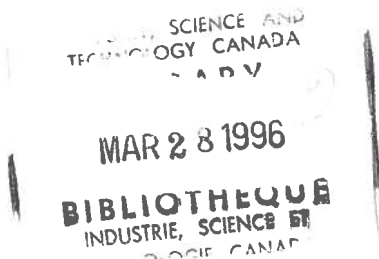




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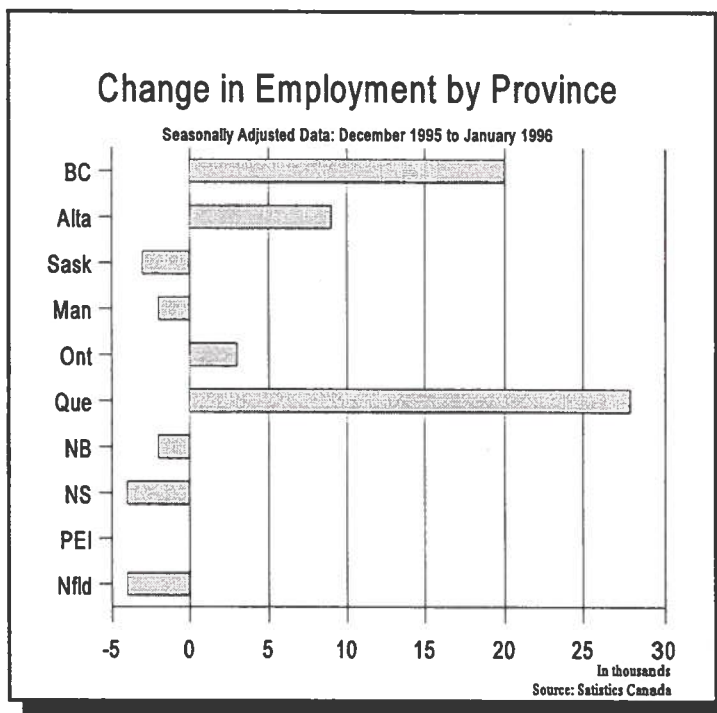
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Increased employment in Quebec

Seasonally adjusted data point to a significant increase in employment for Quebec. From December 1995 to January 1996, 28,000 jobs were created in Quebec, the highest increase in the country. Moreover, Quebec, British Columbia (with an increase of 20,000 jobs), Alberta (with an increase 9,000 jobs) and Ontario (with an increase of 3,000 jobs) were the only provinces to report increased employment.

Similarly, Quebec reported 9,000 fewer unemployed in January, compared with December 1995. Alberta, with 2,000 fewer unemployed, was the only other province to report a drop in its unemployment rate in January. During the same period, Ontario reported 3,000 more unemployed. Across the country, 27,000 more people joined the ranks of the unemployed in January.



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:

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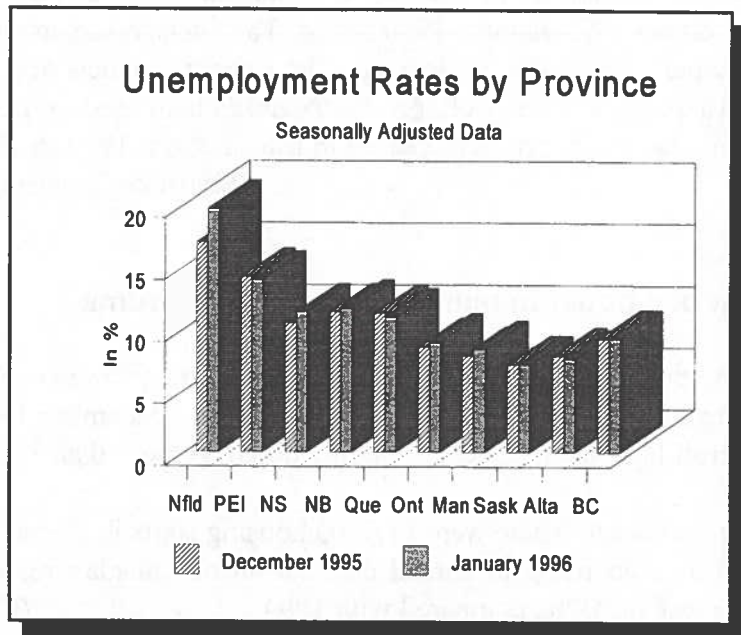
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The editor is:

Léonel Plasse

Unemployment rate falling

Quebec's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell 0.3 percentage points from 11.2% in December 1995 to 10.9% in January 1996. Quebec posted the sharpest decrease of all the Canadian provinces. In fact, only Quebec, Alberta and Prince Edward Island reported lower unemployment rates. However, five other provinces had lower unemployment rates in January than Quebec's rate of 10.9%. Saskatchewan continued to post the lowest unemployment rate (6.9%), which was unchanged from its rate in December 1995. During the same period, Newfoundland's unemployment rate jumped a dramatic 2.7 points from 16.9% to 19.6%, the sharpest increase in the country. Ontario's unemployment rate in January was 8.9%, up 0.4 points.



Canada's unemployment rate in January stood at 9.6%, an increase of 0.2%, compared with December 1995.

Modest growth in gross domestic product

From October to November 1995, Canada's cost-factored gross domestic product grew by 0.3%. The monthly gain was largely the result of growth in manufacturing and public, socio-cultural, business and personal services. Since December 1994, gross domestic product has grown by only 0.2%.

(Statistics Canada Daily, Jan 31, 1996)

Increased foreign investment in Quebec in 1995

According to data provided by the Quebec Department of International Affairs, foreign interests invested \$2.1 billion in 1995, a 30% increase compared with 1994. Quebec, however, with a quarter of the country's population has received only 13% of foreign investment in Canada during the past ten years.

(Le Soleil, Jan 24, 1996)

Slight CPI increase across Canada

Across Canada as in Quebec, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 0.2% during the December 1995-January 1996 period. The main sectors to report significant price increases were air transportation, mortgage loans and household products of textile materials. Between January 1995 and January 1996 as well, prices in Canada increased by 1.6% and in Quebec by 1.5%. On a year-over-year basis, prices increased in Canada from 1994 to 1995 at a rate of 2.1%.

(Statistics Canada Daily, Jan 23, 1996 and Feb 15, 1996)

Quebec housing market still in the doldrums

The number of housing starts in Quebec urban centres of 10,000 residents or more increased only marginally (1.49%) between November and December 1995. There were 22,725 housing starts overall last year in Quebec, sharply down by more than 33%, compared with 1994.

Across Canada, there were 117,200 housing starts in December, a 4.6% increase over the previous month. According to annual data for all of Canada's regions, housing starts totaled 140,625, a decrease of 8.7%, compared with 1994.

(CMHC, Housing Information Monthly)

Drop in the number of bankruptcies

In December 1995, there were 2,148 bankruptcies reported in Quebec, or 251 fewer than in November, for a yearly total of 25,967. Across Canada, the number of bankruptcies also declined from 7,407 in November to 6,201 in December. In 1995, there were 78,690 bankruptcies filed across the country, compared with 65,612 the year before.

(Industry Canada, Bankruptcy Statistics)

Another increase in the composite index

The composite leading indicator increased in January by 0.3%, compared with the month before. The encouraging figure was attributable in large part to increased demand in financial markets and from businesses, but was moderated by the weak performance of the housing index.

