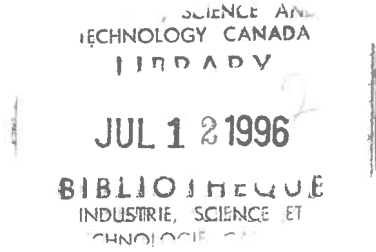




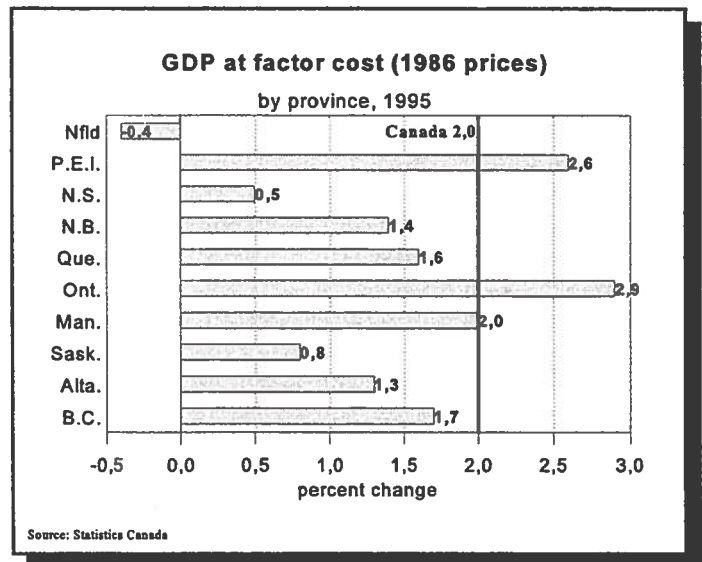
Editors: Léonel Plasse
Nikolas Bjerre



Volume 8
Number 5
May 1996

Provincial gross domestic product

Economic growth slowed substantially in most provinces in 1995 because of weak consumer demand, excessive consumer debt levels, depressed housing markets and austerity policies at various levels of government. On the whole, foreign demand for Canadian products was the key driver of the economy in 1995. Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba reported high volumes of manufactured products exported abroad. Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia also benefited from export demand, but in the more traditional primary sectors.



Only three provinces, Prince Edward Island, Ontario and Manitoba, and the two territories reported growth rates equal to or higher than the 2.0% national average measured according to cost-factored Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 1986 prices. The territories were an exception in that they alone posted better performances in 1995 than the year before, which saw increased growth almost everywhere. Newfoundland had dismal production figures for 1995 and was the only province to report falling GDP(-0.4%). Activity generated by the Hibernia project was no longer enough to offset fundamental weaknesses in the Newfoundland economy. Front-runner provinces in 1994, such as Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, were somewhat less impressive performers in 1995. Their growth slowed to levels equal to the 1995 national average. (Labour Force Survey, April 1996)



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
Analysis and Partnership
Stock Exchange Tower
800 Square Victoria, PO Box 247
Montreal, Quebec H4Z 1E8

Telephone: (514) 283-3066
Fax: (514) 283-8429

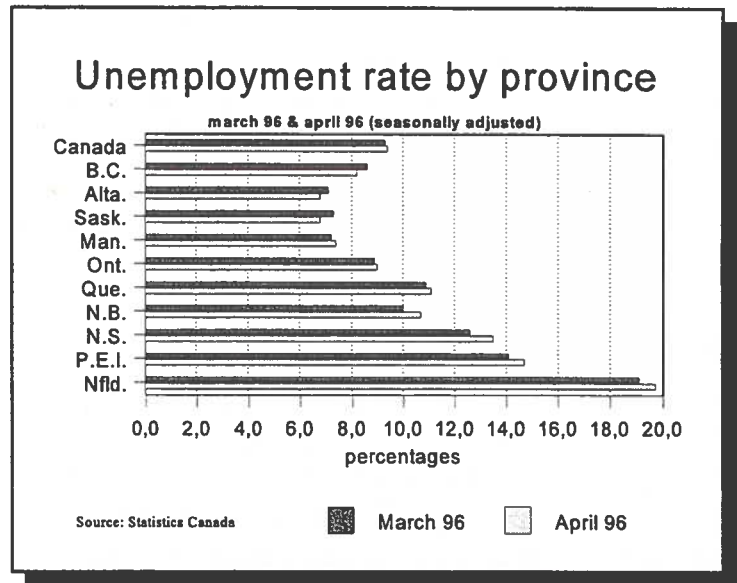
The FORD-Q ECONOMIC UPDATE is produced by Policy and Liaison Group. The publication is photocopied and distributed by the Canada Communication Group. Translation has been provided by the Secretary of State of Canada, Translation Bureau.

The editor is:

Léonel Plasse

Upturn in employment

The modest employment growth that characterized the first half of 1995 was followed by a slight increase in the second half of the year. The current year, however, is witnessing a greater upsurge in employment with 40,000 jobs created between March and April and 169,000 jobs since November 1995. Employment growth during the last five months amounted to an average monthly increase of 34,000 jobs. In April, the unemployment rate increased by one-tenth of a percentage point to 9.4%. The increase in the size of the labour force was proportionately higher than the increase in employment and suggests growing optimism about job opportunities.



(Labour Force Survey, April 1996)

Quebec labour market

The significant job losses that occurred in Quebec in March 1996 seem to have been short-lived. At 3 238 000 jobs this April, the seasonally adjusted employment numbers show no significant change with respect to the March results. The employment-to-population ratio also remained constant from March to April, at 55,3 %.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the Quebec labour force grew by 7 000 in April 1996. It now has grown in size for the seventh time in the past nine months. The decrease in the participation rate that occurred in March was partially offset this April: the rate increased by 0,1 percentage point to reach 62,2 %.

The April increase in the size of the labour force in both Canada and Quebec has pushed their unemployment rates slightly higher, going from 11,0 % to 11,1 % in Quebec and from 9,3 % to 9,4 % for Canada as a whole. The unemployment rate among Quebec youths increased by 1,5 percentage point from March to April to reach 18,7 % whereas the rate for adults aged 25 to 44 decreased by 0,2 percentage points during the same period.

Increase in the number of full-time jobs

Full-time jobs accounted for all of the net employment gains reported across the country in April. As a result, the number of full-time jobs created during the last five months has risen to 138,000 and ended a twelve-month lull in full-time job creation. Despite slight declines during the past two months (-24,000), the number of part-time jobs has increased by 123,000 since the beginning of 1995. Steady growth in the number of permanent jobs is a ray of hope for renewed consumer spending. Forecasters have been waiting for such a renewal for some years now. (Labour Force Survey, April 1996)

A lean summer

Canadian young people in the 15-to-24 year old group gained 14,000 jobs in April after losing 20,000 jobs in March. Employment for young people nonetheless continues to stagnate. Major losses suffered during the last recession have not been regained and employment levels remain virtually the same as in 1992. The depressing situation also affects students entering the labour force at this time of year to find summer jobs. The rate of student unemployment has increased from 9.4% in summer 1989 to 16.1% in 1995. Young people between the ages of 15 and 19 have been hit harder, partly because of their greater numbers, than young people in the 20-to-24 year old age group. (Labour Force Survey, April 1996)

