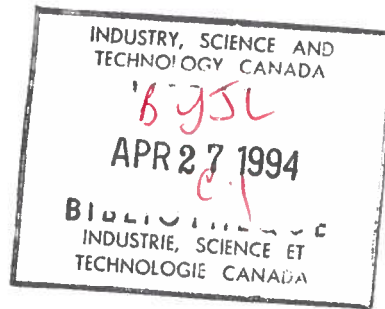


The FORD(Q) Economic Update

Version française disponible

Editor: Léonel Plasse

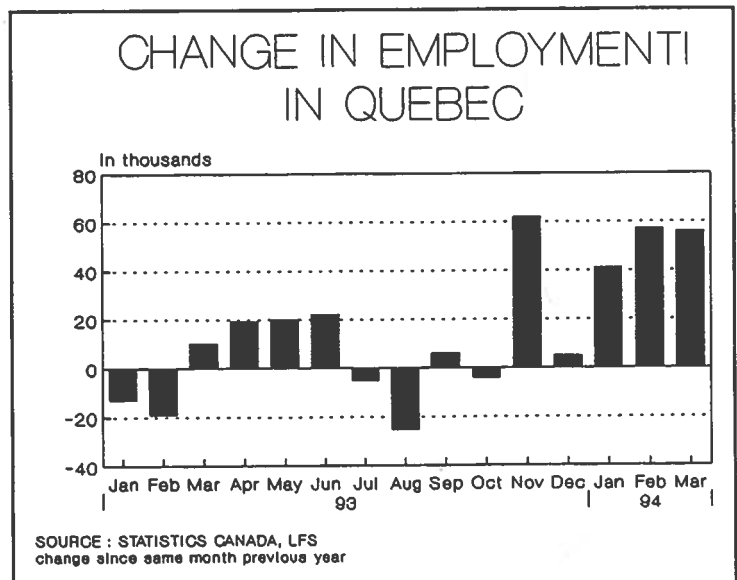


Volume 6
Number 4
April 13, 1994

**Feature article on page 11 :
Economy of the Montérégie Region
Highlights**

Another increase in employment

- Quebec's **employment** expanded again in March, with 8,000 more jobs than the previous month, accounting for 16.7% of the employment growth in Canada as a whole. Ontario (+23,000) and Nova Scotia (+10,000) outperformed Quebec. In March 1994, Quebec had 56,000 more jobs than a year earlier, continuing a trend of year-over-year growth which began in November 1993. Moreover, this employment figure is now only 73,000 short of the pre-recession level, compared to a shortfall of 119,000 in December 1993.



Federal Office of
Regional Development
(Québec)

Bureau fédéral de
développement régional
(Québec)

Canada

The FORD-Q ECONOMIC UPDATE is a monthly publication whose purpose is to inform readers about the most recent economic developments affecting Quebec and its regions.

The information in this monthly report is taken from dailies and weeklies, magazines and other publications on the Quebec economy. Most of the statistical data come from Statistics Canada.

Readers' suggestions and comments are most welcome. To have your name added to our mailing list, write to the following address:

Federal Office of Regional Development - Quebec
Planning and Assessment Division
Stock Exchange Tower
800 Square Victoria, PO Box 247
Montreal, Quebec H4Z 1E8

Telephone: (514) 283-8786
Fax: (514) 283-8429

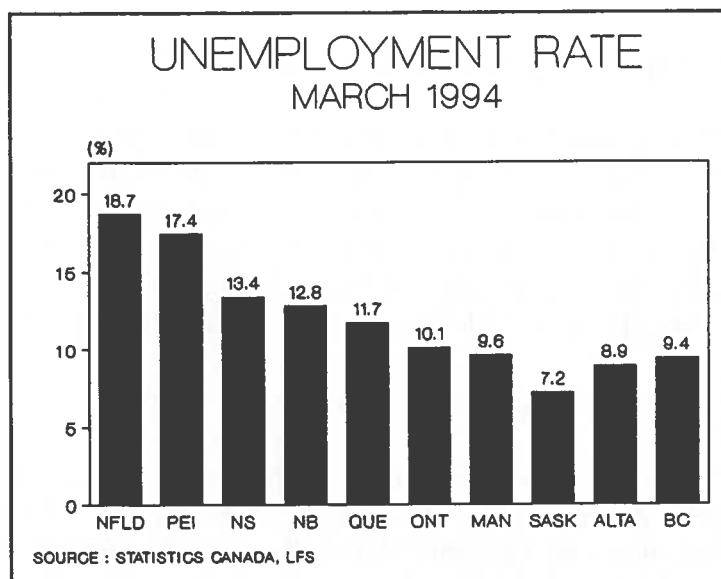
The FORD-Q ECONOMIC UPDATE is produced by the Planning and Assessment Division, Policy and Liaison Branch. The publication is photocopied and distributed by the Canada Communication Group. Translation has been provided by the Secretary of State of Canada, Translation Bureau.