(Statistics Canada Daily, Feb 15, 1996)

First surplus in nearly four years

For the first time since March 1992, the federal government posted a fiscal surplus of \$148 million for the month of December. The good news was partly the result of increased budgetary revenues (4.5% increase) and lower program expenditures (2.7% decrease). Data for the first nine months of the government's fiscal year (April to December) revealed an accumulated deficit of \$19.1 billion, which was \$3.3 billion lower than the deficit recorded a year earlier.

(Department of Finance, The Fiscal Monitor)

Strong performance in the paper industry

According to data from the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association, the paper industry posted a very strong performance in 1995, despite a slowdown in the last quarter. Overall industry profits for the year just ended totaled some \$3.5 billion, a marked contrast to the heavy losses absorbed by the industry between 1991 and 1994. Increased paper prices in 1995 were a major factor behind the healthy profits.

The association is conservative in its 1996 predictions. Despite falling demand and prices during the latter months of 1995, the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association predicts a moderate increase in the volume of shipments throughout the current year.

(La Presse, Jan 29, 1996)

(Le Devoir, Jan 30, 1996)

Municipalities investing \$680 million

In 1996, municipalities will invest \$680 million primarily on various road repair, water and sewer system projects under the federal/provincial infrastructure program. The program is expected to terminate on March 31, 1997.

(Constructo, Jan 24, 1996)

\$200 million in venture capital

The Bank of Montreal recently announced the setting-up of a venture capital corporation called Bank of Montreal Capital Corporation. The Corporation will have a \$200-million fund to divide among three separate programs set up for three very specific fields of activity. The SME Equity Program (\$120 million) will serve small and medium-sized businesses doing business with the Bank. The National Venture Capital Program (\$60 million) will provide financing for businesses involved in advanced technology. The Strategic Investment Program (\$20 million) will be an investment vehicle for the Bank in markets it views as promising.

(Le Devoir, Jan 13, 1996)

Dominion Textile will manufacture in India

Swift Textiles Canada Inc, a subsidiary of Dominion Textiles, will jointly operate a denim manufacturing plant in India with LNJ Bhilwara, an Indian firm. Dominion Textile will hold 51% of shares in the joint venture and the LNJ Bhilwara Group 49%. The new facility will require an investment of \$116 million.

(Le Devoir, Jan 13, 1996)

\$700-million contract for SNC-Lavallin

Quebec engineering firm SNC-Lavallin recently initialed a \$700-million contract with a consortium of Turkish and Pakistani companies to build a mass-transit system in Karachi, Pakistan. The firm also announced that it had acquired Kilborn Holdings, a Toronto firm specializing in mining and metallurgy. The acquisition gives SNC-Lavallin a total staff of 6,200 employees.

(Le Soleil, Jan 16, 1996)

Bombardier reaches agreement with Romanian firm

In January, Bombardier Inc signed a contract worth close to \$600 million with DAC Air, a Romanian firm, to build a regional fleet. This is the company's most lucrative agreement to date in Central and Eastern Europe.

(The Globe and Mail, Jan 23, 1996)

400 jobs eliminated

Budget cuts announced by the Quebec Government have led to the elimination of 400 jobs, approximately 300 of which are unionized positions, at the Quebec Department of Environment and Wildlife. The layoffs represent an 11% cut in the Department's staff.

(Le Soleil, Jan 24, 1996)

Huge investment over the next four years

The Société Québécoise d'Assainissement des Eaux (SQAE) (Quebec Wastewater Treatment Corporation) plans to invest some \$379 million by the end of the decade. \$234 million of this amount will be invested in 1996-1997. The investment will allow the corporation to complete its wastewater treatment program, which has cost \$6 billion since 1970, including the expenditures incurred by Quebec's three urban communities (Montreal, Quebec City and Outaouais).

(Constructo, Feb 9, 1996)

Bell Canada planning to invest \$90 million

If the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) approves the project, Bell Canada may invest between \$80 million and \$90 million in an information highway project for the general public. Bell Canada hopes to operate a system for users that would include cable distribution, digital television and radio, interactive multimedia content and extensive access to the Internet network.

(Le Devoir, Jan 30, 1996)

15,000 jobs could disappear

According to the joint secretary for staff and labour relations policy at Quebec's Treasury Board, close to 15,000 jobs could be eliminated in the Quebec health care system over three years. According to the findings of labour-management committees responsible for reviewing the organization of health care services, the Quebec Government may decide to go ahead with the job cuts. (Le Journal de Montreal, Feb 9, 1996)

REGIONAL REVIEW

1. GREATER MONTREAL

300 new jobs at CAE Electronics Ltd

CAE Electronics Ltd will hire 300 new employees by the end of 1996. The news coincides with growing demand for the company's military flight simulators and energy control systems. Jobs created as a result will require a high degree of specialization. (The Gazette, Jan 30, 1996)

International flights transferred to Dorval

Aéroports de Montréal (ADM) recently decided to transfer its regular international flights from Mirabel to Dorval. Mirabel Airport will henceforth handle charter and cargo flights. The changes will involve an investment of \$200 million at the two airports. \$115 million of this amount will be earmarked for construction of a new terminal at Dorval to receive passengers from international flights. (Le Journal de Montréal, Feb 15, 1996)

MONTREAL ISLAND

Lower unemployment rate in January

According to Statistics Canada seasonally unadjusted data, Montreal Island was the only administrative region in Quebec to report decreased numbers of unemployed between December 1995 and January 1996. There were 2,000 fewer unemployed on the Island, but also 2,000 fewer jobs (a drop of 0.3%), compared with December 1995. The unemployment rate declined from 12.9% to 12.6% and was the only decrease recorded in all of Quebec's administrative regions. Nonetheless, the Montreal Island unemployment rate is a percentage point higher than the provincial average.

Once again, the employment/population ratio moved downward during the December 1995-January 1996 period to reach its current level of 51.0%, the fifth lowest ratio in Quebec.

Deterioration of the Montreal Island economy

A recent study by the Société Québécoise de Développement de la Main-d'Oeuvre (SQDM) [Quebec labour development corporation] drew attention to Montreal Island's alarming economic situation. By comparing changes in several socio-economic variables between 1987 and 1994, the study revealed that the economy has deteriorated in several areas.

During the reporting period, employment dropped by more than 10%, while it increased by 4% elsewhere in the province. The length of unemployment periods also grew noticeably from 22.3 weeks in 1990 to 34.4 weeks in 1994. The situation gives cause for alarm given that an unemployed person's chances of finding a job usually decrease in proportion to the length of time spent unemployed. The study also revealed that the Montreal Island population is rapidly aging. Between 1987 and 1994, the number of people between the ages of 15 and 29 fell by 23%, whereas the number of people 65 years of age and over rose by 22%. The study noted that Montreal Island with a quarter of the Quebec population had close to 40% of the province's low-income residents.

(Le Devoir, Jan 24, 1996)

Employees decide at AMF

Over 500 AMF Technotransport railway shop employees decided to give up their jobs with CN for jobs with GEC-Alsthom, the European firm which recently acquired the Point St Charles facilities. CN employees across the country will also have to decide whether they approve of their employer handing over to GEC-Alsthom \$110-million worth of sub-contracting work spread over a four-year period. An affirmative vote by these employees would help secure AMF's future.

