



Labour Market Bulletin

Quebec



January 2022

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

OVERVIEW

As the fifth wave at the end of 2021 led to stricter public health measures, the Quebec labour market entered 2022 with a significant decrease in employment, the first in 12 months. Employment in the province decreased by 63,000 in January (-1.4%) compared with the previous month. This decline was split between full-time jobs (-36,400 or -1.0%) and part-time jobs (-26,600 or -3.4%). The number of employees in the private sector fell, but the number in the public sector rose. Young people aged 15 to 24 were more affected by the employment decline (-40,800 or -6.9%), but the drop also affected those aged 25 to 54 (-36,700 or -1.3%), while those 55 and over experienced a growth in employment (+14,600 or +1.6%). Employment also decreased across Canada (-200,100 or -1.0%), mainly due to job losses in Ontario (-145,700 or -1.9%) and Quebec.

As a result of the monthly decline, employment in Quebec is again falling below its pre-pandemic level, i.e., that of February 2020, with 60,700 fewer jobs (-1.4%). Full-time employment was just above the pre-pandemic level (+2,600 or +0.1%) while the deficit in part-time employment widened (-63,200 or -7.8%). Compared with the February 2020 data, there was a slightly less significant decline for men (-1.1%) than women (-1.7%).

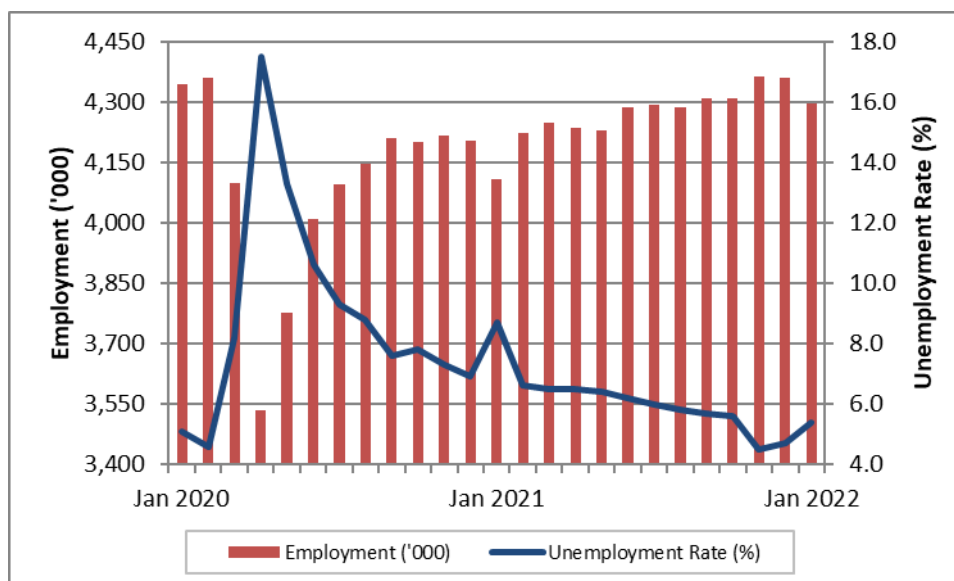
Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics

| Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data | Jan. 2022 | Dec. 2021 | Jan. 2021 | Monthly Variation | | Yearly Variation | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|------|------------------|-------|
| | | | | Number | % | Number | % |
| Population 15 + ('000) | 7,123.6 | 7,119.9 | 7,081.0 | 3.7 | 0.1 | 42.6 | 0.6 |
| Labour Force ('000) | 4,544.8 | 4,576.0 | 4,499.7 | -31.2 | -0.7 | 45.1 | 1.0 |
| Employment ('000) | 4,297.4 | 4,360.4 | 4,107.0 | -63.0 | -1.4 | 190.4 | 4.6 |
| Full-Time ('000) | 3,547.1 | 3,583.5 | 3,445.8 | -36.4 | -1.0 | 101.3 | 2.9 |
| Part-Time ('000) | 750.4 | 777.0 | 661.2 | -26.6 | -3.4 | 89.2 | 13.5 |
| Unemployment ('000) | 247.3 | 215.6 | 392.7 | 31.7 | 14.7 | -145.4 | -37.0 |
| Unemployment Rate (%) | 5.4 | 4.7 | 8.7 | 0.7 | - | -3.3 | - |
| Participation Rate (%) | 63.8 | 64.3 | 63.5 | -0.5 | - | 0.3 | - |
| Employment Rate (%) | 60.3 | 61.2 | 58.0 | -0.9 | - | 2.3 | - |

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Quebec Monthly Employment and Unemployment Rate



As a result of the monthly decline, employment in Quebec is again falling below its pre-pandemic level, i.e., that of February 2020, with 60,700 fewer jobs (-1.4%). Full-time employment was just above the pre-pandemic level (+2,600 or +0.1%) while the deficit in part-time employment widened (-63,200 or -7.8%). Compared with the February 2020 data, there was a slightly less significant decline for men (-1.1%) than women (-1.7%).