The editor is:

Léonel Plasse

Unemployment rate declines

- In March, there were 27,000 fewer unemployed in Quebec than the previous month, although employment increased by only 8,000. This means that 19,000 people withdrew from the labour market during the month. Consequently, the significant drop in the **unemployment rate**, from 12.5% in February to 11.7% in March, relates more to job seekers giving up their search than to an improvement in the province's economy. The same situation prevailed across Canada, albeit to a lesser degree, since 29,000 people withdrew from the labour market in March.



Weakness of the dollar

- The **Canadian dollar** dropped to 71.62 cents US on April 4, which is close to the all-time low of 69 cents US recorded in 1986. Stronger than expected economic growth in the United States and fears about higher inflation triggered this downward movement. With the spread between US and Canadian interest rates viewed as too narrow, foreign investors began selling their Canadian dollars. However, since the real rate of return is very high at present owing to Canada's low inflation rate, the slide in the Canadian dollar is expected to end soon. (Le Devoir, 05/04/94).

Deflation in Quebec

- In February, the **Consumer Price Index** fell 1.5% in Montreal and 0.9% in Quebec City compared to February 1993, and the food subindex was down by 0.4% in Montreal. However, this decrease is linked mainly to the drop in the tobacco products and alcoholic beverages subindex, which fell 27.1 points in Montreal and 23.7 points in Quebec City after the federal and provincial governments reduced taxes. (Statistics Canada Daily, 17/03/94)

Increase in shipments

- In January 1994, **manufacturing shipments** in Quebec were up 11.8% from a year earlier. The increase in shipments of transportation equipment (+107.3%) accounts for more than half of the total growth. Substantial gains were noted in the following sectors: metal

products (+19.7%), electrical and electronic products (+19.5%) and wood (+15.8%). (Monthly Survey of Manufacturing, Statistics Canada, January 1994)

Quebec-New Brunswick agreement

- The Quebec and New Brunswick governments signed an agreement under which both provinces will be able to compete for professional service contracts worth \$100,000 and over as of September 1. Beginning in a year, goods and services contracts in the education and health sectors, along with construction contracts for universities, municipalities and public agencies, will be covered by the agreement as well. Quebec signed a similar agreement with Ontario on the interprovincial mobility of construction workers. (La Presse, 31/03/94)

Information superhighway

- Canada's major telephone companies, including Bell Canada, have formed an alliance (Stentor group) which will invest \$8 billion to build Sirius, a cross-Canada information highway. By the year 2005, 90% of subscribers will be connected to its multimedia services. In Quebec, the project will generate \$2.1 billion in expenditures and 3,000 new jobs. (Le Devoir; La Presse, 06/04/94)

REGIONAL REVIEW

METROPOLITAN MONTREAL

Employment up again

- Employment in the Metropolitan Montreal region rose by 7,000 in March compared to the previous month--the second best performance in Canada after Vancouver (+8,000). The decrease in unemployment was smaller than the increase in the number of jobs because 3,000 people entered the labour market. The unemployment rate fell 0.3% to 13%.

ISLAND OF MONTREAL

NAFTA Commission for Environmental Co-operation in Montreal

- Montreal was chosen from among 25 Canadian cities as the site of the NAFTA Commission for Environmental Co-operation. The agency will have 12 employees when it first opens, and its staff is expected to increase to 30 over the longer term. This decision will strengthen Montreal's international role. (La Presse, 29/03/94)

Major project at the Botanical Garden

- \$22 million in work is to be carried out at the Botanical Garden of **Montreal** to improve visitor reception services and renovate the Molson greenhouse and the administrative building which is to house the University of Montreal's plant biology research institute. **FORD-Q** and the provincial government are each contributing \$4.8 million to this project, which will begin in May and be completed in 1995, providing work for 250 people. (La Presse; Le Journal de Montréal, 30/03/94)