Service industries take credit for job creation

Of all new jobs reported in the last five months, 82% were in service industries (+139,000). This relatively steady increase amounted to 18,000 more jobs in April 1996 over the month before. In April, increases were reported in health, social, business and personal services (+42,000), for a total increase of 97,000 jobs in these sectors since November. Despite a drop of 24,000 jobs in April, employment in wholesale and retail trade has increased by 42,000 since November 1995. (Labour Force Survey, April 1996)

Goods manufacturing sector makes up for lost time

After marking time for eight months, employment in the goods manufacturing sector grew by 1.0% (+37,000) in April. Growth in employment was accompanied by even stronger growth in the number of hours worked (+1.5%). Employment gains during the month of April occurred mainly in manufacturing (+23,000) and compensated for the decreased employment reported in March. They were muted, however, compared with the strong employment gains of 1994. Employment levels are now equal to what they were a year ago. (Labour Force Survey, April 1996)

Help Wanted Index stays unchanged

There was no change Canada's Help Wanted Index in April 1996, compared with the month before. It stood at 87 (1991=100). The index, which was set at 102 in January 1995, has fallen 15% to its current level. In the past, the Index has been an indicator of employment trends in the goods manufacturing sector. From January 1995 (ie since the most recent peak in the Index) to March 1996, employment in Canada has declined by 2% along side a drop in the Index. (Statistics Canada Daily, May 9, 1996)

Canada Communications Group privatized

The Canada Communications Group, the organization supplying printing services to the federal government, will soon be privatized. It is expected that 550 of the 950 current employees will lose their jobs or be transferred to other positions in the government. The Group has a number of printing centres, including the National Printing Bureau in Hull, and several regional offices. (Le Journal de Montréal, May 23, 1996)

Major mining projects expected

According to Quebec Mining Association (QMA) forecasts, about a dozen mining companies will invest a total of \$2 billion over the next three years. The investment will effectively end the slump that has affected the industry in recent years. At least 3 of the 18 projects listed by the QMA have budgets of \$350 million or more and should in themselves create about 1,000 permanent jobs. (La Presse, May 1, 1996)

Corporate profits appear to have peaked

Canadian corporate profits fell by 9% during the first quarter of 1996, compared with the same period a year earlier. The drop, combined with a 37% decrease posted during the last quarter of 1995, marked the end of a period of almost uninterrupted growth that began in mid-1993. (The Globe & Mail, May 6, 1996)

Forest industry profits coming down to earth

The Canadian Pulp and Paper Association predicts that forest industry profits for 1996 will decline by half, compared with the record level \$5.8 billion in profits posted last year. In 1995, the industry chalked up net exports of \$34.4 billion and earned praise for contributing the most to the country's balance of payments. (Le Journal de Montréal, May 23, 1996)

Quebec construction industry under the weather

The residential construction industry, which has been sluggish in recent years, fell into a tailspin in 1995 and shrank by 22%. All types of housing were affected. Residential construction levels were half of what they were in 1987. At under 22,000, housing starts were at their lowest level in 44 years, compared with almost 75,000 eight years ago. Aging of the population, record high household debt levels and widespread insecurity about jobs were some of the reasons cited for the slump. (Statistics Canada Daily, May 13, 1996)

Quebecers' personal incomes perking up at last

Quebecers' incomes from employment increased by 2.4% in 1995, a figure similar to that of 1994. Return on capital, however, increased sharply for a second year in a row. Corporate profits and income from investments grew by 17.4% and 8.3% respectively in 1995. Personal disposable income increased by 2.5% while personal savings fell by 0.8% during the same period, a possible indication of increased spending by Quebec households. (Statistics Canada Daily, May 13, 1996)

Quebec Savings bonds to follow new procedures

As announced in the May 1995 Campeau budget, procedures for Quebec Savings Bonds (QSBs) have been changed to allow debiting of predetermined amounts from bond holders' bank accounts and no longer from their pay cheques. The Quebec Government thus hopes to triple the percentage of its debt held in QSBs from 3% to 9% within three years. (Le Soleil, May 3, 1996)

Falling bankruptcy rate levels off

After declining for two years in a row, the number of bankruptcies in industrial sectors increased overall by 14.4% in 1995 and 5,135 companies were affected. Total liabilities involved in these bankruptcies increased by 3.2% last year to \$1.9 billion following decreases of 37.2% in 1993 and 8.6% in 1994.

(Actualités Conjoncturelles, Quebec Government, March 1996)

Layoffs continue at CN

At the last annual shareholders' meeting, CN Chairman Paul Tellier stated that 4,000 jobs would be abolished by the year 2000 in addition to the 11,000 jobs abolished since 1992. One of the rail transportation company's objectives is to reduce its operating ratio from its 1995 level of 89.3% to 82% by the turn of the century. (La Presse, May 5, 1996)

Increase in Desjardins Leading Indicator for sixth consecutive month

At the end of summer 1995, the Desjardins Leading Indicator (DLI) began to show initial signs of changing economic trends, which turned into a convincing upward trend in the following months. The trend continued in March 1996 with the DLI posting a 0.6% increase. A modest increase in economic activity in Quebec appears to be the result of this turnaround in the economy. Most economic indicators are increasingly optimistic about economic recovery. (Études Économiques Desjardins, April 29, 1996)

Per capita public debt in Quebec crosses the \$20,000 mark

Quebecers' *per capita* public debt has climbed from \$14,885 in 1992 to \$20,030 in 1995, an increase of 35%. These estimates, carried out by the Ordre des Comptables Agréés du Québec, take into account all levels of government that collect income and other taxes in Quebec, such as the federal and Quebec governments and their agencies, the parapublic sector, municipalities and school boards. (Le Devoir, May 3, 1996)

Major investments in cinema

The cinema industry is expanding throughout Quebec. About 50 new theatres will be built as a result of \$35 million invested in current and future projects. The biggest complex housing about 20 theatres will be built in Montreal, probably in July, at a total cost of \$25 million. (Constructo, April 26, 1996)

Vocational CEGEPs proving profitable

According to a survey of 7,000 graduates of technical colleges, the unemployment rate in this group fell by 5.9 percentage points in one year from 16.8% to 10.9% between 1994 and 1995. These optimistic findings confirm a trend observed in recent years which suggests that technical diplomas lead to better job opportunities for graduates.

(Le Journal de Montréal, May 7, 1996)

Aluminium spearheading Quebec's exports

In 1995, for the first time in a very long while, aluminium was Quebec's biggest export commodity. It accounted for 9.4% of Quebec's exports and generated \$4.5 billion in gross revenues. However, continuing fierce competition in this market from Russian exporters has led to increased uncertainty about future prices and prompted Alcan to postpone its decision to build a new plant in Alma involving approximately \$1 billion in investment.

(Les Affaires, May 11, 1996)

Downsizing at CRIQ

The CEO of the Centre de Recherche Industrielle du Québec (CRIQ) has announced that 66 of the industrial research institute's 405 positions will be cut. However, with 16 positions currently vacant, it is expected that about 50 employees will be let go. Of the 66 positions to be abolished, 34 are in Montreal, 32 in Quebec City and 2 in Ottawa.

(Le Soleil, May 16, 1996)

\$50 billion mark reached at last

Quebec exports climbed above the \$50 billion mark in 1995 and contributed to an \$8.7-billion trade surplus for the year. However, with 81% of Quebec's exports going to the United States, the province could find itself in a vulnerable position if the exchange rate of the Canadian dollar rises or a trade dispute with our southern neighbour breaks out.