(La Presse, Feb 15, 1996)

(Le Journal de Montréal, Feb 17, 1996)

50 new jobs at Harris-Farion

The American parent company of Harris-Farion Inc of Dollard des Ormeaux recently decided to assign Harris-Farion the responsibility of manufacturing and installing its personal communication systems in under-developed countries. The decision will involve the hiring of 50 new employees at the company's Montreal facilities. (The Gazette, Feb 10, 1996)

Siecor shutting down

Siecor Corporation of St Laurent has decided to close its St Laurent plant and move the operation to one of its facilities in Mexico, the Dominican Republic or North Carolina. The closing will mean layoffs for 160 workers by September 30, 1996. Management cited demand, which had fallen well below estimates, as the reason for the move. (Le Journal de Montréal, Jan 17, 1996)

The Gazette plans to cut staff

The senior management of the Gazette plans to cut 12% of its full-time staff, or approximately 85 employees. The centralization of administrative decisions in Calgary and the moving of printing facilities to Notre Dame de Grace were the reasons cited for the decision. It may be possible, however, to implement a great many of the cuts through early retirement plans and departure incentive programs. (The Gazette, Jan 16, 1996)

CN closing its maintenance shops in Lachine

CN recently closed its two locomotive maintenance shops in Lachine and Moncton. 230 jobs will be lost in Lachine. Operations at these two centres, as well as 146 jobs, will be moved to the Toronto region. CN management explained that the rationalization would allow the company to save \$25 million annually. (La Presse, Jan 23, 1996)

63 management employees dismissed at VIA Rail

Via Rail management recently dismissed some 63 management employees at its Montreal head office. The decision is part of an extensive restructuring plan, which began in 1993 and will lead to the elimination of other positions, unionized next time, beginning in the spring. The company feels it has significantly reduced its operating costs and increased revenues since the restructuring plan went into effect. (Le Journal de Montréal, Jan 23, 1996)

Mutual of Omaha cutting 25 positions

In an effort to centralize some its administrative operations in Toronto, Mutual of Omaha announced it would cut 25 jobs at its Montreal offices. Divisions most affected in the company will be underwriting, claims and policy-holder services. (La Presse, Jan 24, 1996)

Air Canada's Dorval project put on hold

Air Canada announced it was cancelling plans to invest \$112.5 million in its maintenance centre at Dorval. According to management, the current economic situation did not favour such a large-scale investment. (The Gazette, Feb 1, 1996)

UQAM will invest \$40 million

The Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) will invest close to \$40 million to expand its science complex. The contract for the work has been awarded to Axor Experts-Conseils, a Montreal firm. (Constructo, Feb 9, 1996)

Excellent year for the Montreal hotel industry

The occupancy rate of Montreal hotels in 1995 was 63.8%. This was a 13% increase, compared with the year before, and Montreal's best showing since 1976. Despite these encouraging figures, however, Montreal's hotel occupancy rates continue to rank below those of Toronto and Vancouver. (La Presse, Jan 25, 1996)

Expansion of youth court well under way

Construction work to expand the Quebec Provincial Court's Chambre de la Jeunesse [youth court] in Montreal should be finished by fall. The work, which could employ 150 workers at the peak of construction, calls for a total investment of \$38.8 million.

(Constructo, Jan 10, 1996)

LAVAL

5,000 jobs lost in January

Laval region lost 5,000 jobs in January 1996, compared with December 1995, a decrease of 3.1%. Only Gaspé/Magdalen Islands and North Shore/Northern Quebec regions posted higher job-loss rates. During the reporting period, the number of unemployed increased by 1,000 and the unemployment rate jumped a hefty 0.8 percentage points from 7.7% to 8.5%. Despite the increase, the region still has the lowest unemployment rate in Quebec.

Laval also had the second biggest drop in employment/population ratio. Its ratio fell from 60.2% in December 1995 to 58.1% in January 1996.

Laval Cosmodome lays off seven employees

In an effort to deal with a \$22-million debt, the Laval Cosmodome has laid off 7 of its 19 employees. The rescue plan submitted by Laval mayor Gilles Vaillancourt has still not received replies from the federal and provincial governments. (Le Journal de Montréal. Feb 13, 1996)

2. CENTRAL REGIONS

CHAUDIÈRE-APPALACHES

Sharp upturn in January unemployment rate

In January, the Chaudière-Appalaches region had the highest unemployment rate increase in Quebec. The rate rose more than a percentage point from 7.9% to 9.0%. After Laval region, however, it has the lowest unemployment rate in the province, 2.6 points below the provincial average. Meanwhile the region's employment level fell by 1.1%, representing a loss of 2,000 jobs between December 1995 and January 1996.

Despite a 0.8-percentage point decrease, the region's employment/population ratio at 57.5%, ranked fourth among Quebec's administrative regions.

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS

3,000 jobs lost last month

During the December 1995-January 1996 period, the Eastern Townships region reported a loss of 3,000 jobs and higher unemployment of 1,000. The unemployment rate also increased during this period from 11.1% to 12.1%, which is half a point above the provincial average. The employment/population ratio fell as well by 1.2% between December 1995 and January 1996 to reach 56.4%.

Higher unemployment rate in Sherbrooke

The Sherbrooke metropolitan region experienced a month similar to its administrative region. The city was the only one of Quebec's major metropolitan areas to report lower employment in January. 1,000 jobs were lost according to the seasonally adjusted data. Although its number of unemployed remained unchanged in January, compared with December, Sherbrooke's unemployment rate rose a significant 0.6 percentage points to 11.7%.

\$15 million for the downtown core

\$15 million will likely be invested in Sherbrooke's downtown core in 1996. The money will go mainly towards road work on Grandes Fourches Street South, the new Institut d'Hôtellerie [hotel and catering institute] project and a program to revitalize Sherbrooke's older neighbourhoods.

(La Tribune, Jan 15, 1996)

New research centre for the Technoparc

Construction work on a Camoplast Inc research centre recently got under way in Sherbrooke's Technoparc and could create about 15 new jobs. The Sherbrooke company specializes in the manufacture of plastic parts for snowmobiles, automobiles and photocopiers.

In further news, C-Mac Inc is currently expanding its plant located in Sherbrooke's industrial park at a cost of \$3.5 million. Fifty or so new jobs could be created beginning in the spring.

(La Tribune, Jan 23, 1996)

LANAUDIÈRE

Sharp increase in number of unemployed

Of all the 13 administrative regions reporting lower employment levels between December 1995 and January 1996, Lanaudière region reported the lowest decrease in proportional terms (0.6%), or 1,000 fewer jobs. However, Lanaudière region with an increase of 10.0% had the highest proportional increase in numbers of unemployed after Quebec City and Chaudière-Appalaches regions. Its unemployment rate during the same period increased 0.6%, on a par with the average increase recorded across the province. Lanaudière's unemployment rate in January was 11.3%.

Between December 1995 and January 1996, the regions's employment/population ratio dropped by 0.6 percentage points to 55.4%.