Contract for GE Hydro

- GE Hydro, a subsidiary of GE Canada, obtained a \$200 million contract to supply hydraulic turbines and generators to China. The company's **Lachine** plant will design, manufacture and install the equipment in China. (Le Devoir, 29/03/94)

Assistance for the plastics industry

- The federal government, through the **FEDERAL OFFICE OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT - QUEBEC**, announced that it is helping to establish a service centre called **Plastiservices**. The centre will encourage plastics companies to manufacture products with a higher added value, improve their competitive position and increase their market penetration. This should stimulate the creation of stable jobs by SMEs in this promising sector. **FORD-Q** is contributing \$550,000. (FORD-Q press release, 28/03/94)

Increase in IRPSWM budget

- The federal government will inject an additional \$5 million into the **Industrial Recovery Program for Southwest Montreal (IRPSWM)**, increasing its total budget to \$20 million. The funds will be used to strengthen and diversify the industrial base of Southwest Montreal, which is currently showing encouraging signs of recovery. (FORD-Q press release, 29/03/94)

NORTH SHORE

GM cutting jobs

- **GENERAL MOTORS** announced that it will eliminate 100 to 130 jobs at its **Boisbriand** plant because it has to cut its production costs in the face of international competition. Thanks to the success of the Firebird and Camaro models, particularly in the United States, the plant's output should total 200,000 vehicles in 1994. (La Presse, 23/03/94)

CENTRAL REGIONS

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS

Decline in unemployment

- According to seasonally unadjusted data (three-month moving average), the Eastern Townships' employment level did not change between February and March. However, the unemployment rate decreased marginally, from 10.5% in February to 10.3% in March, the lowest rate among all the regions of Quebec.

Mini power station on the St Francis River

- **INNERGEX** and **KRUGER** are planning to build a mini hydro-electric station with a 9.6 MW capacity on the St Francis River at **Bromptonville**. This \$18 million project is scheduled to begin in 1995. (Constructo, 25/03/94)

LANAUDIÈRE

Slight increase in employment

- In the Lanaudière region, employment increased by 2,000 between February and March. However, 4,000 job seekers joined the labour force, causing the unemployment rate to rise by nearly a percentage point to 15.8%, which is well above the provincial average (13.7%: seasonally unadjusted data, three-month moving average).

LAURENTIANS

Labour force expands

- Owing to a major expansion of the labour force, 4,000 between February and March and 13,000 on a year-over-year basis, the unemployment rate rose 0.3% in March, to 17.1%, the second highest rate in Quebec after the Gaspé/Magdalen Islands.

MAURICIE/BOIS-FRANCS

Employment declines again

- Following a decrease of 5,000 in February, employment shrank by 2,000 in March. The unemployment rate increased by 0.5% to 12.4% in March, the fourth lowest rate in Quebec.

Interpretation centre planned for Lake St Pierre

- The **FEDERAL OFFICE OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT - QUEBEC** announced that it is participating in the project to establish an aqua-tourism interpretation centre on the north shore of Lake St Pierre at **Louiseville**. This centre will showcase the region's natural and wildlife heritage. The federal government is contributing \$616,000 to this \$1,700,000 project under the Assistance Program for Disadvantaged Areas.
(FORD-Q press release, 25/03/94)

MONTÉRÉGIE

Stable employment and unemployment

- In the Montérégie region, the employment level was down by a mere 1,000 in March compared to the previous month; however, on a year-over-year basis, it was up by 46,000. The unemployment rate held steady in March at 11%, the lowest rate after the Eastern Townships.

Hyundai defers plant reopening

- **HYUNDAI** announced that it was postponing indefinitely the reopening of its **Bromont** plant, slated for 1995. Some 800 workers were hoping to return to their jobs then. The company is studying the possibility of manufacturing a new model at the plant, but this will not be feasible for a few years. The Elantra model will be manufactured in Korea beginning next year. (La Presse, 19/03/94)

Woolco closing in Valleyfield

- Woolworth Canada announced the closure of its **WOOLCO** store in **Salaberry de Valleyfield**, which was not purchased by the Wal-Mart chain. The closure spells the loss of 140 jobs. (La Presse, 30/03/94)

QUEBEC CITY/CHAUDIÈRE-APPALACHES

Labour force expands

- Although there were 4,000 more jobs in March than in February, the number of jobless increased by 3,000. Hence, between February and March, 7,000 people entered the labour force, which represents half of the provincial increase. The unemployment rate for the Quebec City/Chaudière-Appalaches region stood at 11.8% in March, compared to 11.4% in February.