(Les Affaires, May 10, 1996)

REGIONAL REVIEW

GREATER MONTREAL

Residential construction industry shrinks in Montreal region

Following the dismal number of housing starts reported in 1995, the prospects for 1996 appear equally bleak. The number of residential housing starts fell by 35% between January and April 1996, compared with the same period a year earlier. Housing prices have been falling since 1989-1990 and the resulting glut of housing on the market is seen as the principal reason for the slump.

(La Presse, May 9, 1996)

Increased tourism promotion in Montreal

The budget of the Greater Montreal Convention and Tourism Bureau will be increased by \$5 million to \$13 million this year under a multiparty agreement between the three levels of government and the private sector that is intended to promote the Montreal region abroad.

(La Presse, May 4, 1996)

Transport Quebec cutting back

Transport Quebec will invest \$58.3 million this year to upgrade, develop and maintain the Montreal area highway system. As a result of budget cuts in the department, this amount is 43% lower than the sum allocated in 1995.

(Constructo, May 10, 1996)

ISLAND OF MONTREAL

	<i>Apr 1996</i>	<i>Mar 1996</i>	<i>Feb 1996</i>	<i>Apr 1995</i>	<i>Month-Over-Month Change</i>	<i>Year-Over-Year Change</i>
<i>Jobs</i>	767	768	764	760	-0.1	0.9
<i>Unemployed</i>	119	115	115	129	3.5	-7.8
<i>Labour force</i>	886	883	879	889	0.3	-0.3
<i>Unemployment rate</i>	13.4	13.1	13.1	14.5	2.3	-7.6

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

In thousands; unemployment rates and changes in percentages
Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average

At last a major cleanup?

A \$20-million project to clean up the Lachine Canal by dredging a one-metre-thick layer of sludge is currently being studied by a joint federal-provincial commission. The goal of the project submitted by the Canadian Heritage Department is to make the canal suitably safe for pleasure boaters.
(La Presse, May 10, 1996)

\$145 million for infrastructure repairs to Montreal streets

A program to carry out major street repairs in the City of Montreal was officially launched on May 21 and will involve an investment of \$145 million. As impressive as the sum of money sounds, it does not imply any changes in the budgets allocated for street repairs (\$55 million) and curb and sidewalk construction and repairs (\$20.3 million). Instead, most of the investment will go to construction of a new Henri Bourassa Boulevard.
(La Presse, May 22, 1996)

Little Burgundy finally rewarded

On May 10, Montreal Mayor Pierre Bourque and several dignitaries inaugurated the long-awaited launch of construction work on the new Georges Vanier sports centre in Little Burgundy district. Construction work will last just over a year and area residents will be able to begin using the centre in June 1997. The \$8.6-million project is part of the tripartite urban infrastructure repair program. The federal and provincial governments have contributed \$4 million and the City of Montreal's share will be \$4.6 million.
(La Voix Populaire, May 15, 1996)

Possible FTQ involvement at Cast Camionnage

To reverse the shutdown of their company, 70 truck drivers at Cast Camionnage have proposed two possible solutions, which both involve contributions from the Fonds de Solidarité des Travailleurs de la FTQ. Cast Camionnage, a CP subsidiary, will be forced to shut down operations because its owners intend to contract out for their transportation requirements. (Le Devoir, May 16, 1996)

Atomic Energy of Canada also bailing out

Atomic Energy of Canada may close its Montreal office to consolidate its activities in Toronto and thereby cause about one hundred jobs to be lost in the Montreal area. The decision is part of a restructuring plan to achieve \$72 million in savings. The plan became necessary when allotments to the agency were reduced by the Department of Finance in the last federal budget. The Saskatoon and Fredericton offices as well as the head office in Ottawa could also be closed. (La Presse, May 8, 1996)

Inauguration of the Institut des Communications Graphiques du Quebec

After three years in the planning stages, the Institut des Communications Graphiques du Québec has at last opened its doors at the corner of St Hubert and Émile Journault streets. The graphic communications institute already employs 11 people and plans to employ 40 in two years' time. Construction costs of \$6 million and equipment valued at more than \$10 million are impressive but justifiable figures in light of the high-tech nature of the institute's activities. (Les Affaires, May 18, 1996)

Liquid Air Inc polishes its customer service

Multinational Liquid Air recently inaugurated a new centre in Anjou's industrial park to serve its Montreal and Western Quebec clientele. The centre with 12,000 square metres of space will be one of Liquid Air's largest centres of this type in the world. Built at a cost of \$7.1 million, the centre has created about 100 jobs. (Le Flambeau de l'Est, May 14, 1996)

Galderma Inc invests \$35 million in Baie d'Urfé

The Franco-Swiss pharmaceutical company Galderma Inc plans to invest \$35 million in Quebec over the next three years. The manufacturer of skin-care products will acquire and renovate a vacant factory in Baie d'Urfé and begin operations in early 1998.

(Le Devoir, May 7, 1996)

Montreal will become home to the Environment Secretariat

The City of Montreal will be the proud new home of the United Nations Environment Secretariat after beating out Nairobi, Geneva and Madrid with a submission that included \$7.5 million in government funding. The organization will employ 33 people and have an operating budget of \$8 million provided by the 146 nations who ratified the Biological Biodiversity Convention in 1993. (The Gazette, May 7, 1996)

New lease on life for the Palais des Congrès

Palais des Congrès management has announced a refurbishing project that will take place over three years and cost \$5.2 million. The first phase of the project is expected to begin in June and require funding of \$2.7 million. (Constructo, May 10, 1996)

ABITIBI-TEMISCAMINGUE

	Apr 1996	Mar 1996	Feb 1996	Apr 1995	Month-Over-Month Change	Year-Over-Year Change
<i>Jobs</i>	64	65	66	66	-1.5	-3.0
<i>Unemployed</i>	8	8	7	9	0.0	-11.1
<i>Labour force</i>	72	73	73	75	-1.4	-4.0
<i>Unemployment rate</i>	10.9	10.3	10.0	12.4	5.8	-12.1

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS
In thousands; unemployment rates and changes in percentages
Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average

Rouyn-Noranda convention centre will soon be ready

The City of Rouyn-Noranda will soon be home to a 600-seat convention centre. The \$2.4-million project was funded by three levels of government, \$1.2 million by the municipality and the remainder by the provincial and federal governments.

(La Frontière, May 22, 1996)

Lithos plans to invest \$4.6 million

Major underground exploration and development work costing \$4.6 million will soon be carried out on the Lake Herbin property near Val d'Or. The project stems from an agreement reached between Lithos Corporation and Ressources Aur. Lithos is interested in acquiring a 50% stake in the property. (Labour Market Bulletin - Abitibi-Tém., April 1996)

\$12 million for region's highway infrastructure

Quebec Municipal Affairs Minister Rémy Trudel has announced \$12.3 million in funding to improve, repair and develop the Abitibi-Témiscamingue highway network. Of this amount, \$10 million will be allocated in two equal portions for repairs to existing highways and improvements to the highway network, and \$2 million will be invested in improvements to the region's airports and bridges.
(La Frontière, May 15, 1996)

Rouyn-Noranda will be able to fly on its own

Agreement in principle has been reached between the Department of Transport and the City of Rouyn-Noranda to transfer part of the airport facilities to the city. It is estimated that \$1.1 million in repair work will have to be done to upgrade the facilities.