Labour dispute drags on at Bridgestone-Firestone

Offers considered final by management at the Bridgestone-Firestone plant in Joliette were massively rejected by the unionized workers, who have been on strike since August 1995. Meetings have been planned in an effort to break the impasse. 1,000 jobs are at stake in the dispute.

(Le Journal de Montréal, Feb 10, 1996)

A \$20-million project

\$20 million could be invested in a large-scale tourism project on Lake Taureau at St Michel des Saints. Various partners including Centre Nouvel-Air Matawinie, which is spearheading the project, the municipality, the CRD [regional development council], the ATR [regional tourism association], the RCM (Regional County Municipality), the Caisse Populaire, and the Chamber of Commerce are currently studying the project, which could be launched sometime in 1998.

(Le Journal de Montréal, Jan 16, 1996)

100 potential new jobs

Vifan Canada, a manufacturer of plastic film (polypropylene), may invest \$10 million to expand its Lanoraie plant. It is estimated the project would create about 100 new jobs. The company is waiting for replies concerning possible grants from the provincial and federal governments.

(L'Expression de Lanaudière, Jan 21, 1996)

New \$3-million plant

A new plant specializing in the manufacture of corrugated cardboard packaging will soon be operating in Le Gardeur's industrial park. \$3 million could be invested and work is expected to be completed next May. (Constructo, Jan 10, 1996)

LAURENTIANS

Employment level remains steady in January

Between December 1995 and January 1996, the employment level remained roughly unchanged. During the same period, however, 2,000 more people became jobless, an increase of 7.7%. The 11.7% unemployment rate for January was only 0.1 percentage point higher than the provincial average. Compared with December 1995, this was an increase of 0.6%.

The employment/population ratio also remained steady at 60.3% between December 1995 and January 1996. This was the highest ratio in Quebec's administrative regions.

Cristini will invest \$20 million in Lachute

The Italian company plans to invest \$20 million over five years to build a felt manufacturing plant in Lachute. The investment is expected to create 70 jobs. The presence of local workers specialized in felt-making prompted the company's management to choose Lachute for its production site. (Le Devoir, Feb 1, 1996)

MAURICIE/BOIS FRANCS

Sizeable increase in unemployment

In January, the Mauricie/Bois Francs region reported the second highest unemployment rate increase in Quebec. Between December 1995 and January 1996, the rate rose from 10.1% to 11.3%. Despite the sharp increase, the region was 0.3 percentage points below the Quebec average, as calculated on the basis of three-month moving averages. During this same period, the region's employment market posted a loss of 5,000 jobs, a decrease of 2.55%.

The region's employment/population ratio in January was 49.7%, or 4.5 percentage points below the provincial average.

Trois Rivières moving against the administrative region trend

On a seasonally adjusted basis, statistics for the Trois Rivières metropolitan region were more positive. Between December 1995 and January 1996, the number of jobs and unemployed remain unchanged while the unemployment rate eased off by 0.2 percentage points to 10.5%.

Stone Consolidated to invest \$257 million

Stone Consolidated will invest \$275 million in 1996 at its Wayagamak paper mill in Trois Rivières to modify and upgrade its machinery. The sum is part of a \$325-million fund that the company will invest in several of its production centres. The company with a total of 2,577 employees in its paper mills in Trois Rivières, Shawinigan and Grand-Mère is the biggest employer in the Mauricie/Bois Francs region.

(La Presse, Jan 16, 1996)

Short-term safeguards for Jeanneau's future

Jeanneau Inc, also known as Bâteaux Doral, recently underwent a change of ownership, which could secure the company's future, at least in the short term. Proplas Holdings of Toronto has acquired a majority of the company's shares. Jeanneau Inc had laid off its 225 employees following the bankruptcy of its parent company located in La Roche sur Lyon, France.

(La Presse, Jan 16, 1996)

Major investment by Chemprox Chemical

Chemprox Chemical has just awarded a \$6-million contract to the engineering firm SNC-Lavallin to carry out expansion work at its Bécancour plant specializing in the manufacture of hydrogen peroxide. The project took shape shortly after the company decided to invest \$48 million to expand product capacity at the plant.

(Le Soleil, Jan 18, 1996)

MONTÉRÉGIE

10,000 jobs lost in January

Between December 1995 and January 1996, the Montérégie region lost 10,000 jobs, a drop of 1.6%. The region's unemployment rate also nosed upward from 9.4% in December 1995 to 10.3% in January 1996. Despite this 0.9-percentage point increase, Montérégie still ranked 1.3 percentage points below the Quebec average.

Furthermore, despite a 1.1-percentage point drop in its employment/population ratio in January, compared with December 1995, Montérégie had the second highest ratio of the administrative regions.

\$350-million plant in Sorel

Quebec Iron and Titanium Inc recently unveiled plans to build a \$350-million plant specializing in titanium slag processing. Construction, which is expected to begin shortly, will be completed sometime in August 1997. At the peak of construction, close to 600 persons are expected to be working on the new plant. Once built, the new facility could create 200 jobs.

(Constructo, Feb 9, 1996)

St Hubert business centre

\$50 million will be invested in a business centre project in St Hubert, which will involve the construction and fit-up of 12 buildings. Work is expected to begin in March.

(Constructo, Jan 10, 1996)

Mitel upgrading its Bromont plant

Mitel Inc, which specializes in the manufacture of integrated circuits, will invest \$44 million to upgrade its Bromont plant. The company, which is the only one in its field operating in Quebec, is faced with booming demand. The work will help create some 70 permanent jobs.

(Le Devoir, Feb 9, 1996)

OUTAOUAIS

Slight increase in unemployment rate in January

The unemployment rate in Outaouais region during the December 1995-January 1996 period increased from 10.6% to 10.8%. After the Montreal and Saguenay/Lac St Jean regions, this was the lowest increase in Quebec. The employment level remained unchanged in January, but the region reported 1,000 more people unemployed, an increase of 5.9%.

The region's employment/population ratio dropped 0.1 percentage points between December 1995 and January 1996. The Outaouais region had the fourth highest ratio of Quebec's administrative regions.

Wastewater treatment in Hull and Gatineau

The Outaouais Urban Community (OUC) is currently calling for tenders for a project to expand and increase the capacity of two wastewater treatment plants in Hull and Gatineau. More than \$42 million will be invested over a three-year period. (Constructo, Jan 31, 1996)

Replacement of Aylmer-Pontiac hydro transmission line

Hydro Quebec may invest a total of \$14 million to replace the 35-kilometre Aylmer-Pontiac hydro transmission line linking the Lucerne and Quyon stations. Work should begin in October 1997. (Constructo, Jan 24, 1996)

QUEBEC CITY

A forgettable month of January for Quebec City region

In January 1996, 5,000 more people became jobless in Quebec City region. This very hefty 14.7% increase was proportionately the highest in Quebec. The region's unemployment rate increased 1.5 percentage points, the highest increase reported in all of Quebec's administrative regions. The rate was 12.2% in January 1996 and 0.6 percentage points above the provincial average. There were also 4,000 fewer jobs in January 1996 than in December 1995, a decrease of 1.4%.

The region's employment/population ratio in January stood at 53.0%, which was 1.2 percentage points below the provincial average.