High-tension line

- **HYDRO QUEBEC** will build a 735-kilovolt power transmission line linking **Lévis** and **Sherbrooke**. This \$407 million project will begin in early 1995 and end in late 1996, generating an estimated 2,700 person-years of work. (Constructo, 11/03/94)

Housing construction

- **CONSTRUCTION BERGIRO LTD** will build 300 housing units in **Lévis** under a \$30 million project, slated to begin in April and run for four years. (Constructo, 18/03/94)

Two Woolcos to close

- The US Wal-Mart chain is not purchasing the two Woolco stores in **Beauport** and **Lévis**. Consequently, the two stores will close indefinitely on June 18, putting 270 people out of work. (La Presse, 30/03/94)

Investment by Ultramar

- **ULTRAMAR** is planning to invest \$100 million to adapt its **St Romuald** plant to process lower-priced crude oil--a move which should make the company more competitive. (Le Journal de Québec, 07/04/94)

RESOURCE REGIONS

ABITIBI-TÉMISCAMINGUE

Little change in the labour market

- There has been little change in employment since the beginning of the year. In fact, the region has lost only 1,000 jobs since January, but its unemployment rate dropped by 1% as a result of workers withdrawing from the labour force.

Cité de l'or

- The **FEDERAL OFFICE OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT - QUEBEC** announced that it is granting \$1.6 million to create a mining interpretation centre, *La Cité de l'or*, at the site of the former Lamaque mine in **Val d'Or**. The project will cost a total of \$3.2 million. (FORD-Q press release, 21/03/94)

LOWER ST LAWRENCE

March shapes up like February

- There was no change in employment or the number of jobless during March 1994; however, the unemployment rate declined, albeit marginally, from 17% in February to 16.9% in March.

Closure of Canadelle

- **CANADELLE** will close its undergarment manufacturing plant in **Matane** on July 1. The closure will eliminate 120 jobs at this plant, which in 1990 had 240 people in its employ. Two other plants owned by Canadelle will continue their operations. (Le Soleil, 26/03/94)

NORTH SHORE/NORTHERN QUEBEC

One thousand more unemployed

- The North Shore/Northern Quebec region lost 1,000 jobs in March. The number of unemployed increased by the same number, to total 7,000, and the unemployment rate rose sharply (+0.9%) to 13.8%.

GASPÉ/MAGDALEN ISLANDS

Unemployment up

- Although the employment figure was the same as in February, the unemployment rate for the Gaspé/Magdalen Islands region edged up to 27.3%, remaining the highest rate in Quebec by far.

Closure in Newport

- The **SOCIÉTÉ DES PECHES** de **Newport** will close in the next two to three weeks owing to the shortage of cod. In 1993, this firm, which has 265 employees, was able to maintain its operations by purchasing cod from Russia. (Le Soleil, 07/04/94)

SAGUENAY/LAC ST JEAN

Further downturn in employment

- Employment in the Saguenay/Lac St Jean area declined by 2,000 in March. The region has lost 5,000 jobs since January and 8,000 since March 1992. Over the past two years, employment has dropped by 7.3%. This drastic decline

has had little impact on the unemployment rate, which has held fairly steady during this period. The rate has been stable as a result of an exodus of workers from the labour force, which shrank from 128,000 in March 1992 to 118,000 in March 1994.

Major projects at UQAC

- The UQAC (University of Quebec in Chicoutimi) plans to construct three buildings to meet its future needs: a humanities building (\$19 million), a services building (\$8.5 million) and a forestry research complex (\$0.8 million). Work is scheduled to begin in 1995-1996 if the plan is accepted by Quebec. (Constructo, 29/03/94)

Lithium refinery

- Some Jonquière developers plan to build a lithium refinery in a \$30 million project that will generate 100 jobs. In addition to funds from private investors, the project will receive financial assistance from the Jonquière development corporation and the Jonquière CEGEP's high technology centre. (Le Journal de Québec, 03/04/94)

De-inking shop

- ABITIBI PRICE will set up a de-inking shop in its Alma plant, at a cost of \$20 million. Work is scheduled to begin in May and be completed in early 1995. (Le Soleil, 23/03/94)