(La Frontière, May 24, 1996)

Troilus project will soon be under way

The Troilus project is likely to be operational by the end of the year. Inmet Mines is ready to start mining the large mineral beds located 175 kilometres north of Chibougamau. About 250 workers will be required to meet production targets of approximately 150,000 ounces of gold over the first five years.

(Labour Market Bulletin - Abitibi-Témiscamingue, April 1996)

Témiscamingue region will be home to an innovative project in 1997

A waferboard manufacturing plant, one-of-a-kind in North America, will soon open in the Témiscamingue region at a site still to be decided by the project promoter, Manexco Group. The new facility valued at \$40 million will operate under the corporate name of CED-OR Inc. The plant will begin operating in June 1997 and create 250 direct jobs.

(Constructo, May 3, 1996)

LOWER ST-LAWRENCE

	<i>Apr 1996</i>	<i>Mar 1996</i>	<i>Feb 1996</i>	<i>Apr 1995</i>	<i>Month-Over-Month Change</i>	<i>Year-Over-Year Change</i>
<i>Jobs</i>	77	77	78	75	0.0	2.7
<i>Unemployed</i>	13	14	14	13	-7.1	0.0
<i>Labour force</i>	90	91	92	88	-1.1	2.3
<i>Unemployment rate</i>	14.6	15.0	14.8	15.1	-2.7	-3.3

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

In thousands; unemployment rates and changes in percentages
Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average

A little goes a long way

The Fonds Régional d'Aide à l'Entreprise du Bas Saint Laurent recently granted loan guarantees worth \$600,000. These public funds have generated over \$5 million in investments in small and medium-sized enterprises and created close to a hundred jobs in various areas. (Le Devoir, May 21, 1996)

A new plant for St Cyprien

Moulage Sous Pression AMT Inc in St Cyprien has confirmed that it will build a second plant covering 16,000 square feet. The expansion will take place over a five-year period and require close to \$10 million in investment. The company's labour force will double in size from 100 to 200 employees. (Le St-Laurent-Portage, May 12, 1996)

Increased production capacity at Cédrico

Cédrico Group has just invested \$2 million to install wood-drying units at two sawmills it owns in Price and Lac au Saumon. The new facilities will increase the drying capacity of these sawmills by 50% from 500,000 to 750,000 board feet. (Le Soleil, May 16, 1996)

High tech taking root in the region

PG Systèmes Inc in Rimouski will invest \$3.3 million to develop a property assessment software program incorporating a set of geomatics applications. The Quebec Department of Industry, Trade, Science and Technology will contribute just over \$400,000 to the project, which is likely to create 13 highly specialized jobs. (Le Soleil, May 15, 1996)

CHAUDIÈRE-APPALACHES

	Apr 1996	Mar 1996	Feb 1996	Apr 1995	Month-Over-Month Change	Year-Over-Year Change
<i>Jobs</i>	173	171	172	173	1.2	0.0
<i>Unemployed</i>	16	17	18	15	-5.9	6.7
<i>Labour force</i>	189	188	190	188	0.5	0.5
<i>Unemployment rate</i>	8.6	9.2	9.3	7.9	-6.5	8.9

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS
 In thousands; unemployment rates and changes in percentages
 Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average

Region maintains its record

Despite a 0.7 percentage-point increase in its unemployment rate between April 1996 and April 1995, the region still deserves credit for having the lowest unemployment rate in the province. Compared with 7.9% twelve months ago, the region's rate was 8.6% in April 1996, 1.6 percentage points lower than the unemployment rate for regions ranking second this month, namely the Eastern Townships and the Laurentians with 10.2%.

Reduced investment in manufacturing in l'Islet RCM

The l'Islet RCM regional development corporation (CDEML) invested slightly more than \$10.5 million in its area's manufacturing sector in 1995. However, this performance was lower than that of 1994 when investments totalled a record \$21 million, three times the 1993 level.

(Le Soleil, May 17, 1996)

Labour dispute continues at RGR

A labour dispute at jeans manufacturer RGR's plant in St Georges de Beauce has led to layoffs for approximately 120 of the 150 employees. Pay for these employees had been frozen for five years at an average \$8.25 an hour. Employee demands also focus on the length of work breaks.

(Le Soleil, May 17, 1996)

Well-deserved break for Beauceville

After being battered by several factory closings, Beauceville is delighted by Groupe Transcontinental GTC's \$20 million investment in the Interglobe printing plant. Construction of a new building and installation of new equipment will cost \$8 million and lead to the creation 25 jobs when the plant opens in 1997.

(Le Soleil, May 8, 1996)

NORTH SHORE / NORTHERN QUEBEC

	<i>Apr 1996</i>	<i>Mar 1996</i>	<i>Feb 1996</i>	<i>Apr 1995</i>	<i>Month-Over-Month Change</i>	<i>Year-Over-Year Change</i>
<i>Jobs</i>	57	56	58	52	1.8	9.6
<i>Unemployed</i>	11	11	10	10	0.0	10.0
<i>Labour force</i>	68	67	68	62	1.5	9.7
<i>Unemployment rate</i>	15.8	16.1	15.2	16.2	-1.9	-2.5

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

In thousands; unemployment rates and changes in percentages
Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average

Unemployment rate eases off slightly

Despite a 0.4 percentage-point drop in its unemployment rate between April 1995 and April 1996, the region fell a notch on the unemployment rate scale from third last place 12 months ago to second last place in April 1996.

Cargill cuts staff

The management of grain transporter Cargill recently laid off 11 of 47 employees temporarily at its grain depot in Baie Comeau. To justify the layoffs, management cited the difficult financial situation in the grain industry since the reopening of the St Lawrence Seaway. The company does not rule out rehiring the 11 employees once grain sales pick up.
(Le Soleil, May 21, 1996)

Hatchet finally buried

The labour dispute between 1,500 unionized employees and their employer, Iron Ore Co Inc, in Labrador City was settled on May 14, exactly 40 days after the work stoppage began. Under a three-year contract, employees will now have a subsidized retirement plan and increases in their hourly pay. Increased port activity is expected in Sept Îles, the main port for ore shipments, once labour negotiations at the QNS&L railway company reach a satisfactory conclusion.
(Le Soleil, May 15, 1996)

Major projects on Montagnais reserves

The Montagnais of the Uashat and Malioténam reserves will participate in close to \$11 million's worth of investment involving the federal and provincial governments and the band council. A sawmill, a water purification project and construction of 150 homes are some of the projects which together will create about 100 jobs for Natives (Le Soleil, May 3, 1996)

ESTRIE

	<i>Apr 1996</i>	<i>Mar 1996</i>	<i>Feb 1996</i>	<i>Apr 1995</i>	<i>Month-Over-Month Change</i>	<i>Year-Over-Year Change</i>
<i>Jobs</i>	118	120	121	117	-1.7	0.9
<i>Unemployed</i>	13	16	17	14	-18.8	-7.1
<i>Labour force</i>	131	136	138	131	-3.7	0.0
<i>Unemployment rate</i>	10.2	11.6	12.5	10.9	-12.1	-6.4

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

In thousands; unemployment rates and changes in percentages
Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average

Eastern Townships places second

The regional unemployment rate has eased off by 0.7 percentage points in the last twelve months from 10.9% in April 1995 to 10.2% in April 1996. When compared with other regions, the drop in unemployment placed the Estrie region in 2nd spot with the Laurentians.

