



Labour Market Bulletin

Quebec

March 2022



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

OVERVIEW

After the strong increase recorded in February, employment growth continued in March in Quebec, albeit at a more moderate pace, according to the latest data published by Statistics Canada's *Labour Force Survey*. Employment increased by 27,100 compared with February (+0.6%), with most of the gains coming from full-time employment (+26,500 or +0.7%), while part-time employment was little changed (+700 or +0.1%). Almost 90% of the jobs added were among those aged 55 and over and 15 to 24, while employment among 25 to 54 year olds remained relatively stable. The monthly change in employment is almost equally divided between women (+12,800 or +0.6%) and men (+14,300 or +0.6%). Monthly employment growth is slightly higher in Quebec than in Ontario (+0.5%) and Canada as a whole (+0.4%).

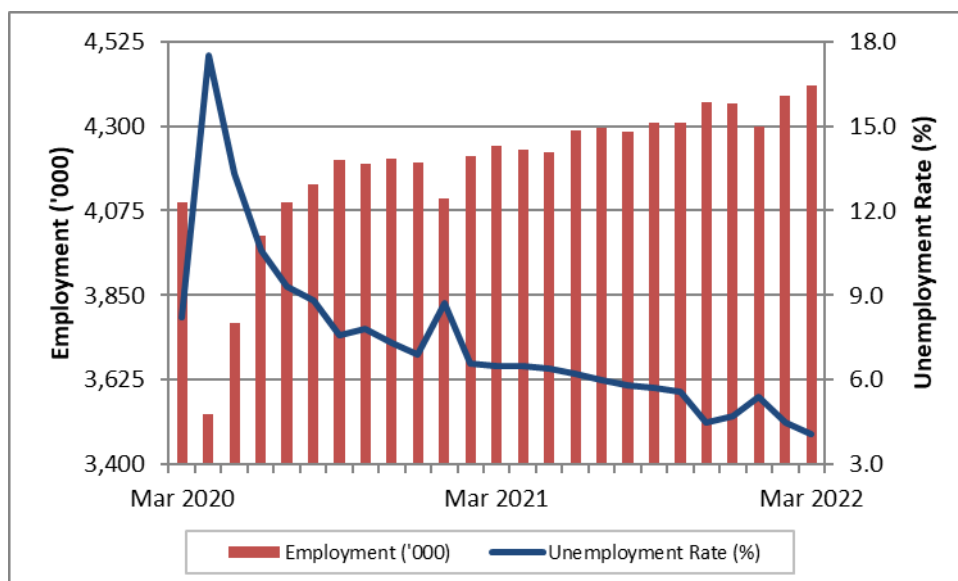
Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	March 2022	Feb. 2022	March 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	7,131.7	7,127.1	7,088.3	4.6	0.1	43.4	0.6
Labour Force ('000)	4,596.1	4,586.1	4,544.0	10.0	0.2	52.1	1.1
Employment ('000)	4,406.0	4,378.9	4,248.3	27.1	0.6	157.7	3.7
Full-Time ('000)	3,600.2	3,573.7	3,533.1	26.5	0.7	67.1	1.9
Part-Time ('000)	805.9	805.2	715.2	0.7	0.1	90.7	12.7
Unemployment ('000)	190.0	207.2	295.6	-17.2	-8.3	-105.6	-35.7
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.1	4.5	6.5	-0.4	-	-2.4	-
Participation Rate (%)	64.4	64.3	64.1	0.1	-	0.3	-
Employment Rate (%)	61.8	61.4	59.9	0.4	-	1.9	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Quebec Monthly Employment and Unemployment Rate



Employment increased by 47,900 (+1.1%) from its pre-pandemic level (February 2020) and reached an all-time high of 4,406,000 jobs. However, the proportional recovery in Quebec is weaker than in Canada as a whole, where growth reached +2.3%. In Quebec, full-time employment increased by 55,700 (+1.6%) compared to February 2020, while part-time employment is still below its pre-pandemic level (-7,700 or -0.9%). Employment growth since the start of the pandemic is slightly higher for men (+29,500 or +1.3%) than for women (+18,300 or +0.9%). Looking at employment by age group, 15-24 year olds still have a lower level of employment than before the pandemic (-28,200 or -4.6%), although this deficit has been reduced over the last two months.

In March, 190,000 people in Quebec were unemployed, the lowest level since the data were first published in 1976. With the monthly decline in the number of unemployed (-17,200 or -8.3%) and the increase in the labour force (+10,000 to a peak of 4,596,100), the unemployment rate also reached an all-time low of 4.1%—the lowest rate among the 10 Canadian provinces. The Canadian unemployment rate also fell by 0.2 percentage points to a record low of 5.3%. Quebec's employment rate rose by 0.4 percentage points from February to 61.8%, nearly its all-time high of 61.9% in February 2020. The employment rate for the 25 to 54 age group is at a historic high of 87.3%.

Quebec Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	March 2022	Feb. 2022	March 2021	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	4.1	4.5	6.5	-0.4	-2.4
25 years and over	3.7	4.0	5.6	-0.3	-1.9
Men - 25 years and over	3.7	4.1	6.1	-0.4	-2.4
Women - 25 years and over	3.6	3.9	5.0	-0.3	-1.4
15 to 24 years	7.2	7.5	12.2	-0.3	-5.0
Men - 15 to 24 years	8.0	8.9	14.1	-0.9	-6.1
Women - 15 to 24 years	6.4	6.2	10.1	0.2	-3.7

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The majority of industries reported job gains compared with February. The largest job gains, in terms of numbers, were in accommodation and food services (+9,500 or +5.2%), public administration (+8,200 or +3.1%) and educational services (+8,000 or +2.3%). However, drops in employment have been noted in five industries, including professional, scientific and technical services (-16,800 or -4.4%) and, to a lesser extent, health care and social assistance (-3,300 or -0.5%).