Less dramatic statistics for Quebec City

The Quebec City metropolitan region had less alarming statistics to report during the December 1995-January 1996 period. The number of unemployed increased by 5.5%. The region was also the only one of Quebec's metropolitan regions to report an increase in the number of unemployed in January. The unemployment rate in the historic capital region surged upward as well in January from 10.0% to 10.7%.

Degussa will build a \$140-million plant

A plant specializing in the manufacture of hydrogen peroxide is about to open in the Quebec City region. The project is the result of a \$140-million investment by the German firm Degussa. It is expected the plant will be built either in the St Romuald industrial park or the Port of Quebec district. The final choice has not yet been made. Several hundred workers will be hired to build the plant, which is expected to create about 60 permanent jobs upon completion.

(Le Soleil, Jan 13, 1996)

Ex-Machina project to go ahead

\$2 million in federal government funding will allow the Ex-Machina project, which involves converting the Quebec City Dalhousie barracks into an artistic research and design centre, to go ahead. The sum of money approved by Ottawa supplements grants of \$2.4 million from the Quebec Department of Culture and Communications and \$1.5 million from the City of Quebec. The project should be completed by the end of 1996.

(Le Journal de Québec, Jan 23, 1996)

3. RESOURCE REGIONS

ABITIBI-TÉMISCAMINGUE

1,000 more jobs in January

During the December 1995-January 1996 period, employment in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region increased by 1.5% or 1,000 jobs. Because the number of unemployed stayed relatively stable and the number of labour force participants increased between December 1995 and January 1996, the unemployment rate rose from 9.3% to 10.0%. The region had the third lowest unemployment rate of Quebec's administrative regions.

When statistics from January 1995 to January 1996 are compared, a net improvement can be seen in the region's economy. Some 4,000 jobs were created during this period, while 2,000 people left the ranks of the unemployed. The unemployment rate declined by 2.7 percentage points from 12.7% to 10.0%, the second largest decrease in Quebec during this period.

Noranda Metallurgy Inc will invest \$100 million

Noranda Metallurgy Inc, located in Rouyn-Noranda, will invest \$100 million over a six-year period and \$53 million of this amount will be invested in 1996 and 1997. The company is planning an expansion and the installation of another converter at its plant. (Constructo, Jan 24, 1996)

LOWER ST LAWRENCE

Sharp downturn in employment in January

In January, employment in the Lower St Lawrence region suffered a loss of 2,000 jobs, which represented a 2.4% drop in the labour force and the fourth largest drop in employment in the province. The number of unemployed also rose by 9%, or 1,000 people, during the December 1995-January 1996 period. The January 1996 unemployment rate moved up from 12.1% to 12.7%. In January as well, the region posted the province's second lowest employment/population ratio (48.6%) after the Gaspé/Magdalen Islands region.

Between January 1995 and January 1996, the region chalked up 4,000 more jobs and 2,000 fewer unemployed. The unemployment rate moved downward during the same period from 15.3% to 12.7%, an impressive 2.6-percentage point decrease.

Boulangerie Pelletier closes in Matane

Boulangerie Pelletier in Matane, founded in 1904, will close on March 15 and force 60 employees onto the street. Multi-Marques, the bakery's owner, decided to close the operation and divide its production among four of its other plants, namely in Rivière du Loup, Chicoutimi, Lauzon and St Côme (Beauce). Management also cited falling prices and the elimination of transportation subsidies as reasons for the closing. (Le Soleil, Jan 13, 1996)

Canadelle plant in Matane may start up again

Promoters may be interested in starting up operations again at the Canadelle plant in Matane, which closed down last month. A start-up committee has been set up for this purpose. The closing of the factory caused some 190 workers to be laid off and the elimination of \$3 million in salaries alone from the Matane economy. (Le Soleil, Jan 22, 1996)

A profitable partnership in eastern Quebec

The Federal Office of Regional Development-Quebec and Tourisme Gaspésie/Bas St Laurent will continue working together on tourism promotion until 1998. The two organizations have been in partnership since 1989 and generated significant economic spin-offs during that time. It is also estimated that in 1993 alone, tourism promotion activities in the region brought some 90,000 new visitors to eastern Quebec and generated approximately \$14 million dollars' worth of spin-offs. (Spec, News Briefs, Jan 7, 1996)

NORTH SHORE/NORTHERN QUEBEC

Unemployment rate rises sharply in January

Although the number of unemployed during the December 1995-January 1996 period stayed relatively unchanged, the unemployment rate increased from 13.8% to 14.7%, the highest increase in Quebec. The labour force lost 2,000 workers, a sizeable decrease of 3.3%.

In contrast, the region reported 7,000 new jobs and 2,000 fewer unemployed in January 1996, compared with the same month a year earlier. The unemployment rate during the same period fell 4.6 percentage points, the sharpest decrease in all of Quebec's administrative regions.

Mining industry performing well in Sept Îles-Port Cartier corridor

The region appears to be going through one of the most flourishing boom periods in its history judging by the total volume of shipments in 1995 generated by the three major iron-ore mining companies operating in the Sept Îles-Port Cartier corridor. Québec Cartier, which shipped a total of 16 million tonnes in 1995, posted the best performance of the region's major mining companies. IOC Inc placed second with shipments of 15 million tonnes and Wabush Mines reported shipments of 6 million tonnes. The three companies also expect to increase production in 1996.

Wabush Mines may also invest some \$75 million during the next few years. About \$20 million of this amount will be invested in 1996 as part of a company program to upgrade equipment. \$55 million could also be invested if a process for improving the quality of iron concentrate, currently under study, is implemented. A new plant would be built and create approximately ten jobs.

The mine exploration sector also expanded in the North Shore region. Some \$5 million was invested in 1995, an amount which could triple or even quadruple in 1996.

(Le Soleil, Jan 15, 1996; Jan 25, 1996; Feb 5, 1996)

GASPÉ/MAGDALEN ISLANDS

Employment level falls off significantly

The Gaspé/Magdalen Islands region, which usually posts one of the poorer economic performances of Quebec's administrative regions, reported the sharpest proportional decrease in labour market participation. The rate fell by 6.7%, which translated into 2,000 fewer jobs in January 1996, compared with December 1995. Although the number of unemployed during this period remained unchanged, the unemployment rate increased moderately from 18.6% to 18.9%. As well, the employment/population ratio was 33.4% in January, the lowest ratio in Quebec and 20.8 percentage points below the provincial average.

Between January 1995 and January 1996, the number of unemployed and the unemployment rate stayed roughly the same. However, 1,000 jobs were lost.

SAGUENAY/LAC ST JEAN

Stable unemployment rate in January

Despite the loss of 1,000 jobs in January 1996, compared with December 1995, the number of unemployed and the unemployment rate in Saguenay/Lac St Jean region remained relatively unchanged. In January 1996, the regional unemployment rate at 15.5% was the second highest in the province.

The Chicoutimi-Jonquière metropolitan region reported an increase of 1,000 new jobs. Meanwhile, the number of unemployed remained unchanged and the unemployment rate eased off by 0.3 percentage points.

Sharp increase in unemployment on a year-over-year basis

The region saw its unemployment rate increase sharply between January 1995 and January 1996. During the first month of this year, the rate was 15.5% or 1.4% higher than the same month a year earlier. During the same period, the employment level increased by 4,000 and there were 2,000 fewer unemployed.