Profitable year for Sherbrooke region

In investment terms, Sherbrooke RCM had a very promising year in 1995 with 218 companies investing \$91 million in manufacturing sector fixed assets. The investment generated 1,702 jobs overall, a record for the region. (Les Affaires, May 11, 1996)

Kruger invests in a power plant

An association between Kruger Inc and Innergex Inc has resulted in plans to build a hydroelectric power plant worth \$20 million in Bromptonville by the end of March 1997. The second phase of the three-phase project recently got under way. Kruger Inc will meet its energy requirements through this project to be known as Barrage Laroque.

(Labour Market Bulletin - Eastern Townships)

New manufacturing company in Richmond

Richmond has been chosen as the production site for Les Emballages Novus Packaging, a brand new company specializing in the manufacture of polyethylene coated and laminated products. The owners have already invested \$2.6 million in the project, which is expected to create 13 new jobs in the first year of operation. The company plans to have the plant up and running in July 1996 and fully operational in September. (La Tribune, May 16, 1996)

CS Brooks goes on the offensive

The Sherbrooke weaving mill on Pacific Street will be upgraded once \$10 million is invested to modernize facilities, train the workforce and replace obsolete equipment. This initiative by the owner, CS Brooks, is part of an export strategy targeting North American and European markets. (La Tribune, May 7, 1996)

GASPÉ / MAGDALEN ISLANDS

	Apr 1996	Mar 1996	Feb 1996	Apr 1995	Month-Over-Month Change	Year-Over-Year Change
<i>Jobs</i>	26	26	27	27	0.0	-3.7
<i>Unemployed</i>	7	7	6	10	0.0	-30.0
<i>Labour force</i>	33	33	33	37	0.0	-10.8
<i>Unemployment rate</i>	21.3	21.3	19.3	26.5	0.0	-19.6

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS
In thousands; unemployment rates and changes in percentages
Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average

Highest unemployment rate decrease in Quebec

Despite a 21.3% unemployment rate in April 1996, the highest in the province, the region posted the province's sharpest unemployment rate decrease between April 1995 and April of this year. The 5.2-percentage point decrease far exceeded the 3.1% drop posted in the Laurentians during the same period. It should be noted that the decrease resulted primarily from large numbers of unemployed leaving the work force and not from strong regional job creation.

Canada Customs leaving Gaspé after 229 years of service

Revenue Canada will close its customs office in Gaspé on May 28, and its offices in Cap aux Meules and Rimouski a month later, as a result of plans to centralize activities in Quebec City and Rivière du Loup. The federal government will achieve savings by eliminating three positions and related employee maintenance costs. The restructuring cuts mean the end of an era for Gaspé, which has had customs officers since 1767.

(Le Soleil, May 22, 1996)

40 jobs go up in smoke

Tembec Inc has had to write off its Bois Saint-Omer plant, which was destroyed by a major fire. The facility located in Nouvelle was the smaller of Tembec's two plants and employed 40 people. The employees are now out of work until the plant is rebuilt. The manager of the two plants believes that rebuilding is the likely option (Le Soleil, May 6, 1996)

Gaspé to acquire a sewage treatment plant

Work on a \$9.5-million sewage treatment project in Gaspé will likely begin in spring 1997. The municipality plans to build a \$6.5-million sewage treatment plant as well as three or four pumping stations. The provincial government will provide 90% of the funding to build the plant. (Constructo, May 3, 1996)

LANAUDIÈRE

	Apr 1996	Mar 1996	Feb 1996	Apr 1995	Month-Over-Month Change	Year-Over-Year Change
<i>Jobs</i>	162	164	166	163	-1.2	-0.6
<i>Unemployed</i>	28	28	25	21	0.0	33.3
<i>Labour force</i>	190	192	191	184	-1.0	3.3
<i>Unemployment rate</i>	14.8	14.4	13.2	11.5	2.8	28.7

Source: Statistics Canada. LFS

In thousands; unemployment rates and changes in percentages

Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average

Sharp unemployment rate increase despite stable employment

Despite relatively stable employment between April 1995 and April 1996, a large number of people renewed their efforts to find work. Unemployment figures increased substantially as a result and the region posted the highest percentage-point increase in its unemployment rate for the reporting period. The 3.3-percentage point increase exceeded the unemployment rate increase posted in Mauricie-Bois Francs region, which was second highest.

School extension project on hold

Building extensions at Polyvalente Thérèse Martin in Joliette may soon be completed following a delay in funding for the second phase of the project. An extension is being built on to the school to house all of the vocational training programs. (Constructo, 10/05/96)

LAURENTIANS

	<i>Apr 1996</i>	<i>Mar 1996</i>	<i>Feb 1996</i>	<i>Apr 1995</i>	<i>Month-Over-Month Change</i>	<i>Year-Over-Year Change</i>
<i>Jobs</i>	214	212	212	185	0.9	15.7
<i>Unemployed</i>	24	28	27	28	-14.3	-14.3
<i>Labour force</i>	238	240	239	213	-0.8	11.7
<i>Unemployment rate</i>	10.2	11.6	11.3	13.3	-12.1	-23.3

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

In thousands; unemployment rates and changes in percentages
Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average

Substantial drop in unemployment rate

Strong employment gains and a decrease in the number of unemployed between April 1995 and April 1996 combined to give the region the second lowest unemployment rate as well as the second highest unemployment rate decrease of the reporting period. The region's unemployment rate dropped by 3.1 percentage points from 13.3% in April 1995 to 10.2% twelve months later.

Ray of hope for Kenworth plant

The American company Paccar is prepared to begin discussions with various levels of government on a joint proposal submitted by Ottawa and Quebec City to prevent the Kenworth plant in St Thérèse from closing. However, if production resumes at the plant, it will be on a smaller scale owing to weak demand for trucks. (La Presse, May 8, 1996)

Municipal/private-sector partnership in St Eustache

The City of St Eustache and the Mathers Group will participate in a joint municipal/private-sector project costing \$7.5 million. The project to be carried out in three phases over a three-year period will involve construction of a 45-person capacity hotel, a complex containing 8 cinemas, a restaurant and a fire station. (Constructo, May 10, 1996)

LAVAL

	<i>Apr 1996</i>	<i>Mar 1996</i>	<i>Feb 1996</i>	<i>Apr 1995</i>	<i>Month-Over-Month Change</i>	<i>Year-Over-Year Change</i>
<i>Jobs</i>	153	152	155	164	0.7	-6.7
<i>Unemployed</i>	20	19	16	21	5.3	-4.8
<i>Labour force</i>	173	171	171	185	1.2	-6.5
<i>Unemployment rate</i>	11.6	10.8	9.4	11.2	7.4	3.6

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

In thousands; unemployment rates and changes in percentages
Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average

Fewer people in the labour force

There was a noticeable decrease in the region's labour force between April 1995 and April 1996. It shrank by 12,000 workers, a decrease of 6.5%, and was caused primarily by a similar percentage drop in the number of jobs and not by a drop in the number of unemployed. The findings suggest that many people without work left the labour force because of a scarcity of jobs.

