



Labour Market Bulletin

Quebec



May 2022

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

OVERVIEW

In May, employment remained fairly stable in Quebec (+5,100 jobs or +0.1%) after a slight downturn in April, according to the latest data published in the Labour Force Survey from Statistics Canada. The majority of gains in full-time employment (+36,100 or +1.0%) were offset by a decline in part-time jobs (-30,900 or -3.8%). There was a higher employment level among women (+11,100 or +0.5%), while the employment level among men decreased (-6,000 or -0.3%). Gains were concentrated among workers aged 55 and over (+0.9%) and aged 15 to 24 (+0.8%). Changes in employment were quite similar across Canada (+39,800 or +0.2%) as well as Ontario (+1,900 jobs or 0.0%).

Employment has risen by 155,100 over the last 12 months (+3.7%), but by only 26,500 (+0.6%) compared to the pre-pandemic level (February 2020). In this respect, Quebec continues to lag behind the rest of Canada (+2.6%) and Ontario (+3.3). In Quebec, full-time jobs have increased by 62,000 compared to the pre-pandemic level (+1.7%), while the level of part-time employment (-35,400 or -4.4%) remained in negative territory.

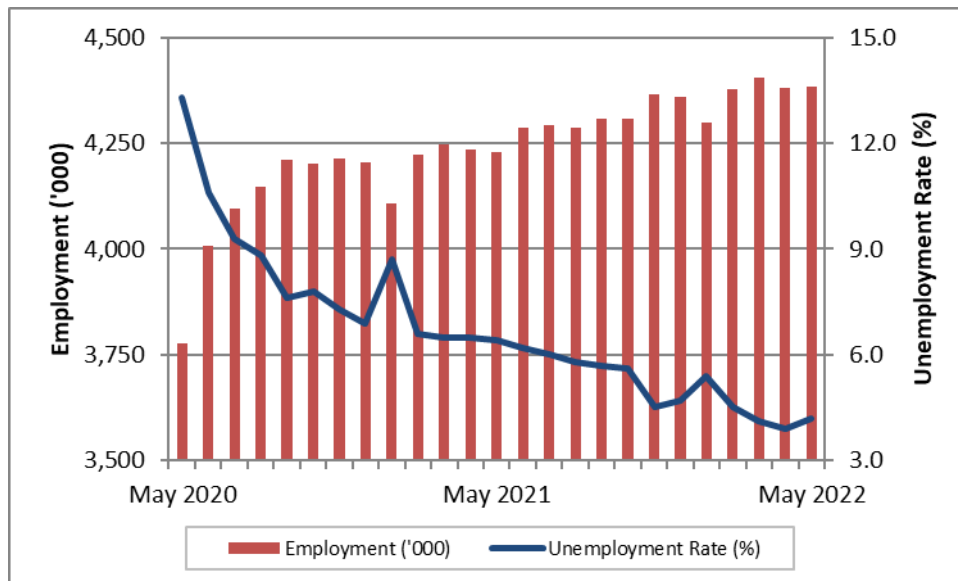
Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	May 2022	April 2022	May 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	7,144.0	7,136.8	7,091.5	7.2	0.1	52.5	0.7
Labour Force ('000)	4,577.6	4,559.1	4,521.0	18.5	0.4	56.6	1.3
Employment ('000)	4,384.6	4,379.5	4,229.5	5.1	0.1	155.1	3.7
Full-Time ('000)	3,606.5	3,570.4	3,509.1	36.1	1.0	97.4	2.8
Part-Time ('000)	778.2	809.1	720.4	-30.9	-3.8	57.8	8.0
Unemployment ('000)	192.9	179.6	291.5	13.3	7.4	-98.6	-33.8
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.2	3.9	6.4	0.3	-	-2.2	-
Participation Rate (%)	64.1	63.9	63.8	0.2	-	0.3	-
Employment Rate (%)	61.4	61.4	59.6	0.0	-	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



Despite the stable employment level, when compared to the previous month, the number of unemployed people increased by 13,300 (+7.4%) in May. This means that some people who were out of the labour force returned and actively started to seek employment again. In fact, the labour force increased by 18,500 (+0.4%) during that month. The unemployment rate is up by 0.3 percentage points at 4.2%, but is still the lowest unemployment rate among Canadian provinces this month. The participation rate increased to 64.1% from April, but remains lower than the pre-pandemic rate of 64.9%. The employment rate remains stable at 61.4%, which is less than half a percentage point compared to the pre-pandemic rate (61.9%).

In May, the main age groups (15 to 24, 25 to 54, and 55 and over) had unemployment rates that were lower or equal to the pre-pandemic level. However, only the employment rate of 25- to 54-year-olds is on the rise when compared to February 2020 (+0.9 percentage points, at 86.4%). The age group with the largest employment rate gap is 15- to 24-year-olds (-2.9 percentage points, at 64%), while the decline among those 55 and over is less significant (-0.4 percentage points, at 32.6%).