Chicoutimi pulp mill project going ahead

\$14 million will be invested between now and 1999 to develop the historic Chicoutimi pulp mill. The tourism component of the project will require \$7.8 million of investment. The second component involves moving the mill to a site at the Musée Saguenay/Lac St Jean and an investment of \$6.3 million.

(Constructo, Jan 10, 1996)

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

Province	Jan-96	Dec-95	Jan-95	Average of last 12 months	Variation		Variation	
					Jan-96 /	Dec-95	Jan-96 /	Jan-95
Newfoundland	193	197	200	197	-4		-7	
Prince Edward Island	61	61	57	59	0		4	
Nova Scotia	391	395	379	386	-4		12	
New Brunswick	313	315	311	314	-2		2	
Québec	3,253	3,225	3,198	3,209	28		57	
Ontario	5,261	5,258	5,239	5,234	3		22	
Manitoba	516	518	519	521	-2		-3	
Saskatchewan	458	461	463	459	-3		-5	
Alberta	1,389	1,380	1,366	1,376	9		23	
British Columbia	1,786	1,766	1,752	1,765	20		34	
Canada	13,614	13,570	13,480	13,519	44		134	

In thousands
Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

EMPLOYMENT*
BY ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
(Unadjusted data)

Québec Administrative Region				Average of last 12 months	Variation		Variation		
	Jan-96	Dec-95	Jan-95		Jan-96	/	Dec-95	Jan-96	/
Gaspésie/Iles-de-la-Madeleine	28	30	29	31		-2			-1
Bas-Saint-Laurent	79	81	75	82		-2			4
Québec	284	288	270	282		-4			14
Chaudière-Appalaches	173	175	171	178		-2			2
Estrie	124	127	119	124		-3			5
Montérégie	609	619	587	616		-10			22
Montréal	753	755	790	766		-2			-37
Laval	158	163	169	164		-5			-11
Lanaudière	169	170	154	169		-1			15
Laurentides	210	210	190	199		0			20
Outaouais	146	146	151	149		0			-5
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	66	65	62	66		1			4
Mauricie/Bois-Francs	191	196	200	209		-5			-9
Saguenay/Lac-Saint-Jean	111	112	107	112		-1			4
Côte-Nord/Nord-du-Québec	58	60	51	57		-2			7
Province of Québec	3,161	3,197	3,125	3,205		-36			36

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

EMPLOYMENT*
BY METROPOLITAN AREA
(Seasonally adjusted data)

Metropolitan Area	Jan-96	Dec-95	Jan-95	Average of last 12 months	Variation		Variation	
					Jan-96	Dec-95	Jan-96	Jan-95
St-John's (Nfld)	82	82	82	82				0
Halifax	170	169	164	166				6
Saint John (NB)	58	59	60	59				-2
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	63	62	63	62				0
Québec	322	321	308	316				16
Montréal	1,560	1,550	1,557	1,545				3
Trois-Rivières	62	62	63	63				-1
Sherbrooke	68	69	67	66				1
Ottawa-Hull	503	502	523	510				-20
Sudbury	79	78	79	78				0
Toronto	2,135	2,143	2,092	2,122				43
Hamilton	315	313	307	312				8
St.Catharines-Niagara	157	157	156	159				1
London	208	207	214	208				-6
Windsor	129	128	130	127				-1
Kitchener-Waterloo	203	202	209	205				-6
Thunder Bay	63	63	64	64				-1
Oshawa	126	126	131	128				-5
Winnipeg	342	343	339	343				3
Regina	100	100	101	99				-1
Saskatoon	107	107	107	106				0
Calgary	428	428	420	427				8
Edmonton	458	456	452	453				6
Vancouver	923	919	908	911				15
Victoria	143	143	143	144				0

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

**FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT
BY PROVINCE**
(Unadjusted data)

Province				Average of last 12 months	Variation		Variation	
	Jan-96	Dec-95	Jan-95		Jan-96	Dec-95	Jan-96	Jan-95
Newfoundland	144	154	153	165	-10		-9	
Prince Edward Island	43	44	42	48	-1		1	
Nova Scotia	286	305	289	307	-19		-3	
New Brunswick	238	248	234	261	-10		4	
Québec	2537	2563	2509	2659	-26		28	
Ontario	4099	4218	4090	4264	-119		9	
Manitoba	389	402	384	414	-13		5	
Saskatchewan	337	341	338	358	-4		-1	
Alberta	1074	1083	1068	1111	-9		6	
British Columbia	1349	1361	1350	1413	-12		-1	
Canada	10497	10718	10457	11000	-221		40	
In thousands								
Source: Statistics Canada, LFS								

**PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT
BY PROVINCE**
(Unadjusted data)

Province				Average of last 12 months	Variation		Variation		
	Jan-96	Dec-95	Jan-95		Jan-96	/	Dec-95	Jan-96	/
Newfoundland	31	34	31	32		-3		0	
Prince Edward Island	13	12	10	11		1		3	
Nova Scotia	84	85	73	78		-1		11	
New Brunswick	52	56	56	53		-4		-4	
Québec	597	604	583	551		-7		34	
Ontario	1037	1023	1025	969		14		12	
Manitoba	113	110	121	107		3		-8	
Saskatchewan	109	112	111	102		-3		-2	
Alberta	288	288	267	265		0		21	
British Columbia	380	380	344	352		0		36	
Canada	2703	2704	2601	2517		-1		102	
In thousands									
Source: Statistics Canada, LFS									

**EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY
IN QUEBEC**
(Unadjusted data)

Industries				Average of last 12 months	Variation		Variation	
	Jan-96	Dec-95	Jan-95		Jan-96 /	Dec-95	Jan-96 /	Jan-95
Agriculture	62	60	61	68	2		1	
Other primary indust.	37	45	39	44	-8		-2	
Manufacturing	532	544	569	590	-12		-37	
Construction	117	136	111	145	-19		6	
Transp., communic. and oth. util.	224	234	224	240	-10		0	
Trade	564	566	541	557	-2		23	
Finance, insur. and real estate	196	181	165	189	15		31	
Services	1,208	1,209	1,158	1,175	-1		50	
Public administration	194	194	204	202	0		-10	
All industries	3,135	3,167	3,072	3,209	-32		63	

In thousands

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

Employment by Industry - Metropolitan Areas Three-month Moving Averages Ending in January 1996						
	Chicoutimi	Québec	Montréal	Hull	Trois-Rivières	Sherbrooke
manufacturing	11	31	281	7	11	14
construction	--	10	68	6	--	--
transportation, communication and other utilities	--	20	135	8	6	--
trade	14	60	274	16	11	11
finance, insurance, and real estate	--	26	109	5	--	--
service	26	130	592	48	25	32
public administration	--	38	70	33	--	--
TOTAL	63	318	1538	126	60	68

Source: Labour force information, Statistics Canada
In Thousands

Employment by Industry - Metropolitan Areas Annual Averages - 1995						
	Chicoutimi	Québec	Montréal	Hull	Trois-Rivières	Sherbrooke
manufacturing	12	32	301	9	11	12
construction	--	13	65	7	--	--
transportation, communication and other utilities	--	21	137	8	6	--
trade	12	55	280	15	11	10
finance, insurance and real estate	--	23	108	5	--	
service	25	132	570	50	26	30
public administration	--	37	73	33	--	--
TOTAL	62	316	1544	129	63	66

