	-	-0.1	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	60.8	60.4	59.8	0.4	-	1.0	-

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 Canada has returned to its pre-pandemic employment level (i.e., February 2020), Quebec still has a slight deficit of 34,000 jobs (-0.8%). It should be noted that full-time employment has now recovered the equivalent of all jobs lost since the beginning of the pandemic, with a rate of 100.3%. As a result, the shortfall is entirely in part-time employment, with its level corresponding to 94.3% of that in February 2020. For the first time, men have exceeded their pre-pandemic employment level, with a recovery rate of 100.2%, while women are 1.8% below their February 2020 level.

The number of unemployed persons, like the unemployment rate, has been trending downward for the past five months. In September, there was a decrease of 3,400 unemployed persons from the previous month (-1.3%), while the unemployment rate was 5.7% (-0.1 percentage points compared with August). This limited decline in unemployment while employment increased is due to growth in the labour force (+27,700 persons). As a result of these increases, both the labour force participation rate and the employment rate rose by 0.4 percentage points to 64.5% and 60.8%, respectively. However, when compared with the February 2020 rate, the employment rate shows a decline of 1.1 percentage points, not only because employment has not returned to its pre-pandemic level, but also because of population growth over the past 19 months.

## Quebec Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Sept. 2021	August 2021	Sept. 2020	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	5.7	5.8	7.5	-0.1	-1.8
<b>25 years and over</b>	5.2	5.6	6.5	-0.4	-1.3
Men - 25 years and over	5.4	5.6	6.4	-0.2	-1.0
Women - 25 years and over	5.0	5.6	6.7	-0.6	-1.7
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	8.8	6.9	13.3	1.9	-4.5
Men - 15 to 24 years	9.6	9.1	14.4	0.5	-4.8
Women - 15 to 24 years	8.0	4.6	12.1	3.4	-4.1

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

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

When looking at the data by industry, it is interesting to note that the majority of jobs added in the last month (95.8%) are from the goods-producing sector, which accounts for only 20.8% of total employment in Quebec. This sector has shown an increase of 29,900 jobs (+3.4%) since August. The gains were mainly in manufacturing (+23,500 or +5.0%), but also in forestry, fishing and mining (+4,000 or +11.0%) and utilities (+2,700 or +10.2%).

In the services-producing sector, despite a rather stable outcome (+1,300 jobs or +0.0%), some industries showed significant growth, including professional, scientific and technical services (+13,000 or +3.6%); transportation and warehousing (+5,600 or +2.5%); and business, building and other support services (+5,300 or +3.3%). However, these increases were offset by declines in retail and wholesale trade (-17,500 or -2.6%), and accommodation and food services (-6,800 or -3.4%).

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

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Sept. 2021	August 2021	Sept. 2020	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	4,319.3	4,288.1	4,223.3	31.2	0.7	96.0	2.3
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	899.6	869.7	868.9	29.9	3.4	30.7	3.5
Agriculture	52.3	52.3	56.6	0.0	0.0	-4.3	-7.6
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	40.2	36.2	36.0	4.0	11.0	4.2	11.7
Utilities	29.1	26.4	24.6	2.7	10.2	4.5	18.3
Construction	287.2	287.5	267.2	-0.3	-0.1	20.0	7.5
Manufacturing	490.8	467.3	484.4	23.5	5.0	6.4	1.3
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	3,419.7	3,418.4	3,354.5	1.3	0.0	65.2	1.9
Trade	645.2	662.7	662.3	-17.5	-2.6	-17.1	-2.6
Transportation and warehousing	225.8	220.2	226.7	5.6	2.5	-0.9	-0.4
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	285.2	285.2	246.8	0.0	0.0	38.4	15.6
Professional, scientific and technical services	375.1	362.1	342.7	13.0	3.6	32.4	9.5
Business, building and other support services	165.4	160.1	163.0	5.3	3.3	2.4	1.5
Educational services	350.4	352.5	338.3	-2.1	-0.6	12.1	3.6
Health care and social assistance	601.9	597.7	592.2	4.2	0.7	9.7	1.6
Information, culture and recreation	156.5	160.3	171.4	-3.8	-2.4	-14.9	-8.7
Accommodation and food services	194.1	200.9	222.6	-6.8	-3.4	-28.5	-12.8
Other services	152.5	153.2	153.9	-0.7	-0.5	-1.4	-0.9
Public administration	267.7	263.6	234.5	4.1	1.6	33.2	14.2

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

In September, 11 of the 16 economic regions had a higher level of employment than 12 months earlier. The economic regions where the level remained lower were Chaudière-Appalaches (-20,900 jobs or -8.8%), Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean (-10,800 jobs or -8.3%), Côte-Nord and Nord-du-Québec (-2,800 jobs or -5.4%), Mauricie (-2,500 jobs or -1.9%), and Lanaudière (-5,000 jobs or -1.8%). However, only six economic regions posted a higher level of employment than in September 2019, before the pandemic: the regions of Laval (+20,400 jobs or +9.7%), Montérégie (+12,300 jobs or +1.5%), Laurentides (+6,600 jobs or +2.1%), Centre-du-Québec (+5,200 jobs or +4.1%), Mauricie<sup>1</sup> (+1,600 jobs or +1.3%) and Bas-Saint-Laurent (+200 jobs or +0.5%).

Most economic regions reported decreases in their unemployment rates compared with those of September 2020, excluding the regions of Centre-du-Québec (+0.7 percentage points, to 5.1%), Laval (+0.3 percentage points, to 7.4%), and Côte-Nord and Nord-du-Québec (+0.1 percentage points, to 5.1%). In September 2021, four regions had unemployment rates of 4% or less: Capitale-Nationale (4.0%), Abitibi-Témiscamingue (3.9%), Chaudière Appalaches (3.6%) and Bas-Saint-Laurent (3.3%).

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

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Sept. 2021 ('000)	Sept. 2020 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Sept. 2021 (%)	Sept. 2020 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Quebec</b>	4,354.1	4,211.3	3.4	5.7	8.4	-2.7
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine	37.6	32.7	15.0	9.0	9.4	-0.4
Bas-Saint-Laurent	94.3	90.9	3.7	3.3	4.3	-1.0
Capitale-Nationale	397.4	381.5	4.2	4.0	4.7	-0.7
Chaudière-Appalaches	215.5	236.4	-8.8	3.6	4.0	-0.4
Estrie	163.3	161.5	1.1	4.5	6.1	-1.6
Centre-du-Québec	132.3	123.0	7.6	5.1	4.4	0.7
Montérégie	833.2	815.0	2.2	5.1	7.5	-2.4
Montréal	1,082.9	1,013.4	6.9	8.3	13.3	-5.0
Laval	231.2	221.4	4.4	7.4	7.1	0.3
Lanaudière	267.8	272.8	-1.8	4.4	7.7	-3.3
Laurentides	323.1	291.8	10.7	5.0	10.0	-5.0
Outaouais	206.3	190.7	8.2	4.4	8.1	-3.7
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	74.3	69.3	7.2	3.9	4.4	-0.5
Mauricie	126.1	128.6	-1.9	4.8	6.1	-1.3
Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean	120.1	130.9	-8.3	5.4	6.0	-0.6
Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec	48.7	51.5	-5.4	5.1	5.0	0.1

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0387

<sup>1</sup>. Note that in Mauricie, the employment level in September 2020 (128,600) was higher than in September 2019 (124,500).

**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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