ECONOMY OF THE MONTRÉGIE REGION

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Montréalégie region, with 1.2 million residents, is the second most heavily populated administrative region, after Montréal.
- The region has 225 municipalities, including many major centres: Longueuil, St Hubert, Brossard, Granby, Châteauguay, St Hyacinthe, St Jean sur Richelieu, Boucherville, Salaberry de Valleyfield, Sorel and Tracy. A large proportion of the population (43%) lives in the South Shore subregion.
- In 1992, the Montréalégie region's economy consisted of 546,000 jobs, with 70.5% of them in the tertiary sector, 20.9% in manufacturing, 6% in construction and 2.6% in the primary sector.
- Agriculture is the main activity in the primary sector: 13,000 of the 14,000 jobs are tied to agriculture.
- The manufacturing sector is composed of 114,000 jobs and more than 2,300 establishments, the bulk (83%) of which have fewer than 50 employees.
- Major corporations are one of the pillars of the region's economy since alone they account for 45% of the manufacturing jobs. A number of multinational companies have established operations in the area, including IBM, Pratt & Whitney, ABB, General Electric, Mitel, Oerlikon and Goodyear.
- The manufacturing industry is characterized by the presence of six key industries which provide nearly two thirds of the jobs: food and beverages, transportation equipment, chemicals, electric and electrical products, primary metal processing and publishing.
- With its 385,000 salaried employees, the tertiary sector has 70.5% of the region's jobs.
- In 1987-1988, the Montréalégie ranked second in Québec, after Montréal, in terms of industrial R&D. R&D work is carried out in five major fields, namely aerospace, energy and materials, micro-electronic components, agri-food and textiles.

- The growth of the region's economy is supported by a number of factors:
 - Diversity of its economy;
 - Proximity of major markets;
 - Population dynamics;
 - Higher-education infrastructure;
 - Vitality of the labour market;
 - Regional vehicles for venture capital.

- Nonetheless, economic growth in the region is constrained by the following factors:
 - Stiff competition from Montreal and the United States;
 - Congested highway infrastructure;
 - The percentage of residents with degrees and certificates (university level; specialized training) is lower than the provincial average.

- The region's stakeholders are varied and dynamic. The Montérégie development corporation is the main co-ordinating agency in the area.

- The Montérégie development corporation's strategic development plan identifies 13 areas for action: agriculture, agri-food, trade and services, tourism, culture, environment, recreation, education, community development, status of women, transportation, research and development and manufacturing.

- The federal government's investment in the area since 1984 is estimated at over \$4 billion. The establishment of the Canadian Space Agency in St Hubert is one of its most recent achievements in the area.

- Since 1984, FORD-Q has injected \$209 M through 445 projects totalling \$1.36 billion.

Bernard Laurin
Senior Analyst
Policy and Liaison Branch

**EMPLOYMENT
BY PROVINCE**
(Seasonally adjusted data)

Province				Average of last 12 months	Variation		Variation	
	Mar-94	Feb-94	Mar-93		Mar-94	/ Feb-94	Mar-94	/ Mar-93
Newfoundland	191	190	189	187		1		2
Prince Edward Island	54	54	55	54		0		-1
Nova Scotia	369	359	359	358		10		10
New Brunswick	285	286	296	289		-1		-11
Québec	3016	3008	2960	2972		8		56
Ontario	4803	4780	4802	4792		23		1
Manitoba	490	489	492	490		1		-2
Saskatchewan	437	440	439	440		-3		-2
Alberta	1274	1269	1232	1260		5		42
British Columbia	1608	1614	1541	1577		-6		67
Canada	12533	12485	12369	12420		48		164
In thousands								
Source: Statistics Canada, LFS								

EMPLOYMENT*
BY METROPOLITAN AREA
(Seasonally adjusted data)