Employment in some industries remains below its pre-pandemic level. The largest declines are in accommodation and food services (-66,400 or -25.6%), retail and wholesale trade (-18,400 or -2.8%), transportation and warehousing (-12,500 or -5.1%) and other services (-7,500 or -4.3%). In contrast, the industries contributing most to employment growth since the start of the pandemic are educational services (+38,300 or +12.0%), finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (+31,800 or +12.7%), public administration (+29,900 or +12.5%) and construction (+25,800 or +9.3%).

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	March 2022	Feb. 2022	March 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	4,406.0	4,378.9	4,248.3	27.1	0.6	157.7	3.7
Goods-producing sector	934.0	927.3	910.7	6.7	0.7	23.3	2.6
Agriculture	56.1	52.2	63.8	3.9	7.5	-7.7	-12.1
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	44.3	45.1	36.7	-0.8	-1.8	7.6	20.7
Utilities	30.1	32.0	26.9	-1.9	-5.9	3.2	11.9
Construction	304.6	300.9	289.8	3.7	1.2	14.8	5.1
Manufacturing	498.8	497.0	493.6	1.8	0.4	5.2	1.1
Services-producing sector	3,472.0	3,451.7	3,337.7	20.3	0.6	134.3	4.0
Trade	650.4	650.2	657.9	0.2	0.0	-7.5	-1.1
Transportation and warehousing	234.0	231.1	223.5	2.9	1.3	10.5	4.7
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	282.7	279.1	261.9	3.6	1.3	20.8	7.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	366.3	383.1	355.2	-16.8	-4.4	11.1	3.1
Business, building and other support services	157.5	153.2	160.0	4.3	2.8	-2.5	-1.6
Educational services	357.5	349.5	352.6	8.0	2.3	4.9	1.4
Health care and social assistance	608.3	611.6	595.4	-3.3	-0.5	12.9	2.2
Information, culture and recreation	186.1	182.1	144.5	4.0	2.2	41.6	28.8
Accommodation and food services	193.1	183.6	184.3	9.5	5.2	8.8	4.8
Other services	166.4	166.7	153.7	-0.3	-0.2	12.7	8.3
Public administration	269.8	261.6	248.7	8.2	3.1	21.1	8.5

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

Compared to last year, the Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine (+3,500 or +11.9%), Centre-du-Québec (+12,400 or +10.3%), Outaouais (+17,000 or +9.1%) and Montréal (+87,500 or +8.5%) regions show the strongest employment growth. The Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean (-7,800 or -6.2%), Côte-Nord and Nord-du-Québec (-2,800 or -5.5%), Abitibi-Témiscamingue (-1,900 or -2.7%) and Mauricie (-1,600 or -1.4%) experienced employment losses since March 2021, while employment in the Capitale-Nationale has changed little.

Most economic regions report a decrease in the unemployment rate compared to March 2021, except for the Côte-Nord, Nord-du-Québec and Bas-Saint-Laurent regions. However, there are still significant differences between regions. The lowest unemployment rates are in the Chaudière-Appalaches (at 3.1%), Estrie (at 3.2%) and Laval (at 3.2%) regions. In comparison, the regions with the highest unemployment rates are Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine (at 15.2%) and Bas-Saint-Laurent (at 7.6%). However, the economy of these two regions is more affected by seasonality.

The highest employment rates are found in the Montréal region (63.5%), Centre-du-Québec (63.4%) and Laval (61.2%). These three regions also have the largest 12-month increases in employment.

Several economic regions report lower employment rates than in March 2021. The largest downward trends are in Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean (-3.4 percentage points to 51.6%), Côte-Nord et Nord-du-Québec (-3.0 percentage points to 55.9%) and Abitibi-Témiscamingue (-1.5 percentage points to 58.5%).

The Montréal Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) has shown an increase of 101,900 jobs compared to March 2021 (+4.7%). Its unemployment rate decreased by 3.1 percentage points over 12 months, to 5.2%. Lastly, the employment rate, which is at 62.4%, increased by 2.4 percentage points.

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	March 2022 ('000)	March 2021 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	March 2022 (%)	March 2021 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Quebec	4,269.3	4,102.5	4.1	5.1	7.9	-2.8
Economic Regions						
Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine	32.9	29.4	11.9	15.2	15.5	-0.3
Bas-Saint-Laurent	83.8	83.9	-0.1	7.6	6.9	0.7
Capitale-Nationale	373.2	362.1	3.1	4.8	6.9	-2.1
Chaudière-Appalaches	214.3	214.2	0.0	3.1	4.8	-1.7
Estrie	157.7	156.6	0.7	3.2	8.0	-4.8
Centre-du-Québec	132.3	119.9	10.3	3.4	9.0	-5.6
Montréal	801.0	777.2	3.1	4.8	7.0	-2.2
Montréal	1,120.4	1,032.9	8.5	6.1	9.3	-3.2
Laval	229.3	218.9	4.8	3.2	9.7	-6.5
Lanaudière	261.4	248.2	5.3	6.1	6.7	-0.6
Laurentides	313.4	312.8	0.2	4.3	8.0	-3.7
Outaouais	202.8	185.8	9.1	4.6	8.1	-3.5
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	69.2	71.1	-2.7	4.7	8.1	-3.4
Mauricie	111.7	113.3	-1.4	5.3	8.8	-3.5
Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean	118.1	125.9	-6.2	5.8	6.9	-1.1
Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec	47.7	50.5	-5.5	6.8	4.9	1.9

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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