The number of unemployed people increased by 31,700 from December 2021 (+14.7%) to 247,300. Of these individuals, 26,700 were long-term unemployed (27 weeks or more), with their number sharply falling by 26.8% from December, likely in line with the decline in the labour force. At 5.4%, despite an increase of 0.7 percentage points, Quebec's unemployment rate is below the Canadian rate (6.5%), which also rose by 0.5 percentage points. Compared with December, the participation rate (63.8%) and the employment rate (60.3%) fell due to labour force and employment declines. However, among those 55 and over, the participation rate (+0.6 percentage points, to 33.5%) and employment rate (+0.5 percentage points, to 31.6%) increased, mainly thanks to women.

Quebec Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

| Seasonally Adjusted Data | Jan. 2022 | Dec. 2021 | Jan. 2021 | Monthly Variation | Yearly Variation |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|------------------|
| | % | % | % | (% points) | (% points) |
| Total | 5.4 | 4.7 | 8.7 | 0.7 | -3.3 |
| 25 years and over | 4.7 | 4.1 | 7.4 | 0.6 | -2.7 |
| Men - 25 years and over | 4.6 | 4.1 | 7.5 | 0.5 | -2.9 |
| Women - 25 years and over | 4.7 | 4.0 | 7.2 | 0.7 | -2.5 |
| 15 to 24 years | 10.5 | 8.7 | 17.7 | 1.8 | -7.2 |
| Men - 15 to 24 years | 12.1 | 10.1 | 17.6 | 2.0 | -5.5 |
| Women - 15 to 24 years | 8.8 | 7.3 | 17.8 | 1.5 | -9.0 |

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

From an industry perspective, the employment decline in January 2022 was concentrated in the service sector (-69,100 or -2.0%). The industry with the most significant number of job losses was, unsurprisingly, accommodation and food services (-37,000 or -19.1%) as a result of the closure of restaurant dining rooms, but several other industries also reported significant losses. These include business, building and other support services (-12,800 or -7.5%) and professional, scientific and technical services (-12,000 or -3.1%). However, a few industries posted an increase in jobs, including health care and social assistance (+10,700 or +1.8%) and educational services (+6,600 or +1.9%).

With the decline recorded in the past month, the employment level in accommodation and food services was 156,900, its lowest level since May 2020, at the very beginning of the pandemic. This is a decline of 102,600 or -39.5% from its pre-pandemic level in February 2020. In comparison, this is a much more significant deficit than in Ontario (-28.7%). Other industries with the largest declines (by percentage) from their pre-pandemic levels are information, culture and recreation (-24,800 or -13.4%); transportation and warehousing (-18,300 or -7.4%); and agriculture (-3,700 or -6.5%). Some other industries have experienced an increase compared with their February 2020 levels, including educational services (+41,000 or +12.8%); finance, insurance and real estate (+28,700 or +11.4%); and public administration (+26,900 or +11.2%).

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

| Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000) | Jan. 2022 | Dec. 2021 | Jan. 2021 | Monthly Variation | | Yearly Variation | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| | | | | Number | % | Number | % |
| Total employed, all industries | 4,297.4 | 4,360.4 | 4,107.0 | -63.0 | -1.4 | 190.4 | 4.6 |
| Goods-producing sector | 912.5 | 906.4 | 893.9 | 6.1 | 0.7 | 18.6 | 2.1 |
| Agriculture | 53.3 | 51.9 | 59.8 | 1.4 | 2.7 | -6.5 | -10.9 |
| Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas | 38.0 | 38.6 | 37.6 | -0.6 | -1.6 | 0.4 | 1.1 |
| Utilities | 28.9 | 26.5 | 26.0 | 2.4 | 9.1 | 2.9 | 11.2 |
| Construction | 295.4 | 296.1 | 282.4 | -0.7 | -0.2 | 13.0 | 4.6 |
| Manufacturing | 496.9 | 493.3 | 488.2 | 3.6 | 0.7 | 8.7 | 1.8 |
| Services-producing sector | 3,384.9 | 3,454.0 | 3,213.1 | -69.1 | -2.0 | 171.8 | 5.3 |
| Trade | 629.6 | 639.3 | 578.6 | -9.7 | -1.5 | 51.0 | 8.8 |
| Transportation and warehousing | 228.2 | 232.9 | 227.6 | -4.7 | -2.0 | 0.6 | 0.3 |
| Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing | 279.6 | 285.1 | 266.8 | -5.5 | -1.9 | 12.8 | 4.8 |
| Professional, scientific and technical services | 372.5 | 384.5 | 354.9 | -12.0 | -3.1 | 17.6 | 5.0 |
| Business, building and other support services | 157.3 | 170.1 | 162.5 | -12.8 | -7.5 | -5.2 | -3.2 |
| Educational services | 360.2 | 353.6 | 344.2 | 6.6 | 1.9 | 16.0 | 4.6 |
| Health care and social assistance | 610.2 | 599.5 | 580.7 | 10.7 | 1.8 | 29.5 | 5.1 |
| Information, culture and recreation | 160.6 | 164.6 | 142.2 | -4.0 | -2.4 | 18.4 | 12.9 |
| Accommodation and food services | 156.9 | 193.9 | 170.7 | -37.0 | -19.1 | -13.8 | -8.1 |
| Other services | 163.1 | 161.9 | 140.1 | 1.2 | 0.7 | 23.0 | 16.4 |
| Public administration | 266.8 | 268.6 | 244.6 | -1.8 | -0.7 | 22.2 | 9.1 |