MAURICIE / BOIS-FRANCS

	<i>Apr 1996</i>	<i>Mar 1996</i>	<i>Feb 1996</i>	<i>Apr 1995</i>	<i>Month-Over-Month Change</i>	<i>Year-Over-Year Change</i>
<i>Jobs</i>	192	190	191	208	1.1	-7.7
<i>Unemployed</i>	30	31	28	26	-3.2	15.4
<i>Labour force</i>	222	221	219	234	0.5	-5.1
<i>Unemployment rate</i>	13.4	14.1	13.0	11.0	-5.0	21.8

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

In thousands; unemployment rates and changes in percentages
Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average



Turbulent year for Mauricie-Bois Francs


With 16,000 jobs lost between April 1995 and April 1996, the period was difficult in employment terms for the region. Many people left the labour force, however, and the increase in the number of unemployed was lower than the number of jobs lost during this period. After the Lanaudière region, Mauricie-Bois Francs posted the highest unemployment rate increase, ie 2.4 percentage points, between April 1995 and April 1996.

Three more units at Stone Consolidated

Tree-planting week in the Mauricie region gave Stone Consolidated an opportunity to inaugurate the start-up of three units for secondary treatment of effluent. These installations at the Wayagamack, Belgo and Laurentide plants involved \$75 million of investment.

(La Presse, May 23, 1996)

Trois Rivières ahead of the competition



Trois Rivières has a very good chance of being selected as the site for a specialized paper-coating centre that would be one-of-a-kind in North America. The partners participating in the \$30-million project have agreed to invest \$21 million. The federal and provincial governments will invest \$6 million and the remainder will be borrowed from banking institutions.


(Le Nouvelliste, May 15, 1996)

New museum in Trois Rivières

On June 26, the City of Trois Rivières will officially open the new Musée des Arts et Traditions Populaires du Québec. The 3,000-square-metre museum was built at a cost of \$15.6 million and will be the first so-called intermediate-size museum established in the region. Promoters are hoping the museum will draw tourists to the Trois Rivières region.

(Le Devoir, May 16, 1996)

Thorny situation at Roses Drummond



Saddled with a high debt load, the Drummondville company has been obliged to seek protection under the Bankruptcy Act. The company with 40 employees and annual production of 4 million roses in 54 varieties is Quebec's leading producer of roses.

(Le Journal de Montréal, May 9, 1996)

Construction officially begins on Cité de l'Énergie

Twenty years after the project was first discussed, construction of the Cité de l'Énergie on Melville Island in Shawinigan has officially begun. The industry interpretation, tourism and recreation centre is a \$27.7-million investment in the first phase alone. Promoters hope that 439 person-years of employment will be generated during the construction period.

(Le Nouvelliste, May 7, 1996)

Profitable year for CDÉ

The Corporation de Développement Économique du Centre de la Mauricie (CDÉ) enjoyed a profitable year overall in 1995. Last year, the economic development corporation for central Mauricie region successfully carried out 45 projects, which generated \$4.8 million in investment and promoted the creation or preservation of about 180 jobs.

(Le Nouvelliste, April 27, 1996)

Power cogeneration project in Bécancour

An ambitious power cogeneration project has been approved by TransAlta Energy Corporation and will begin as soon as the Quebec government gives the go-ahead. A \$150-million investment is planned at Bécancour to produce 135 MW of electricity for Hydro Quebec and steam for nearby companies. The 18-month construction period will require 200 workers and 20 permanent positions will be created at the site afterwards.

(Le Nouvelliste, May 30, 1996)

MONTÉRÉGIE

	<i>Apr 1996</i>	<i>Mar 1996</i>	<i>Feb 1996</i>	<i>Apr 1995</i>	<i>Month-Over-Month Change</i>	<i>Year-Over-Year Change</i>
<i>Jobs</i>	603	602	604	591	0.2	2.0
<i>Unemployed</i>	73	73	71	69	0.0	5.8
<i>Labour force</i>	676	675	675	660	0.1	2.4
<i>Unemployment rate</i>	10.7	10.9	10.5	10.5	-1.8	1.9

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

In thousands; unemployment rates and changes in percentages
Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average

Aliments Carrière takes a bite out of Pillsbury

Aliments Carrière has just acquired Pillsbury's quick-freezing and canning plant in St Marthine southwest of Montreal. The transaction will enable the Quebec firm in St Denis sur Richelieu to process over 80% of Quebec's total production of peas, beans and sweet corn. The plant employing 70 people full time and 450 during peak season is Aliments Carrière's largest acquisition since 1987. (La Terre de Chez Nous, May 15, 1996)

Computer project in Boucherville

An association between the Institut des Matériaux Industriels (IMI) and two high-tech firms will help create 25 highly specialized jobs in Boucherville. The \$5.9-million partnership between TWS Recherches, Alex Informatique and the industrial materials institute was set up to develop a computer modelling software program, unlike any other in the world, for plastic and metal-casting procedures. (Le Journal de St Bruno, May 4, 1996)

Major work on Le Royer filtration plant

A project to repair and extend the Le Royer filtration plant in St Lambert has been approved by local residents. Work is expected to begin this summer and be carried out over a two-year period. The Quebec Government will contribute \$7 million of the \$29.5 million required to enlarge and renovate the plant as well as build a reservoir on Brossard municipal property. (Constructo, April 19, 1996)

OUTAOUAIS

	<i>Apr 1996</i>	<i>Mar 1996</i>	<i>Feb 1996</i>	<i>Apr 1995</i>	<i>Month-Over-Month Change</i>	<i>Year-Over-Year Change</i>
<i>Jobs</i>	147	147	147	149	0.0	-1.3
<i>Unemployed</i>	18	18	18	21	0.0	-14.3
<i>Labour force</i>	165	165	165	170	0.0	-2.9
<i>Unemployment rate</i>	11	11	10.9	12.2	0.0	-9.8

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

In thousands; unemployment rates and changes in percentages
Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average

Employees return to work at Codco

Manexco Group has announced that operations have resumed at the Codco sawmill in Maniwaki. About 25 employees will return to work and about the same number to forestry operations following a six-month shutdown caused by a shortage of cedar.

(Le Gatineau, May 3, 1996)

QUEBEC CITY

	<i>Apr 1996</i>	<i>Mar 1996</i>	<i>Feb 1996</i>	<i>Apr 1995</i>	<i>Month-Over-Month Change</i>	<i>Year-Over-Year Change</i>
<i>Jobs</i>	290	285	282	271	1.8	7.0
<i>Unemployed</i>	41	44	42	46	-6.8	-10.9
<i>Labour force</i>	331	329	324	317	0.6	4.4
<i>Unemployment rate</i>	12.3	13.3	12.9	14.5	-7.5	-15.2

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

In thousands; unemployment rates and changes in percentages
Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average

Major changes on Pointe au Pic pier

The downtown area of this community will be made more attractive for the summer season. Most of the attention will focus on the pier. Next month, \$1 million of public and private-sector investment will go into transforming the community into a meeting place for local residents and tourists residing in the region. Promoters also expect to build a harbour to accommodate tourist cruise ships.