Quebec Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	May 2022	April 2022	May 2021	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	4.2	3.9	6.4	0.3	-2.2
25 years and over	3.8	3.5	5.9	0.3	-2.1
Men - 25 years and over	4.1	3.6	6.0	0.5	-1.9
Women - 25 years and over	3.5	3.4	5.7	0.1	-2.2
15 to 24 years	6.9	6.8	10.1	0.1	-3.2
Men - 15 to 24 years	9.7	7.4	10.2	2.3	-0.5
Women - 15 to 24 years	4.0	6.3	10.0	-2.3	-6.0

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Considering data by industry, the largest monthly job gains came from trade (+16,000 or +2.5%), business, building and other support services (+10,600 or +6.4%) and educational services (+8,800 or +2.5%). Among the industries in decline when compared to April, those experiencing the largest declines are transportation and warehousing (-13,200 or -5.6%), finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (-11,100 or -4.0%) and manufacturing (-7,700 or -1.5%).

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	May 2022	April 2022	May 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	4,384.6	4,379.5	4,229.5	5.1	0.1	155.1	3.7
Goods-producing sector	917.2	920.5	890.9	-3.3	-0.4	26.3	3.0
Agriculture	53.6	55.8	56.7	-2.2	-3.9	-3.1	-5.5
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	50.6	48.5	43.9	2.1	4.3	6.7	15.3
Utilities	27.9	30.1	29.3	-2.2	-7.3	-1.4	-4.8
Construction	294.8	288.2	283.9	6.6	2.3	10.9	3.8
Manufacturing	490.2	497.9	477.3	-7.7	-1.5	12.9	2.7
Services-producing sector	3,467.5	3,459.0	3,338.5	8.5	0.2	129.0	3.9
Trade	657.3	641.3	653.0	16.0	2.5	4.3	0.7
Transportation and warehousing	221.4	234.6	227.9	-13.2	-5.6	-6.5	-2.9
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	269.2	280.3	269.2	-11.1	-4.0	0.0	0.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	369.8	369.3	355.8	0.5	0.1	14.0	3.9
Business, building and other support services	175.2	164.6	157.5	10.6	6.4	17.7	11.2
Educational services	356.1	347.3	360.8	8.8	2.5	-4.7	-1.3
Health care and social assistance	608.7	601.5	593.3	7.2	1.2	15.4	2.6
Information, culture and recreation	185.5	188.1	157.1	-2.6	-1.4	28.4	18.1
Accommodation and food services	183.8	189.5	157.7	-5.7	-3.0	26.1	16.6
Other services	161.8	166.0	148.6	-4.2	-2.5	13.2	8.9
Public administration	278.6	276.5	257.8	2.1	0.8	20.8	8.1

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

A few of the economic regions have lower levels than those of May 2021: Mauricie (-4,600 or -3.8%), Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec (-1,700 or -3.3%), Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean (-3,400 or -2.7%), Abitibi-Témiscamingue (-1,800 or -2.4%) as well as Estrie (-2,000 or -1.3%). Other regions with the most significant gains (by percentage) are Outaouais (+18,800 or +9.9%), Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine (+2,900 or +9.2%) and Lanaudière (+19,300 or 7.5%). In the Montréal CMA, employment increased by 80,700 compared to May 2021 (+3.6%).

In May 2022, nearly all the economic regions saw a decline in their unemployment rate over 12 months, with the exception of Côte-Nord and Nord-du-Québec, which increased by 1.4 percentage points (at 5.0%). The majority of the economic regions have historically low unemployment rates, including six regions below 4.0%, with the lowest in Chaudière-Appalaches at 2.6%. In the Montréal CMA, the unemployment rate was 4.9% in May, which has decreased by 3.1 percentage points over 12 months.

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	May 2022 ('000)	May 2021 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	May 2022 (%)	May 2021 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Quebec	4,346.2	4,194.8	3.6	4.4	7.0	-2.6
Economic Regions						
Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine	34.3	31.4	9.2	10.0	14.9	-4.9
Bas-Saint-Laurent	87.9	83.8	4.9	4.8	6.5	-1.7
Capitale-Nationale	388.3	372.3	4.3	3.2	5.7	-2.5
Chaudière-Appalaches	223.6	213.5	4.7	2.6	4.3	-1.7
Estrie	156.4	158.4	-1.3	3.3	5.8	-2.5
Centre-du-Québec	133.0	127.1	4.6	3.1	5.8	-2.7
Montérégie	817.0	798.7	2.3	3.9	5.7	-1.8
Montréal	1,110.9	1,059.7	4.8	5.7	9.6	-3.9
Laval	225.2	221.9	1.5	4.5	8.3	-3.8
Lanaudière	277.9	258.6	7.5	3.6	5.0	-1.4
Laurentides	323.8	308.8	4.9	4.7	6.3	-1.6
Outaouais	209.5	190.7	9.9	3.3	6.7	-3.4
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	72.5	74.3	-2.4	4.0	4.9	-0.9
Mauricie	115.0	119.6	-3.8	4.2	6.9	-2.7
Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean	121.5	124.9	-2.7	5.1	6.7	-1.6
Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec	49.4	51.1	-3.3	5.0	3.6	1.4

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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