Metropolitan Area	Mar-94	Feb-94	Mar-93	Average of last 12 months	Variation		Variation	
					Mar-94	/	Feb-94	Mar-94
St-John's (Nfld)	76	76	68	73		0		8
Halifax	155	150	153	151		5		2
Saint John (NB)	54	55	56	55		-1		-2
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	50	51	53	53		-1		-3
Québec	303	298	286	289		5		17
Montréal	1385	1378	1375	1377		7		10
Trois-Rivières	54	54	51	52		0		3
Sherbrooke	56	56	58	56		0		-2
Ottawa-Hull	455	451	443	444		4		12
Sudbury	64	64	66	68		0		-2
Toronto	1740	1741	1779	1763		-1		-39
Hamilton	314	314	284	297		0		30
St.Catharines-Niagara	143	142	140	139		1		3
London	172	171	175	174		1		-3
Windsor	120	119	115	117		1		5
Kitchener-Waterloo	198	198	194	196		0		4
Thunder Bay	55	56	57	57		-1		-2
Oshawa	113	111	122	117		2		-9
Winnipeg	300	303	300	302		-3		0
Regina	88	89	89	89		-1		-1
Saskatoon	86	85	84	85		1		2
Calgary	372	375	357	366		-3		15
Edmonton	366	365	362	366		1		4
Vancouver	826	818	819	817		8		7
Victoria	141	140	126	132		1		15

*Employment: In thousands, three-month moving average
Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

EMPLOYMENT*
BY ECONOMIC REGION
(Unadjusted data)

Québec Economic Region	Mar-94	Feb-94	Mar-93	Average of last 12 months	Variation		Variation	
					Mar-94	/	Feb-94	Mar-94
Gaspésie/Iles-de-la-Madeleine	26	26	25	30		0		1
Bas-Saint-Laurent	73	73	65	75		0		8
Saguenay/Lac-Saint-Jean	101	103	106	108		-2		-5
Québec/Chaudière-Appalaches	433	429	410	429		4		23
Mauricie/Bois-Francs	188	190	182	197		-2		6
Estrie	115	115	111	115		0		4
Montréal	564	565	518	566		-1		46
Montréal-Centre and Laval	838	838	871	875		0		-33
Laurentides	185	182	180	186		3		5
Lanaudière	143	141	141	148		2		2
Outaouais	136	137	136	139		-1		0
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	56	56	59	58		0		-3
Côte-Nord/Nord-du-Québec	42	43	41	43		-1		1
Province of Québec	2900	2896	2846	2968		4		54

* Employment: In thousands, three-month moving average

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

**UNEMPLOYED
BY PROVINCE**
(Seasonally adjusted data)

Province	Mar-94	Feb-94	Mar-93	Average of last 12 months	Variation		Variation	
					Mar-94 /	Feb-94	Mar-94 /	Mar-93
Newfoundland	44	45	46	47	-1		-2	
Prince Edward Island	11	13	11	12	-2		0	
Nova Scotia	57	59	58	62	-2		-1	
New Brunswick	42	43	40	43	-1		2	
Québec	401	428	443	499	-27		-42	
Ontario	541	574	554	573	-33		-13	
Manitoba	52	59	47	52	-7		5	
Saskatchewan	34	35	40	37	-1		-6	
Alberta	124	123	138	131	1		-14	
British Columbia	167	180	163	170	-13		4	
Canada	1482	1559	1551	1565	-77		-69	

In thousands
Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

**UNEMPLOYED
BY METROPOLITAN AREA**
(Seasonally adjusted data)

Metropolitan Area	Mar-94	Feb-94	Mar-93	Average of last 12 months	Variation		Variation	
					Mar-94	/	Feb-94	Mar-94
St-John's (Nfld)	11	11	12	11		0		-1
Halifax	19	20	17	19		-1		2
Saint John (NB)	7	7	6	7		0		1
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	9	9	10	10		0		-1
Québec	39	39	35	36		0		4
Montréal	207	211	216	216		-4		-9
Trois-Rivières	9	9	9	8		0		0
Sherbrooke	6	6	8	7		0		-2
Ottawa-Hull	45	47	36	43		-2		9
Sudbury	10	10	10	8		0		0
Toronto	224	233	203	227		-9		21
Hamilton	32	32	39	36		0		-7
St. Catharines-Niagara	17	18	20	22		-1		-3
London	14	14	15	16		0		-1
Windsor	15	15	15	15		0		0
Kitchener-Waterloo	15	15	19	18		0		-4
Thunder Bay	7	7	7	7		0		0
Oshawa	18	20	12	17		-2		6
Winnipeg	43	42	35	38		1		8
Regina	8	8	8	8		0		0
Saskatoon	9	10	11	9		-1		-2
Calgary	41	41	40	43		0		1
Edmonton	46	47	45	48		-1		1
Vancouver	91	91	82	85		0		9
Victoria	10	11	13	12		-1		-3

