



Labour Market Bulletin

Quebec

April 2022



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

OVERVIEW

Employment decreased in Quebec in April, reversing most of the gains recorded from the previous month, according to the latest data published in the Labour Force Survey from Statistics Canada. In fact, since 27,100 jobs were added in March, the employment level has fallen by 26,500 this month. The decrease in employment was solely from full-time jobs (-29,800 or -0.8%), while there was a slight increase in part-time jobs (+3,200 or 0.4%). Losses were split between women (-14,000 or -0.7%) and men (-12,000 or -0.5%) and affected the three main age groups. In comparison, employment in Canada as a whole hardly changed (+15,300 or +0.1%) – the decline in employment recorded mainly in Quebec was offset by an increase in employment in Ontario and Alberta.

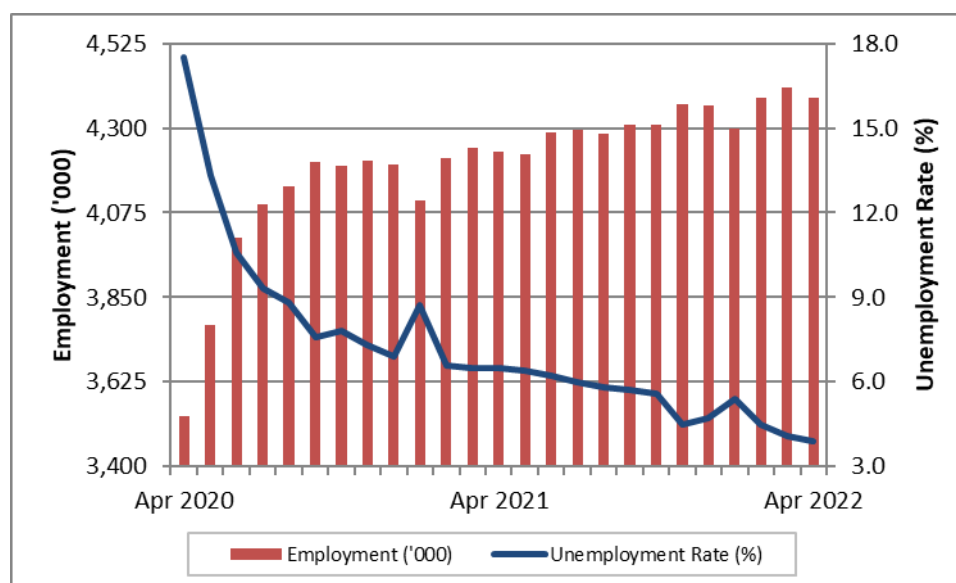
Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	April 2022	March 2022	April 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	7,136.8	7,131.7	7,090.2	5.1	0.1	46.6	0.7
Labour Force ('000)	4,559.1	4,596.1	4,531.8	-37.0	-0.8	27.3	0.6
Employment ('000)	4,379.5	4,406.0	4,236.3	-26.5	-0.6	143.2	3.4
Full-Time ('000)	3,570.4	3,600.2	3,511.7	-29.8	-0.8	58.7	1.7
Part-Time ('000)	809.1	805.9	724.6	3.2	0.4	84.5	11.7
Unemployment ('000)	179.6	190.0	295.5	-10.4	-5.5	-115.9	-39.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.9	4.1	6.5	-0.2	-	-2.6	-
Participation Rate (%)	63.9	64.4	63.9	-0.5	-	0.0	-
Employment Rate (%)	61.4	61.8	59.7	-0.4	-	1.7	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Quebec Monthly Employment and Unemployment Rate



Over 12 months, employment grew by 143,200 jobs (+3.4%). However, in comparison with the pre-pandemic level (February 2020), employment increased by only 21,400 jobs (+0.5%). Across Canada, employment growth is greater, at 2.4%, compared to February 2020. In fact, the only provinces with a lower growth rate than Quebec are Manitoba and Saskatchewan, again when compared to their pre-pandemic level. In Quebec, youth aged 15 to 24 have an employment deficit compared to the pre-pandemic level (-34,000 jobs or -5.6%), while the employment level for those aged 25 to 54 and 55 years and over is higher than in February 2020.

Despite the decline in employment, the unemployment rate decreased by 0.2 percentage points, which is now at 3.9%. Once again, this month has the lowest unemployment rate since the data was first published in 1976. However, the decrease in the unemployment rate can be explained by a significant increase in the population that is not in the labour force, as some people have stopped actively seeking employment. This also explains the decrease of half a percentage point in the participation rate (at 63.9%). Lastly, the employment rate decreased by 0.4 percentage points compared to March, reaching 61.4% due to the decline in employment.

Quebec Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	April 2022	March 2022	April 2021	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	3.9	4.1	6.5	-0.2	-2.6
25 years and over	3.5	3.7	5.6	-0.2	-2.1
Men - 25 years and over	3.6	3.7	5.7	-0.1	-2.1
Women - 25 years and over	3.4	3.6	5.5	-0.2	-2.1
15 to 24 years	6.8	7.2	12.3	-0.4	-5.5
Men - 15 to 24 years	7.4	8.0	13.1	-0.6	-5.7
Women - 15 to 24 years	6.3	6.4	11.3	-0.1	-5.0

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The decline in employment is divided almost equally between the goods-producing sector (-13,500 or -1.4%) and the services-producing sector (-13,000 or -0.4%). In the goods-producing sector, the decline in employment is concentrated in the construction industry (-16,400 or -5.4%), but this drop was preceded by three consecutive monthly increases. Therefore, despite the monthly decline, the employment level in the construction industry, which primarily employs men, remains historically high, with an additional 9,400 jobs compared to February 2020 (+3.4%).

