



Labour Market Bulletin

Quebec



February 2022

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

OVERVIEW

According to the latest data released by Statistics Canada's *Labour Force Survey*, employment in Quebec picked up significantly in February, after two monthly declines. The labour market added 81,500 more jobs than in January (+1.9%), making up for the loss of 66,900 jobs in December 2021 and January 2022. Employment growth was largely due to part-time work (+54,800 jobs or +7.3%), with a moderate increase in full-time employment (+26,600 jobs or +0.7%). The increase in employment was recorded mainly among private-sector employees, but also among self-employer workers. The three main age groups (15 to 24, 25 to 54 and 55+) shared the job gains, which were slightly higher for women (+2.0%) than for men (+1.8%). Growth across Canada as a whole reached 1.8%, thanks to increases in all 10 Canadian provinces, including Ontario (+2.6%).

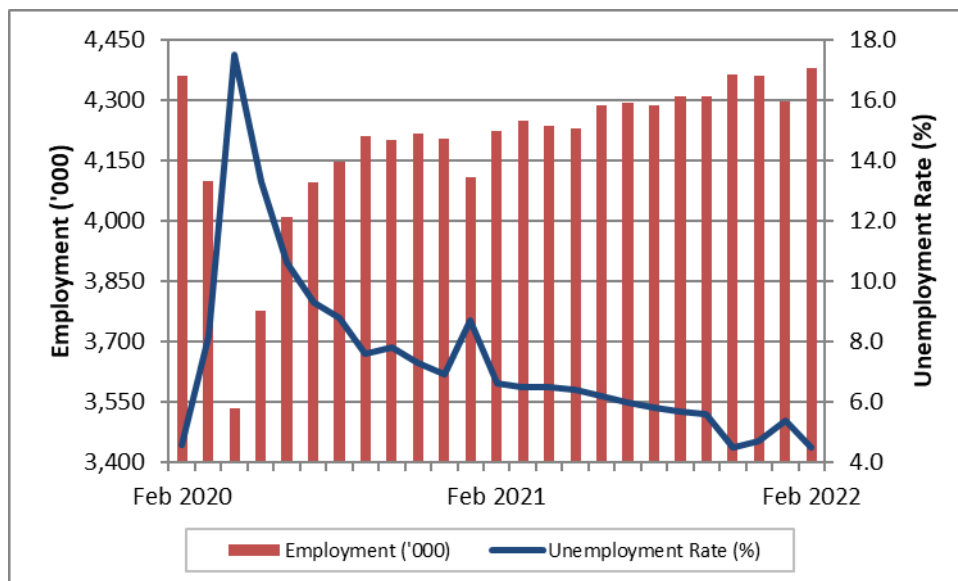
Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Feb. 2022	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	7,127.1	7,123.6	7,085.6	3.5	0.0	41.5	0.6
Labour Force ('000)	4,586.1	4,544.8	4,518.9	41.3	0.9	67.2	1.5
Employment ('000)	4,378.9	4,297.4	4,221.6	81.5	1.9	157.3	3.7
Full-Time ('000)	3,573.7	3,547.1	3,483.5	26.6	0.7	90.2	2.6
Part-Time ('000)	805.2	750.4	738.1	54.8	7.3	67.1	9.1
Unemployment ('000)	207.2	247.3	297.2	-40.1	-16.2	-90.0	-30.3
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.5	5.4	6.6	-0.9	-	-2.1	-
Participation Rate (%)	64.3	63.8	63.8	0.5	-	0.5	-
Employment Rate (%)	61.4	60.3	59.6	1.1	-	1.8	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Quebec Monthly Employment and Unemployment Rate



With 4,378,900 jobs, the employment level reached a historic high in Quebec, surpassing its pre-pandemic level of February 2020 by 20,800 jobs (or 0.5%). Full-time employment grew by 29,200 jobs (+0.8%) compared to pre-pandemic levels, whereas part-time employment continued to register a deficit, with 8,400 lost jobs (-1.0%) despite gains in the previous month. Employment for youth aged 15 to 24 was still below pre-pandemic levels (-34,600 jobs or -5.7%), but above for the 25 to 54 (+51,300 jobs or +1.8%) and 55+ (+4,100 jobs or +0.4%) age groups.