*Unemployed: In thousands, three-month moving average

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

UNEMPLOYED*
BY ECONOMIC REGION
(Unadjusted data)

Québec Economic Region	Mar-94	Feb-94	Mar-93	Average of last 12 months	Variation		Variation	
					Mar-94	/	Feb-94	Mar-94
Gaspésie/Iles-de-la-Madeleine	10	9	8	9		1		2
Bas-Saint-Laurent	15	15	15	14		0		0
Saguenay/Lac-Saint-Jean	17	18	23	19		-1		-6
Québec/Chaudière-Appalaches	58	55	54	50		3		4
Mauricie/Bois-Francs	27	26	34	27		1		-7
Estrie	13	13	15	13		0		-2
Montréal	70	70	84	83		0		-14
Montréal-Centre and Laval	149	147	156	141		2		-7
Laurentides	38	37	30	32		1		8
Lanaudière	27	25	26	19		2		1
Outaouais	20	20	19	18		0		1
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	9	9	8	10		0		1
Côte-Nord/Nord-du-Québec	7	6	9	7		1		-2
Province of Québec	459	450	481	442		9		-22

* Unemployed: In thousands, three-month moving average
Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
BY PROVINCE**
(Seasonally adjusted data)

Province	Mar-94	Feb-94	Mar-93	Average of last 12 months	Variation		Variation	
					Mar-94	/ Feb-94	Mar-94	/ Mar-93
Newfoundland	18.7	19.1	19.6	20.1	-0.4		-0.9	
Prince Edward Island	17.4	18.9	16.8	18.2	-1.5		0.6	
Nova Scotia	13.4	14.1	13.9	14.7	-0.7		-0.5	
New Brunswick	12.8	13.1	11.9	12.8	-0.3		0.9	
Québec	11.7	12.5	13.0	12.9	-0.8		-1.3	
Ontario	10.1	10.7	10.3	10.7	-0.6		-0.2	
Manitoba	9.6	10.8	8.7	9.7	-1.2		0.9	
Saskatchewan	7.2	7.4	8.4	7.7	-0.2		-1.2	
Alberta	8.9	8.8	10.1	9.4	0.1		-1.2	
British Columbia	9.4	10.0	9.6	9.7	-0.6		-0.2	
Canada	10.6	11.1	11.1	11.2	-0.5		-0.5	
In percentage								
Source: Statistics Canada, LFS								

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE*
BY METROPOLITAN AREA
(Seasonally adjusted data)

Metropolitan Area	Mar-94	Feb-94	Mar-93	Average of last 12 months	Variation		Variation	
					Mar-94	/	Feb-94	Mar-94
St-John's (Nfld)	12.3	12.4	15.2	13.5	-0.1		-2.9	
Halifax	10.9	11.5	10.2	11.3	-0.6		0.7	
Saint John (NB)	12.0	10.6	10.1	10.7	1.4		1.9	
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	14.7	15.6	16.6	15.8	-0.9		-1.9	
Québec	11.4	11.5	10.9	11.0	-0.1		0.5	
Montréal	13.0	13.3	13.6	13.5	-0.3		-0.6	
Trois-Rivières	14.6	14.9	14.3	13.7	-0.3		0.3	
Sherbrooke	9.7	10.3	11.7	11.4	-0.6		-2.0	
Ottawa-Hull	9.0	9.3	7.6	8.7	-0.3		1.4	
Sudbury	13.6	13.2	12.6	10.6	0.4		1.0	
Toronto	11.4	11.8	10.2	11.4	-0.4		1.2	
Hamilton	9.1	9.2	12.0	10.9	-0.1		-2.9	
St.Catharines-Niagara	10.8	11.3	12.5	13.8	-0.5		-1.7	
London	7.4	7.3	8.0	8.3	0.1		-0.6	
Windsor	11.2	11.3	11.5	11.2	-0.1		-0.3	
Kitchener-Waterloo	7.0	7.0	9.0	8.6	0.0		-2.0	
Thunder Bay	11.9	11.3	10.7	11.5	0.6		1.2	
Oshawa	13.7	15.1	9.1	12.7	-1.4		4.6	
Winnipeg	12.6	12.0	10.5	11.3	0.6		2.1	
Regina	8.0	8.3	8.2	8.3	-0.3		-0.2	
Saskatoon	9.8	10.1	11.4	9.6	-0.3		-1.6	
Calgary	10.0	9.8	10.1	10.6	0.2		-0.1	
Edmonton	11.1	11.4	11.1	11.5	-0.3		0.0	
Vancouver	9.9	10.0	9.1	9.4	-0.1		0.8	
Victoria	6.4	7.1	9.3	8.1	-0.7		-2.9	

