



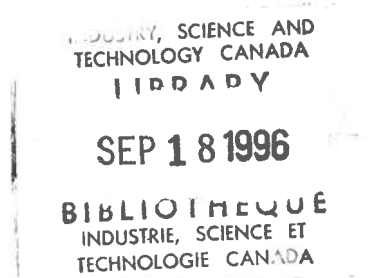
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THE FORD-Q

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Version française disponible

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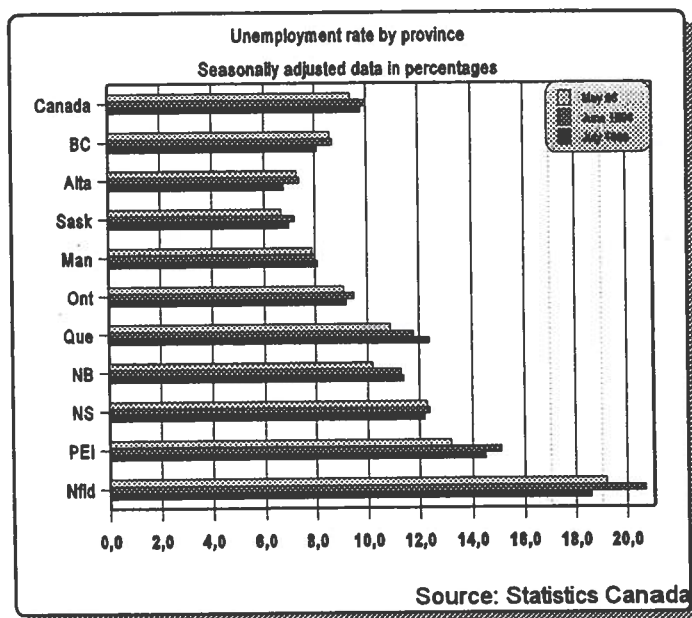
**Volume 8
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Sharp drop in Canada's employment in June followed by an upturn in July

June: Canada's unemployment rate rose sharply during the month of June to 10.0%, a 0.6-percentage point increase over the 9.4% posted in May. The loss of 56,000 jobs in June and the entry of 36,000 new job-seekers into the labour market were factors in the increase.

Most jobs lost in June were full-time positions in service industries. A decrease of 62,000 full-time jobs was reported. It affected women more than men with men posting a loss of 22,000 and women a loss of 40,000 full-time jobs.

Young people between the ages of 15 and 24 bore a disproportionate share of the job losses. Although they account for only 15% of the working population, they posted a loss of 21,000 jobs in June, or 38% of all jobs lost.



July: Fortunately, a gain of 19,000 jobs in July partly offset the losses reported in June. The unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage points from 10.0% to 9.8%. These significant changes follow a relatively stable period beginning in 1994 in which unemployment rates fluctuated between 9.2% and 9.7%. Despite the June 1996 figures, employment in Canada has grown by an average 19,000 new jobs per month since July 1995.



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Canada

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

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

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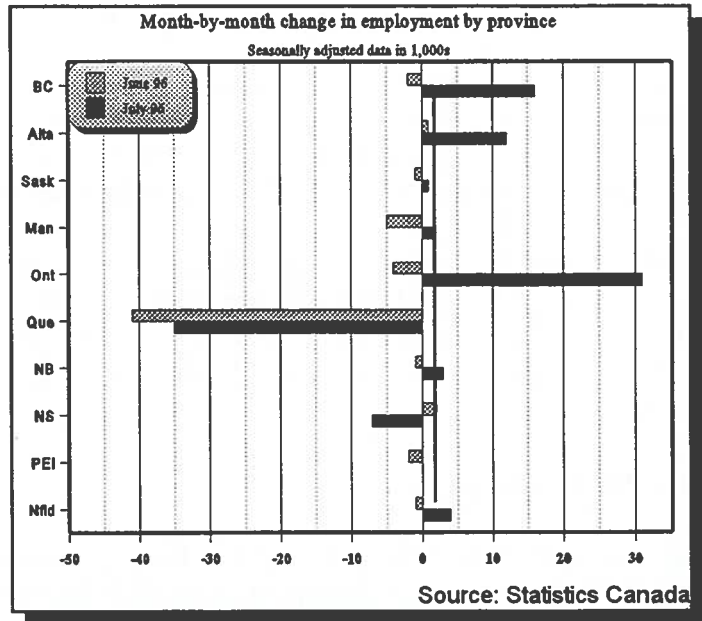
The editor is:

Léonel Plasse

In contrast to June, a gain of 37,000 full-time jobs in July helped boost employment growth overall. However, July's employment gains continued to be shared unequally with 57,000 men beginning full-time jobs and women losing 20,000 such jobs in the same month. (Labour Force Survey, June and July 1996)

Worrisome drop in Quebec employment in June and July

Data for the month of June indicate that Quebec accounted for 73% of the jobs lost in Canada during the month. On a seasonally adjusted basis, Quebec lost 41,000 jobs. The worrisome trend continued through the month of July, as 35,000 jobs were lost. The two consecutive decreases cancelled out gains reported in the second half of 1995 and in early 1996. The employment level was thus 27,000 jobs lower than in July 1995.



Quebec's job losses in June occurred primarily in retail trade industries, food and beverage service industries, and service industries in general. Decreased employment in July occurred mainly in health services and, for a second consecutive month, in food and beverage services.

It should be noted that the July figures were based on data collected before various Quebec regions were hit by floods. The initial impact of the disaster will be reflected in the data for August.

(Labour Force Survey, June and July 1996)

Salaries and wages gaining ground

The end of the public service strike in Ontario and the labour dispute at General Motors as well as the hiring of temporary workers to conduct the census helped boost salaries and wages by 0.3% in April 1996 following the sharp 0.9% decrease reported in March 1996. Growth in salaries and wages during the first four months of 1996 was 2.4% higher than during the same period in 1995.

(Statistics Canada Daily, 08/07/96)

In May, average weekly pay rose by 1.4%, compared with April, to \$584.71. Salaried employees in almost all industrial sectors received pay increases, with the highest going to construction industry employees. It should be noted that pay has risen mainly because employees paid an hourly wage have been working greater numbers of hours per week.

(Statistics Canada Daily, 26/07/96)

Greater number of employment insurance claimants in May

Compared with April 1996, the number of employment insurance claimants in Canada in May increased by 1.3% to 715,000. The number of claimants dropped significantly between May 1992 and June 1995 (-37%), but began to trend slightly upward between July 1995 and January 1996 (+4%). Since then, the number of claimants has been fluctuating with no clear-cut trend in evidence.

At \$799 million, the total amount of employment insurance benefits paid out in May was 7.2% lower than the figure for April after registering almost no change since the beginning of the year. The sharp decrease in May was attributable in part to a distortion in the April figures indicating an increase. Unlike most months, there were five Mondays and five Tuesdays in April and most benefits are paid out on those days.
(Statistics Canada Daily, 31/07/96)

GDP trend continues

Cost-factored GDP increased by 0.2% in May 1996 and continued the trend of steady growth reported in the first four months of the year. Many manufacturing industries and the residential construction industry posted substantial growth in May. Financial services and wholesale trade also helped boost GDP.

Although it slowed from 1.5% in April to 0.2% in May, growth in manufacturing was fairly evenly distributed. However, April's GDP gains resulted largely from renewed activity in the automotive sector following the settlement of the strike.
(Statistics Canada Daily, 31/07/96)

Residential construction industry sees renewed activity in May

In May, the seasonally adjusted value of residential construction permits in Canada rose 8.2% to \$1.272 billion, the first such increase in three months. Renewed activity in multi-family dwelling construction projects was the primary reason for the increase. Growth in the construction of multi-family dwellings, which account for approximately 30% of the value of projected residential construction, rose by 32.5% to \$389 million between April and May. Growth in construction of single-family dwellings, which account for more than 70% of overall residential construction activity, rose only slightly between April and May. Growth in residential construction has been picking up since mid-1995.
(Statistics Canada Daily, 08/07/96)