The number of unemployed people fell by 40,100 (-16.2%) compared to January, to 207,200, which was below the pre-pandemic level of 208,100. As a result, the unemployment rate dropped by 0.9 percentage points to 4.5%, matching its all-time low of November 2021. This was the lowest level of unemployment in the country in February. Thanks to job gains, the employment rate increased by 1.1 percentage points to 61.4%. However, it remained below its pre-pandemic rate of 61.9%, since the population 15 years and older increased more sharply than employment. Among those aged 25 to 54, on the other hand, employment not only exceeded pre-pandemic levels but even reached a historic peak of 87.2%, with a monthly increase of 1.1 percentage points. Lastly, since monthly employment gains surpassed the decline in the number of unemployed, the participation rate rose by one half percentage point to 64.3%.

Quebec Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Feb. 2022	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021	Monthly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
	%	%	%		
Total	4.5	5.4	6.6	-0.9	-2.1
25 years and over	4.0	4.7	5.8	-0.7	-1.8
Men - 25 years and over	4.1	4.6	6.2	-0.5	-2.1
Women - 25 years and over	3.9	4.7	5.3	-0.8	-1.4
15 to 24 years	7.5	10.5	11.6	-3.0	-4.1
Men - 15 to 24 years	8.9	12.1	11.6	-3.2	-2.7
Women - 15 to 24 years	6.2	8.8	11.6	-2.6	-5.4

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

From an industry perspective, employment growth was observed in both the goods-producing sector (+14,800 jobs or +1.6%) and the services-producing sector (+66,800 jobs or +2.0%) compared to the previous month. In the services-producing sector, accommodation and food services (+26,700 jobs or +17.0%), information, culture and recreation (+21,500 jobs or +13.4%), and trade (+20,600 jobs or +3.3%) posted the highest gains, benefiting from the easing of health measures. Some sectors experienced employment losses, such as educational services (-10,700 jobs or -3.0%) and public administration (-5,200 jobs or -1.9%). In the goods-producing sector, new jobs were primarily in forestry, fishing and mining (+7,100 jobs or +18.7%) and in construction (+5,500 jobs or +1.9%).

Compared to their pre-pandemic levels, the sectors that posted the highest growth in employment (percentage) were utilities (+7,300 jobs; +29.6%), forestry, fishing and mining (+6,400 jobs; +16.5%), finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (+28,200 jobs; +11.2%), and professional, scientific and technical services (+34,100 jobs; +9.8%). Accommodation and food services (-75,900 jobs; -29.2%), transportation and warehousing (-15,400 jobs; -6.2%), and agriculture (-4,800 jobs; -8.4%) experienced the most significant shortfalls compared to their February 2020 levels.

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Feb. 2022	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	4,378.9	4,297.4	4,221.6	81.5	1.9	157.3	3.7
Goods-producing sector	927.3	912.5	911.4	14.8	1.6	15.9	1.7
Agriculture	52.2	53.3	62.1	-1.1	-2.1	-9.9	-15.9
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	45.1	38.0	37.5	7.1	18.7	7.6	20.3
Utilities	32.0	28.9	26.9	3.1	10.7	5.1	19.0
Construction	300.9	295.4	292.7	5.5	1.9	8.2	2.8
Manufacturing	497.0	496.9	492.1	0.1	0.0	4.9	1.0
Services-producing sector	3,451.7	3,384.9	3,310.3	66.8	2.0	141.4	4.3
Trade	650.2	629.6	650.7	20.6	3.3	-0.5	-0.1
Transportation and warehousing	231.1	228.2	233.4	2.9	1.3	-2.3	-1.0
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	279.1	279.6	260.8	-0.5	-0.2	18.3	7.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	383.1	372.5	356.6	10.6	2.8	26.5	7.4
Business, building and other support services	153.2	157.3	161.2	-4.1	-2.6	-8.0	-5.0
Educational services	349.5	360.2	351.4	-10.7	-3.0	-1.9	-0.5
Health care and social assistance	611.6	610.2	586.0	1.4	0.2	25.6	4.4
Information, culture and recreation	182.1	160.6	129.0	21.5	13.4	53.1	41.2
Accommodation and food services	183.6	156.9	177.6	26.7	17.0	6.0	3.4
Other services	166.7	163.1	158.5	3.6	2.2	8.2	5.2
Public administration	261.6	266.8	245.2	-5.2	-1.9	16.4	6.7