*Unemployment rate: In percentage, three-month moving average

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE*
BY ECONOMIC REGION
(Unadjusted data)

Québec Economic Region	Mar-94	Feb-94	Mar-93	Average of last 12 months	Variation		Variation	
					Mar-94	/	Feb-94	Mar-94
Gaspésie/Iles-de-la-Madeleine	27.3	27.1	25.2	22.8		0.2		2.1
Bas-Saint-Laurent	16.9	17.0	18.5	15.5		-0.1		-1.6
Saguenay/Lac-Saint-Jean	14.8	14.6	17.9	14.9		0.2		-3.1
Québec/Chaudière-Appalaches	11.8	11.4	11.6	10.5		0.4		0.2
Mauricie/Bois-Francs	12.4	11.9	15.8	11.9		0.5		-3.4
Estrie	10.3	10.5	12.1	10.5		-0.2		-1.8
Montérégie	11.0	11.0	13.9	12.8		0.0		-2.9
Montréal-Centre and Laval	15.1	14.9	15.2	13.9		0.2		-0.1
Laurentides	17.1	16.8	14.1	14.6		0.3		3.0
Lanaudière	15.8	14.9	15.8	11.4		0.9		0.0
Outaouais	12.9	12.7	12.2	11.5		0.2		0.7
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	13.7	14.4	12.2	14.3		-0.7		1.5
Côte-Nord/Nord-du-Québec	13.8	12.9	17.3	14.6		0.9		-3.5
Province of Québec	13.7	13.5	14.5	13.0		0.2		-0.8

* Unemployment rate: In percentage, three-month moving average

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

Alma

Rita Tremblay, Director
(418) 668-3084 / 1-800-463-9808

Drummondville

René Gélinas, Director
(819) 478-4664 / 1-800-567-1418

Hull

Guillaume Donati, Director
(819) 994-7442 / 1-800-561-4353

Laurentides, Montérégie and Outaouais regions

René Gélinas, Director
(514) 283-7834 / 1-800-263-4689

Montréal

Georges-Henri Goulet, Director
(514) 283-7557 / 1-800-263-4689

Northern Québec

Jocelyne Durand, Director
(514) 283-5174 / 1-800-561-0633

Québec City

Vianney Tanguay, Director
(418) 648-4826 / 1-800-463-5204

Rimouski

Christian Audet, Director
(418) 722-3282 / 1-800-463-9073

Sept-Îles

Robert Audet, Director
(418) 968-3426 / 1-800-463-1707

Sherbrooke

Normand Bégin, Director
(819) 564-5904 / 1-800-567-6084

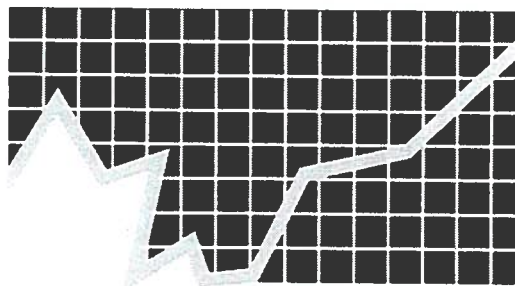
Trois-Rivières

Claude Lortie, Director
(819) 371-5182 / 1-800-567-8637

Val-d'Or

Léo Couture, Director
(819) 825-5260 / 1-800-567-6451

ASSISTANCE TAILORED TO YOUR NEEDS



Regional development calls for tools suited to the specifics of each region.

The Federal Office of Regional Development - Québec administers a range of programs and services designed to meet the needs of local businesses and organizations. They provide support for projects as:

- the establishment, expansion or modernization of a business;
- the development, acquisition or integration of new technology;

- research and development;
- tourism and industrial development.

In the interests of better response to specific local needs, FORD-Q is represented in each region of Québec.

The Federal Office of Regional Development - Québec: a true partner in the realization of your project.

Canada



Federal Office of
Regional Development
(Québec)

Bureau fédéral de
développement régional
(Québec)