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 January data therefore correspond to an average of November, December and January.

Of Quebec's 16 economic regions, only 5 reported employment levels below their January 2021 levels: Bas-Saint-Laurent (-5,200 or -5.8%), Côte-Nord and Nord-du-Québec (-2,200 or -4.4%), Chaudière-Appalaches (-8,200 or -3.7%), Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean (-5,400 or -4.3%) and Mauricie (-3,500 or -3.0%). Among those that experienced employment growth compared with the same period 12 months earlier, Centre-du-Québec (+14,400 or +12.1%), Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine (+3,500 or +11.8%), Outaouais (+15,000 or +8.0%) and the Montréal area (+82,800 or +8.0%) recorded the highest rates.

Most of Quebec's economic regions continue to record historically low unemployment rates. In January 2022, five regions posted unemployment rates below 4.0% and below the pre-pandemic rate (January 2020): Chaudière-Appalaches (2.8%), Estrie (3.1%), Laval (3.6%), Abitibi-Témiscamingue (3.7%) and Laurentides (3.9%).

In the Montréal census metropolitan area (CMA), employment increased by 120,000 from January 2021 (+5.5%), and the unemployment rate decreased by 3.4 percentage points to 5.0%.

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

| 3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data | Employment | | | Unemployment Rate | | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Jan. 2022 ('000) | Jan. 2021 ('000) | Yearly Variation (%) | Jan. 2022 (%) | Jan. 2021 (%) | Yearly Variation (% points) |
| Quebec | 4,296.0 | 4,135.4 | 3.9 | 4.8 | 7.6 | -2.8 |
| Economic Regions | | | | | | |
| Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine | 33.1 | 29.6 | 11.8 | 17.3 | 12.4 | 4.9 |
| Bas-Saint-Laurent | 84.6 | 89.8 | -5.8 | 6.1 | 6.2 | -0.1 |
| Capitale-Nationale | 374.4 | 370.7 | 1.0 | 4.3 | 5.8 | -1.5 |
| Chaudière-Appalaches | 215.2 | 223.4 | -3.7 | 2.8 | 4.2 | -1.4 |
| Estrie | 161.4 | 160.1 | 0.8 | 3.1 | 7.6 | -4.5 |
| Centre-du-Québec | 133.8 | 119.4 | 12.1 | 4.1 | 7.3 | -3.2 |
| Montréal | 1,124.3 | 1,041.5 | 8.0 | 5.9 | 8.6 | -2.7 |
| Laval | 231.5 | 219.7 | 5.4 | 3.6 | 8.4 | -4.8 |
| Lanaudière | 258.2 | 253.5 | 1.9 | 5.2 | 6.6 | -1.4 |
| Laurentides | 314.4 | 307.9 | 2.1 | 3.9 | 9.3 | -5.4 |
| Outaouais | 202.3 | 187.3 | 8.0 | 4.6 | 7.1 | -2.5 |
| Abitibi-Témiscamingue | 70.2 | 69.0 | 1.7 | 3.7 | 7.5 | -3.8 |
| Mauricie | 113.1 | 116.6 | -3.0 | 4.2 | 8.0 | -3.8 |
| Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean | 120.6 | 126.0 | -4.3 | 5.3 | 6.5 | -1.2 |
| Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec | 48.1 | 50.3 | -4.4 | 4.4 | 4.9 | -0.5 |

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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