(Le Soleil, May 18, 1996)

Uncertainty about Beauport cement works

A possible shutdown of operations, owing to excess production capacity in the market, at one of the St Lawrence Cement Inc plants will affect 140 employees. The company CEO pointed out that consumer demand accounted for only 1.6 million of the total annual Quebec production of 3.5 million tonnes. St Lawrence Cement, which owns two of the four plants operating in Quebec, was therefore very vulnerable to any fall-off in exports. The decision concerning the Beauport plant would likely be announced at the beginning of the summer.

(Le Journal de Montréal, May 15, 1996)

New power station on the St Anne River

The Groupe Axor Ingénierie Construction is expected to begin construction soon, at a cost of \$10 million, of a mini 4.9-MW hydroelectric power station on the St Anne River. The facility will begin operating in January 1997 and replace the current power station, which was closed 18 months ago.

(Constructo, May 10, 1996)

Sewage treatment project

The municipalities of La Malbaie, Pointe au Pic, Rivière Malbaie and Cap à l'Aigle will soon have sewage treatment systems. The communities currently dump their sewage directly into the Malbaie and St Lawrence rivers. The Quebec Government will contribute 85% of the funding for the \$28-million project, which will include a physical and chemical-process purification plant and a sewer system.

(Constructo, May 3, 1996)

SAGUENAY / LAC-SAINT-JEAN

	<i>Apr 1996</i>	<i>Mar 1996</i>	<i>Feb 1996</i>	<i>Apr 1995</i>	<i>Month-Over-Month Change</i>	<i>Year-Over-Year Change</i>
<i>Jobs</i>	112	111	111	104	0.9	7.7
<i>Unemployed</i>	19	20	20	21	-5.0	-9.5
<i>Labour force</i>	131	131	131	125	0.0	4.8
<i>Unemployment rate</i>	14.8	14.9	15.4	16.7	-0.7	-11.4

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

In thousands; unemployment rates and changes in percentages

Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average

Golden days ahead for Saguenay - Lac St Jean

The economic studies division of the Mouvement Desjardins is optimistic about the region's economic performance in 1996. The leading factor cited in its forecasts is the healthy performance of the resource processing industries, which have generated handsome profits for several firms and led corporations such as Alcan and Abitibi-Price to plan major investments in the region. (Les Affaires, May 2, 1996)

Upbeat report for Roberval

The Société de Développement du Secteur Roberval (SDSR) issued an upbeat report for 1995. At its annual general meeting, the economic development corporation reported on \$15 million's worth of investments divided among about 15 businesses that have helped created about 150 jobs. (Le Quotidien, May 1, 1996)

Tourism project at Chicoutimi Pulp Mill

Work is expected to begin in the next few weeks on a \$30-million recreation and tourism complex to be built on a site adjacent to the Chicoutimi Pulp Mill. The project's promoter intends to build an 80-person capacity hotel, a meeting and concert hall, a campground and a theme pavilion on the site. (Constructo, April 19, 1996)

LABOUR FORCE DATA BY PROVINCE

(Seasonally adjusted estimates)

Provinces	Employment						Unemployment rates							
	april-96	march-96	april-95	Change		Change		april-96	march-96	april-95	Change		Change	
				april-96	march-9	april-96	april-95				april-96	march-96	april-96	april-95
Newfoundland	191	186	198	5		-7		19.7	19.1	18.2	0.6		1.5	
Prince Edward Island	60	60	58	0		2		14.7	14.1	15.6	0.6		-0.9	
Nova Scotia	383	381	383	2		0		13.5	12.6	12.6	0.9		0.9	
New Brunswick	318	314	314	4		4		10.7	10.0	11.5	0.7		-0.8	
Quebec	3,238	3,238	3,197	0		41		11.1	10.9	11.3	0.2		-0.2	
Ontario	5,299	5,291	5,222	8		77		9.0	8.9	8.8	0.1		0.2	
Manitoba	523	525	523	-2		0		7.4	7.2	7.4	0.2		0.0	
Saskatchewan	464	460	459	4		5		6.8	7.3	6.3	-0.5		0.5	
Alberta	1,417	1,410	1,372	7		45		6.8	7.1	7.9	-0.3		-1.1	
British Columbia	1,800	1,791	1,762	9		38		8.2	8.6	8.8	-0.4		-0.6	
Canada	13,690	13,650	13,486	40		204		9.4	9.3	9.5	0.1		-0.1	
Provinces	Unemployed						Employment/population ratio							
	april-96	march-96	april-95	Change		Change		april-96	march-96	april-95	Change		Change	
				april-96	march-9	april-96	april-95				april-96	march-96	april-96	april-95
Newfoundland	47	44	44	3		3		42.2	41.0	43.4	1.2		-1.2	
Prince Edward Island	10	10	11	0		-1		56.9	56.3	55.1	0.6		1.8	
Nova Scotia	60	55	55	5		5		52.2	51.9	52.5	0.3		-0.3	
New Brunswick	38	35	41	3		-3		53.0	52.4	52.6	0.6		0.4	
Quebec	405	398	407	7		-2		55.3	55.3	55.2	0.0		0.1	
Ontario	523	517	501	6		22		60.1	60.1	60.1	0.0		0.0	
Manitoba	42	41	42	1		0		61.2	61.5	61.6	-0.3		-0.4	
Saskatchewan	34	36	31	-2		3		61.7	61.3	61.3	0.4		0.4	
Alberta	104	107	117	-3		-13		67.5	67.4	66.6	0.1		0.9	
British Columbia	161	168	171	-7		-10		59.8	59.7	60.1	0.1		-0.3	
Canada	1,421	1,407	1,409	14		12		58.8	58.7	58.7	0.1		0.1	

Employment in thousands and Unemployment rates in percentages

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

Prepared by Léonel Plasse, Analyse et partenariat

LABOUR FORCE DATA BY METROPOLITAN AREAS

(Seasonally adjusted estimates, Three-month moving averages)

Metropolitan Areas	Employment						Unemployment rates							
	april-96	march-96	april-95	Change april-96 / march-96		Change april-96 / april-95		april-96	march-96	april-95	Change april-96 / march-96		Change april-96 / april-95	
Halifax	165	167	164	-2		1		9.2	8.1	9.6	1.1		-0.4	
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	64	64	62	0		2		14.5	13.9	15.3	0.6		-0.8	
Québec	329	325	311	4		18		10.0	11.0	11.9	-1.0		-1.9	
Montréal	1,581	1,584	1,543	-3		38		11.2	10.8	11.6	0.4		-0.4	
Trois-Rivières	64	63	63	1		1		11.0	10.7	11.3	0.3		-0.3	
Sherbrooke	67	68	62	-1		5		11.4	12.0	12.2	-0.6		-0.8	
Ottawa-Hull	507	504	513	3		-6		8.9	9.2	10.0	-0.3		-1.1	
Toronto	2,149	2,142	2,117	7		32		9.2	9.0	8.7	0.2		0.5	
Winnipeg	347	346	341	1		6		8.1	8.4	8.3	-0.3		-0.2	
Calgary	443	437	423	6		20		7.4	7.7	8.2	-0.3		-0.8	
Vancouver	932	932	912	0		20		7.2	7.9	8.2	-0.7		-1.0	