Source: Labour force information, Statistics Canada
In Thousands

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

Province	Jan-96	Dec-95	Jan-95	Average of last 12 months	Variation		Variation	
					Jan-96	/	Dec-95	Jan-96
Newfoundland	47	40	47	44	7		0	
Prince Edward Island	10	10	10	10	0		0	
Nova Scotia	50	46	56	53	4		-6	
New Brunswick	41	40	47	40	1		-6	
Québec	399	408	428	405	-9		-30	
Ontario	513	489	498	502	24		15	
Manitoba	47	44	43	43	3		4	
Saskatchewan	35	35	30	34	0		5	
Alberta	115	117	114	116	-2		1	
British Columbia	181	179	170	175	2		11	
Canada	1,438	1,411	1,446	1,421	27		-8	

In thousands
Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

UNEMPLOYED*
BY ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
(Unadjusted data)

Québec Administrative Region				Average of last 12 months	Variation		Variation	
	Jan-96	Dec-95	Jan-95		Jan-96	/ Dec-95	Jan-96	/ Jan-95
Gaspésie/Iles-de-la-Madeleine	7	7	7	8	0		0	
Bas-Saint-Laurent	12	11	14	12	1		-2	
Québec City	39	34	39	38	5		0	
Chaudière-Appalaches	17	15	14	14	2		3	
Estrie	17	16	13	15	1		4	
Montérégie	70	64	72	64	6		-2	
Montreal	109	111	127	117	-2		-18	
Laval	15	14	21	18	1		-6	
Lanaudière	22	20	21	20	2		1	
Laurentides	28	26	27	25	2		1	
Outaouais	18	17	18	18	1		0	
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	7	7	9	8	0		-2	
Mauricie/Bois-Francs	24	22	26	23	2		-2	
Saguenay/Lac-Saint-Jean	20	20	18	19	0		2	
Côte-Nord/Nord-du-Québec	10	10	12	9	0		-2	
Province of Québec	415	395	439	408	20		-24	

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

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

Metropolitan Area	Jan-96	Dec-95	Jan-95	Average of last 12 months	Variation		Variation	
					Jan-96 /	Dec-95	Jan-96 /	Jan-95
St-John's (Nfld)	12	11	13	12	1		-1	
Halifax	14	14	16	16	0		-2	
Saint John (NB)	6	6	8	7	0		-2	
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	11	11	11	11	0		0	
Québec	38	36	41	37	2		-3	
Montréal	169	194	216	196	-5		-27	
Trois-Rivières	7	7	9	8	0		-2	
Sherbrooke	9	9	7	8	0		2	
Ottawa-Hull	51	52	48	55	-1		3	
Sudbury	9	9	7	8	0		2	
Toronto	192	187	208	198	5		-16	
Hamilton	23	20	26	22	3		-3	
St.Catharines-Niagara	17	16	15	16	1		2	
London	18	17	17	18	1		1	
Windsor	10	10	10	12	0		0	
Kitchener-Waterloo	18	20	13	17	-2		5	
Thunder Bay	5	5	7	6	0		-2	
Oshawa	11	13	10	12	-2		1	
Winnipeg	32	31	34	31	1		-2	
Regina	7	6	8	8	1		-1	
Saskatoon	11	10	9	10	1		2	
Calgary	37	37	37	37	0		0	
Edmonton	42	43	45	44	-1		-3	
Vancouver	85	83	78	83	2		7	
Victoria	16	16	12	15	0		4	

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

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

Province	Jan-96	Dec-95	Jan-95	Average of last 12 months	Variation		Variation	
					Jan-96 /	Dec-95	Jan-96 /	Jan-95
Newfoundland	19.6	16.9	19.0	18.2	2.7		0.6	
Prince Edward Island	13.9	14.1	15.3	14.6	-0.2		-1.4	
Nova Scotia	11.3	10.4	12.9	12.0	0.9		-1.6	
New Brunswick	11.6	11.3	13.1	11.3	0.3		-1.5	
Québec	10.9	11.2	11.8	11.2	-0.3		-0.9	
Ontario	8.9	8.5	8.7	8.8	0.4		0.2	
Manitoba	8.3	7.8	7.7	7.5	0.5		0.6	
Saskatchewan	7.1	7.1	6.1	7.0	0.0		1.0	
Alberta	7.6	7.8	7.7	7.8	-0.2		-0.1	
British Columbia	9.2	9.2	8.8	9.0	0.0		0.4	
Canada	9.6	9.4	9.7	9.5	0.2		-0.1	

In percentage
Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE*
BY ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
(Unadjusted data)

Québec Administrative Region				Average of last 12 months	Variation		Variation	
	Jan-96	Dec-95	Jan-95		Jan-96 /	Dec-95	Jan-96 /	Jan-95
Gaspésie/Iles-de-la-Madeleine	18.9	18.6	18.9	20.5	0.3		0.0	
Bas-Saint-Laurent	12.7	12.1	15.3	13.0	0.6		-2.6	
Québec	12.2	10.7	12.7	11.8	1.5		-0.5	
Chaudière-Appalaches	9.0	7.9	7.6	7.2	1.1		1.4	
Estrie	12.1	11.1	9.9	10.4	1.0		2.2	
Montérégie	10.3	9.4	11.0	9.4	0.9		-0.7	
Montréal	12.6	12.9	13.8	13.2	-0.3		-1.2	
Laval	8.5	7.7	11.2	10.0	0.8		-2.7	
Lanaudière	11.3	10.7	12.2	10.5	0.6		-0.9	
Laurentides	11.7	11.1	12.5	11.3	0.6		-0.8	
Outaouais	10.8	10.6	10.9	10.8	0.2		-0.1	
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	10.0	9.3	12.7	11.3	0.7		-2.7	
Mauricie/Bois-Francs	11.3	10.1	11.7	10.1	1.2		-0.4	
Saguenay/Lac-Saint-Jean	15.5	15.5	14.1	14.6	0.0		1.4	
Côte-Nord/Nord-du-Québec	14.7	13.8	19.3	13.2	0.9		-4.6	
Province of Québec	11.6	11.0	12.3	11.3	0.6		-0.7	

*Unemployment rate: In percentage, three-month moving average
Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE*
BY METROPOLITAN AREA
(Seasonally adjusted data)