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

Most economic regions recorded job gains compared to February 2021. The regions with the highest growth rates were Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine (+3,700 jobs or +12.7%), Centre-du-Québec (+13,900 jobs or +11.6%), Outaouais (+16,600 jobs or +8.9%) and Montréal (+86,200 jobs or +8.3%). Among the six regions where employment decreased compared to February 2021, Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean (-7,200 jobs or -5.7%), Bas-Saint-Laurent (-4,500 jobs or -5.1%) and Côte-Nord and Nord-du-Québec (-2,000 jobs or -4.0%) recorded the most significant drops. However, only six regions posted employment levels higher than their February 2020 pre-pandemic levels: Laval (+24,900 jobs or +12.0%), Laurentides (+16,800 jobs or +5.7%), Montréal (+36,600 jobs or +3.4%), Outaouais (+5,500 jobs or +2.8%), Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine (+800 jobs or +2.5%) and Centre-du-Québec (+1,800 jobs or +1.4%).

Unemployment declined in most regions compared to a year earlier. Among these, four regions posted rates below 4%: Centre-du-Québec (3.7%), Estrie (3.2%), Chaudière-Appalaches (2.9%) and Laval (2.8%). Only three regions experienced an increase in unemployment compared to February 2021: Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine (+2.5 percentage points to 15.9%), Bas-Saint-Laurent (+0.8 percentage points to 7.3%), and Côte-Nord and Nord-du-Québec (+0.4 percentage points to 5.5%).

In the Census Metropolitan Areas (CMA) of Montréal, which includes the islands of Montreal and Laval and the North and South Shores of Montreal, employment increased by 111,500 jobs (+5.1%) compared to February 2021. In comparison with its pre-pandemic level, employment in the CMA of Montréal grew by 37,600 jobs (+1.7%), and unemployment dropped by 0.4 percentage points.

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Feb. 2022 ('000)	Feb. 2021 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Feb. 2022 (%)	Feb. 2021 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Quebec	4,273.9	4,110.2	4.0	5.1	7.7	-2.6
Economic Regions						
Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine	32.9	29.2	12.7	15.9	13.4	2.5
Bas-Saint-Laurent	83.4	87.9	-5.1	7.3	6.5	0.8
Capitale-Nationale	371.2	363.9	2.0	4.9	6.8	-1.9
Chaudière-Appalaches	214.0	218.2	-1.9	2.9	4.5	-1.6
Estrie	159.5	159.0	0.3	3.2	8.0	-4.8
Centre-du-Québec	133.8	119.9	11.6	3.7	8.5	-4.8
Montérégie	801.3	770.7	4.0	4.7	7.6	-2.9
Montréal	1,122.6	1,036.4	8.3	6.1	8.4	-2.3
Laval	232.9	220.7	5.5	2.8	9.1	-6.3
Lanaudière	260.8	248.4	5.0	5.8	6.3	-0.5
Laurentides	312.2	309.4	0.9	4.4	8.6	-4.2
Outaouais	202.7	186.1	8.9	4.7	7.9	-3.2
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	69.1	69.4	-0.4	4.2	8.4	-4.2
Mauricie	110.1	114.4	-3.8	5.2	7.8	-2.6
Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean	119.2	126.4	-5.7	5.4	6.9	-1.5
Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec	48.2	50.2	-4.0	5.5	5.1	0.4

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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