Metropolitan Areas	Unemployed						Employment/population ratio							
	april-96	march-96	april-95	Change april-96 / march-96		Change april-96 / april-95		april-96	march-96	april-95	Change april-96 / march-96		Change april-96 / april-95	
Halifax	17	15	17	2		0		61.1	61.8	61.6	-0.7		-0.5	
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	11	10	11	1		0		48.2	48.0	47.4	0.2		0.8	
Québec	37	40	42	-3		-5		57.6	56.9	55.3	0.7		2.3	
Montréal	199	191	202	8		-3		57.4	57.5	56.6	-0.1		0.8	
Trois-Rivières	8	8	8	0		0		54.0	53.4	53.7	0.6		0.3	
Sherbrooke	9	9	9	0		0		55.7	56.4	52.2	-0.7		3.5	
Ottawa-Hull	50	51	57	-1		-7		59.7	59.4	61.8	0.3		-2.1	
Toronto	217	212	201	5		16		61.5	61.4	61.7	0.1		-0.2	
Winnipeg	31	32	31	-1		0		62.1	61.9	61.4	0.2		0.7	
Calgary	36	36	38	0		-2		68.2	67.3	66.4	0.9		1.8	
Vancouver	72	80	81	-8		-9		61.9	62.1	62.0	-0.2		-0.1	

Employment in thousands and unemployment rates in percentages

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

Prepared by Léonel Plasse, Analyse et partenariat

LABOUR FORCE DATA BY ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS

(Unadjusted estimates, Three-month moving averages)

Administrative Regions	Employment						Unemployment rates							
	april-96	march-96	april-95	Change		Change		april-96	march-96	april-95	Change		Change	
				april-96	march-9	april-96	april-95				april-96	march-96	april-96	april-95
Gaspé-Magdalen Islands	26	26	27	0		-1		21.3	21.3	26.5	0.0			-5.2
Lower St Lawrence	77	77	75	0		2		14.6	15.0	15.1	-0.4			-0.5
Québec City	290	285	271	5		19		12.3	13.3	14.5	-1.0			-2.2
Chaudière-Appalaches	173	171	173	2		0		8.6	9.2	7.9	-0.6			0.7
Eastern Townships	118	120	117	-2		1		10.2	11.6	10.9	-1.4			-0.7
Montérégie	603	602	591	1		12		10.7	10.9	10.5	-0.2			0.2
Montréal	767	768	760	-1		7		13.4	13.1	14.5	0.3			-1.1
Laval	153	152	164	1		-11		11.6	10.8	11.2	0.8			0.4
Lanaudière	162	164	163	-2		-1		14.8	14.4	11.5	0.4			3.3
Laurentians	214	212	185	2		29		10.2	11.6	13.3	-1.4			-3.1
Outaouais	147	147	149	0		-2		11.0	11.0	12.2	0.0			-1.2
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	64	65	66	-1		-2		10.9	10.3	12.4	0.6			-1.5
Mauricie/Bois-Francs	192	190	208	2		-16		13.4	14.1	11.0	-0.7			2.4
Saguenay/Lac-St-Jean	112	111	104	1		8		14.8	14.9	16.7	-0.1			-1.9
North Shore/North. Que.	57	56	52	1		5		15.8	16.1	16.2	-0.3			-0.4
Province of Québec	3,154	3,146	3,105		8		49	12.3	12.5	12.7		-0.2		-0.4
Administrative Regions	Unemployed						Employment/population ratio							
	april-96	march-96	april-95	Change		Change		april-96	march-96	april-95	Change		Change	
				april-96	march-9	april-96	april-95				april-96	march-96	april-96	april-95
Gaspé-Magdalen Islands	7	7	10	0		-3		31.1	30.7	32.2	0.4			-1.1
Lower St Lawrence	13	14	13	-1		0		46.8	46.8	46.2	0.0			0.6
Québec City	41	44	46	-3		-5		53.9	52.9	50.8	1.0			3.1
Chaudière-Appalaches	16	17	15	-1		1		57.2	56.8	58.1	0.4			-0.9
Eastern Townships	13	16	14	-3		-1		53.3	54.1	53.5	-0.8			-0.2
Montérégie	73	73	69	0		4		58.2	58.2	58.1	0.0			0.1
Montréal	119	115	129	4		-10		51.8	51.9	51.4	-0.1			0.4
Laval	20	19	21	1		-1		56.0	56.0	61.0	0.0			-5.0
Lanaudière	28	28	21	0		7		52.9	53.7	54.7	-0.8			-1.8
Laurentians	24	28	28	-4		-4		61.0	60.6	54.0	0.4			7.0
Outaouais	18	18	21	0		-3		57.7	57.7	59.6	0.0			-1.9
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	8	8	9	0		-1		52.7	54.0	55.2	-1.3			-2.5
Mauricie/Bois-Francs	30	31	26	-1		4		49.8	49.3	54.2	0.5			-4.4
Saguenay/Lac-St-Jean	19	20	21	-1		-2		48.6	48.3	45.5	0.3			3.1
North Shore/North. Que.	11	11	10	0		1		54.1	54.0	49.4	0.1			4.7
Province of Québec	440	447	452		-7		-12	53.9	53.8	53.6		0.1		0.3

Employment and Unemployed in thousands; Unemployment rates and employment/population ratio in percentages
Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

Prepared by Léonel Plasse, Analyse et partenariat

LABOUR FORCE DATA
FULL TIME, PART-TIME AND EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY
(Unadjusted Estimates)

Provinces	Full-time employment						Part-time employment							
	april-96	march-96	april-95	Change		Change		april-96	march-96	april-95	Change		Change	
				april-96	march-95	april-96	april-95				april-96	march-96	april-96	april-95
Newfoundland	146	143	154	3		-8		32	31	30	1		2	
Prince Edward Island	43	42	42	1		1		11	12	11	-1		0	
Nova Scotia	293	290	291	3		2		76	74	75	2		1	
New Brunswick	242	238	237	4		5		54	56	57	-2		-3	
Quebec	2,566	2,532	2,568	34		-2		593	615	551	-22		42	
Ontario	4,204	4,141	4,139	63		65		1,029	1,039	1,003	-10		26	
Manitoba	403	397	396	6		7		110	116	116	-6		-6	
Saskatchewan	349	338	344	11		5		103	109	105	-6		-2	
Alberta	1,120	1,110	1,080	10		40		274	278	260	-4		14	
British Columbia	1,419	1,404	1,395	15		24		364	362	347	2		17	
Canada	10,785	10,635	10,645	150		140		2,647	2,691	2,554	-44		93	

Industries	Employment by Industry						
	april-96	march-96	april-95	Change		Change	
				april-96	march-95	april-96	april-95
Agriculture	71	68	69	3		2	
Other primary	27	31	32	-4		-5	
Manufacturing	546	522	590	24		-44	
Construction	128	120	117	8		11	
Transp., comm., utilities	216	235	233	-19		-17	
Trade	543	551	544	-8		-1	
Finance, insur., real estate	202	201	179	1		23	
Services	1,217	1,214	1,149	3		68	
Public administration	209	205	205	4		4	
Total	3,159	3,147	3,119	12		40	

Employment in thousands

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

Prepared by Léonel Plasse, Analyse et partenariat

A D V I S O R S

**SERVING SMALL
BUSINESSES**



**SMALL
BUSINESS
ACCESS CENTER**

ACCESS
to information

ACCESS
to business networks

ACCESS
to financial support