Metropolitan Area	Jan-96	Dec-95	Jan-95	Average of last 12 months	Variation		Variation	
					Jan-96	/ Dec-95	Jan-96	/ Jan-95
St-John's (Nfld)	12.4	12.0	13.5	12.6	0.4			-1.1
Halifax	7.5	7.8	8.8	8.9	-0.3			-1.3
Saint John (NB)	10.0	9.9	12.1	10.3	0.1			-2.1
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	14.6	14.9	14.4	15.3	-0.3			0.2
Québec	10.7	10.0	11.8	10.4	0.7			-1.1
Montréal	10.8	11.1	12.2	11.3	-0.3			-1.4
Trois-Rivières	10.5	10.7	12.0	11.2	-0.2			-1.5
Sherbrooke	11.7	11.1	9.0	11.1	0.6			2.7
Ottawa-Hull	9.2	9.4	8.4	9.8	-0.2			0.8
Sudbury	10.1	10.6	7.9	9.1	-0.5			2.2
Toronto	8.3	8.0	9.0	8.5	0.3			-0.7
Hamilton	6.7	6.1	7.9	6.6	0.6			-1.2
St.Catharines-Niagara	9.7	9.3	8.8	9.2	0.4			0.9
London	7.9	7.7	7.2	8.0	0.2			0.7
Windsor	7.3	7.1	7.2	8.6	0.2			0.1
Kitchener-Waterloo	8.3	9.0	5.9	7.9	-0.7			2.4
Thunder Bay	7.7	7.6	9.3	8.1	0.1			-1.6
Oshawa	8.3	9.0	7.1	8.6	-0.7			1.2
Winnipeg	8.6	8.4	9.0	8.2	0.2			-0.4
Regina	6.1	6.0	7.0	7.5	0.1			-0.9
Saskatoon	9.0	8.8	7.8	8.2	0.2			1.2
Calgary	7.9	8.0	8.1	8.1	-0.1			-0.2
Edmonton	8.5	8.5	9.1	8.9	0.0			-0.6
Vancouver	8.5	8.3	7.9	8.3	0.2			0.6
Victoria	10	10.2	7.7	9.1	-0.2			2.3

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

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

EMPLOYMENT/POPULATION RATIO *
BY PROVINCE
 (Seasonally adjusted data)

Province	Jan-96	Dec-95	Jan-95	Average of last 12 months	Variation		Variation	
					Jan-96 / Dec-95	Jan-96 / Jan-95		
Newfoundland	42.6	43.4	44.0	43.4	-0.8	-1.4		
Prince Edward Island	58.0	57.5	54.9	56.2	0.5	3.1		
Nova Scotia	53.3	53.8	52.1	52.7	-0.5	1.2		
New Brunswick	52.3	52.6	52.2	52.5	-0.3	0.1		
Québec	55.7	55.3	55.3	55.2	0.4	0.4		
Ontario	59.9	59.9	60.5	60.0	0.0	-0.6		
Manitoba	60.6	60.9	61.3	61.3	-0.3	-0.7		
Saskatchewan	61.0	61.4	62.0	61.3	-0.4	-1.0		
Alberta	66.6	66.3	66.5	66.5	0.3	0.1		
British Columbia	59.8	59.3	60.0	59.8	0.5	-0.2		
Canada	58.7	58.6	58.9	58.7	0.1	-0.2		

*Employment/population ratio : In percentage, three-month moving average
 Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

EMPLOYMENT/POPULATION RATIO*
BY ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
(Unadjusted data)

Québec Administrative Region				Average of last 12 months	Variation		Variation		
	Jan-96	Dec-95	Jan-95		Jan-96	/	Dec-95	Jan-96	/
Gaspésie/Iles-de-la-Madeleine	33.4	35.7	34.2	37.0		-2.3			-0.8
Bas-Saint-Laurent	48.6	49.5	45.8	50.1		-0.9			2.8
Québec	53.0	53.7	50.9	52.7		-0.7			2.1
Chaudière-Appalaches	57.5	58.3	57.5	59.5		-0.8			0.0
Estrie	56.4	57.6	54.5	56.4		-1.2			1.9
Montérégie	59.1	60.2	57.9	60.2		-1.1			1.2
Montréal	51.0	51.1	53.3	51.8		-0.1			-2.3
Laval	58.1	60.2	63.2	60.9		-2.1			-5.1
Lanaudière	55.4	56.0	52.1	56.2		-0.6			3.3
Laurentides	60.3	60.3	56.1	57.8		0.0			4.2
Outaouais	57.7	57.8	60.8	59.4		-0.1			-3.1
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	54.7	54.3	51.6	55.1		0.4			3.1
Mauricie/Bois-Francs	49.7	50.9	52.3	54.3		-1.2			-2.6
Saguenay/Lac-Saint-Jean	48.3	48.6	46.8	49.0		-0.3			1.5
Côte-Nord/Nord-du-Québec	55.9	57.4	49.2	55.1		-1.5			6.7
Province of Québec	54.2	54.9	54.1	55.2		-0.7			0.1

*Employment/population ratio: In percentage, three-month moving average
Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

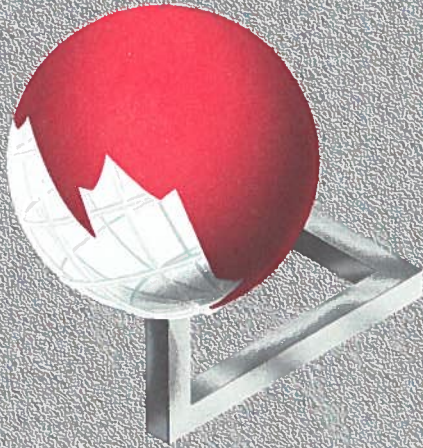
EMPLOYMENT/POPULATION RATIO*
BY METROPOLITAN AREA
(Seasonally adjusted data)

Metropolitan Area	Jan-96	Dec-95	Jan-95	Average of last 12 months	Variation		Variation	
					Jan-96 /	Dec-95	Jan-96 /	Jan-95
St-John's (Nfld)	56.7	57.0	56.7	56.7	-0.3		0.0	
Halifax	62.9	62.8	61.8	62.0	0.1		1.1	
Saint John (NB)	55.1	55.4	57.1	55.9	-0.3		-2.0	
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	47.7	47.1	47.8	47.1	0.6		-0.1	
Québec	56.6	56.6	54.7	56.0	0		1.9	
Montréal	56.8	56.5	57.1	56.5	0.3		-0.3	
Trois-Rivières	53	52.7	54.1	53.5	0.3		-1.1	
Sherbrooke	56.8	57.2	56.3	54.9	-0.4		0.5	
Ottawa-Hull	59.5	59.5	63.2	60.9	0.0		-3.7	
Sudbury	55.8	55.5	57.0	55.6	0.3		-1.2	
Toronto	61.4	61.7	61.2	61.5	-0.3		0.2	
Hamilton	61.6	61.3	60.5	61.1	0.3		1.1	
St.Catharines-Niagara	53.9	54.1	54.2	54.8	-0.2		-0.3	
London	62.3	62.3	65.1	62.7	0.0		-2.8	
Windsor	58.7	58.2	59.8	58.0	0.5		-1.1	
Kitchener-Waterloo	65.6	65.3	68.8	66.7	0.3		-3.2	
Thunder Bay	60.5	60.9	61.3	61.3	-0.4		-0.8	
Oshawa	61.4	61.7	65.4	63.0	-0.3		-4.0	
Winnipeg	61.3	61.4	61.1	61.7	-0.1		0.2	
Regina	63.9	63.5	65.1	63.4	0.4		-1.2	
Saskatoon	61.5	61.8	62.2	61.5	-0.3		-0.7	
Calgary	66.3	66.4	66.1	66.7	-0.1		0.2	
Edmonton	65.2	65.0	65.2	64.9	0.2		0.0	
Vancouver	61.8	61.6	62.0	61.6	0.2		-0.2	
Victoria	55.3	55.4	56	56.0	-0.1		-0.7	

*Employment/population ratio : In percentage, three-month moving average
Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

A D V I S O R S

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