In the services-producing sector, six industries had a decrease in employment, and the most significant came from educational services (-10,200 or -2.9%), the retail and wholesale trade (-9,100 or -1.4%) and health care and social assistance (-6,800 or -1.1%). These losses were offset by gains in five industries, which include business, building and other support services (+7,100 or +4.5%) and public administration (+6,700 or +2.5%). The public administration sector also has the highest employment growth (by number) compared to the pre-pandemic level (+36,600, +15.3%) of all the industries.

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	April 2022	March 2022	April 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	4,379.5	4,406.0	4,236.3	-26.5	-0.6	143.2	3.4
Goods-producing sector	920.5	934.0	903.6	-13.5	-1.4	16.9	1.9
Agriculture	55.8	56.1	58.5	-0.3	-0.5	-2.7	-4.6
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	48.5	44.3	42.4	4.2	9.5	6.1	14.4
Utilities	30.1	30.1	26.8	0.0	0.0	3.3	12.3
Construction	288.2	304.6	290.4	-16.4	-5.4	-2.2	-0.8
Manufacturing	497.9	498.8	485.6	-0.9	-0.2	12.3	2.5
Services-producing sector	3,459.0	3,472.0	3,332.6	-13.0	-0.4	126.4	3.8
Trade	641.3	650.4	637.3	-9.1	-1.4	4.0	0.6
Transportation and warehousing	234.6	234.0	224.8	0.6	0.3	9.8	4.4
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	280.3	282.7	262.9	-2.4	-0.8	17.4	6.6
Professional, scientific and technical services	369.3	366.3	359.5	3.0	0.8	9.8	2.7
Business, building and other support services	164.6	157.5	157.8	7.1	4.5	6.8	4.3
Educational services	347.3	357.5	359.5	-10.2	-2.9	-12.2	-3.4
Health care and social assistance	601.5	608.3	596.7	-6.8	-1.1	4.8	0.8
Information, culture and recreation	188.1	186.1	155.2	2.0	1.1	32.9	21.2
Accommodation and food services	189.5	193.1	173.3	-3.6	-1.9	16.2	9.3
Other services	166.0	166.4	149.5	-0.4	-0.2	16.5	11.0
Public administration	276.5	269.8	256.0	6.7	2.5	20.5	8.0

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

When compared to data from April 2021, 11 economic regions have an increase in employment. Employment levels increased particularly in the Montréal region, including its four neighbouring regions, as well as the two capital regions of Capitale-Nationale and Outaouais. However, compared to 12 months earlier, the employment level was down in five regions, including Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean (-6,500 or -5.2%), Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec (-2,100 or -4.1%) and Mauricie (-4,200 or -3.6%).

In April, the unemployment rate was under 4% in six economic regions: Chaudière-Appalaches (at 2.8%), Centre-du-Québec (at 3.2%), Estrie (at 3.3%), Outaouais (at 3.6%), Abitibi-Témiscamingue (at 3.8%), and Capitale-Nationale (at 3.9%). The region with the highest unemployment rate is still Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine (at 12.6%), followed by Bas-Saint-Laurent (at 6.2%), Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec (at 6.0%), and the Montréal region (at 5.8%).

In Montréal's census metropolitan area (CMA), employment grew by 84,300 jobs in April compared to the same month last year, and the unemployment rate was 4.9%.

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	April 2022 ('000)	April 2021 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	April 2022 (%)	April 2021 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Quebec	4,305.1	4,155.1	3.6	4.6	7.2	-2.6
Economic Regions						
Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine	33.4	30.3	10.2	12.6	15.2	-2.6
Bas-Saint-Laurent	86.0	84.8	1.4	6.2	5.4	0.8
Capitale-Nationale	379.4	367.4	3.3	3.9	6.5	-2.6
Chaudière-Appalaches	219.5	214.2	2.5	2.8	4.6	-1.8
Estrie	157.5	157.9	-0.3	3.3	6.7	-3.4
Centre-du-Québec	131.7	123.1	7.0	3.2	7.2	-4.0
Montréal	1,115.4	1,048.3	6.4	5.8	9.1	-3.3
Laval	227.2	222.7	2.0	3.5	8.2	-4.7
Lanaudière	270.2	251.5	7.4	4.7	5.5	-0.8
Laurentides	318.1	313.4	1.5	4.8	6.1	-1.3
Outaouais	206.9	188.3	9.9	3.6	7.5	-3.9
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	70.6	72.8	-3.0	3.8	6.1	-2.3
Mauricie	113.5	117.7	-3.6	4.6	7.1	-2.5
Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean	119.6	126.1	-5.2	4.9	6.6	-1.7
Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec	48.9	51.0	-4.1	6.0	3.8	2.2

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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