Upswing in non-residential construction in May

Compared with April, the seasonally adjusted value of non-residential construction permits in Canada climbed 26.2% in May to its highest level since August 1995. An upswing in activity in each of the three non-residential construction sectors accounted for the increase. Growth rose by 21.1% to \$501 million in the commercial sector, 40.8% to \$240 million in the industrial sector and 24.2% to \$238 million in the institutional sector. Despite this fourth monthly increase during the first five months of 1996, the value of non-residential construction permits is 13.2% lower than the figure for May 1995.
(Statistics Canada Daily, 08/07/96)

Prices of new dwellings continue to fall

In line with a trend towards lower prices that began in June 1994, prices of new dwellings in Canada fell by 2.5% in May 1996, compared with May 1995. Excess supply and fierce competition in the market appear to be the main reasons for the drop. (Statistics Canada Daily, 11/07/96)

Deliveries of manufactured goods hit a new record

In May 1996, the total value of deliveries by manufacturing industries increased by 1.8%, compared with April. A new record of \$33.2 billion was set, surpassing the August 1995 record of \$33 billion. The number of deliveries was up generally in 15 of the 22 major groups of industries that account for 73.6% of all deliveries. (Statistics Canada Daily, 16/07/96)

Slight increase in unfilled orders

Unfilled orders, the preferred indicator of future deliveries of manufactured goods, increased by 1.7% in May to \$34.2 billion. Following the all-time record set in April 1995, unfilled orders declined sharply at the end of 1995 and have followed an up-and-down pattern since early 1996. (Statistics Canada Daily, 16/07/96)

More and more overseas travellers choose Canada

Another record was set in May 1996, this time for trips to Canada by travellers from overseas (outside the United States), of whom 378,000 stayed for one night or more. The number of overseas visitors has increased 56% in a four-year period and their high numbers confirm an upward trend observable since mid-1992. In May, overseas visitors accounted for 26% of stays of one night or longer reported in Canada, compared with 17% in 1987. (Statistics Canada Daily, 17/07/96)

New record set for exports

In May, substantial growth in deliveries of automotive and natural resource products to the United States helped swell Canada's exports of goods by 2.9% to a record \$22.4 billion. The robust economy of Canada's major trade partner was seen as the major reason for the growth. In comparison, Canada's deliveries to all of its other trade partners declined during this period. (Statistics Canada Daily, 18/07/96)

Drop in Canada's imports

Canada's imports fell by 2.1 % to \$18.3 billion in May primarily because of faltering demand for machinery and consumer goods. Deliveries from exporters in the US and non-OECD member countries were proportionately lower than those from Canada's other trading partners. The decrease, however, was moderated by substantial imports of automotive and industrial products. (Statistics Canada Daily, 18/07/96)

Combination of factors leads to record trade surplus in May

In May, growth in exports and a fall-off in imports boosted the value of Canada's surplus on its merchandise trade balance to a record high of \$4.1 billion. The increase was generated solely by trade with the United States, given that Canada's net trade balance with other countries has fallen. Canada's trade balance from January to May 1996 was \$14.6 billion, compared with \$10.4 billion during the same period a year earlier. (Statistics Canada Daily, 18/07/96)

Retail trade at a standstill

In May, the value of retail trade across Canada remained virtually unchanged for the fourth month in a row and totalled \$17.8 billion. Increases were reported in four sectors out of seven accounting for 33% of total sales. In contrast to sustained growth in 1992, 1993 and 1994, the growth trend has been flat since mid 1995 (Statistics Canada Daily, 19/07/96)

Growth in wholesale trade

A fifth consecutive month of growth was posted in wholesale trade in May 1996 with sales increasing by 1.5% to \$21.1 billion. The May increase was generated by gains reported in three groups that accounted for nearly 30% of total sales, ie computers, software and other electronic equipment (+9.5%), lumber and building materials (+2.7%) and motor vehicles, parts and accessories (+2.4%). (Statistics Canada Daily, 22/07/96)

Composite index continues upward trend in June

There was upward movement in six of the ten components of the Statistics Canada leading indicator in June, causing the indicator to rise by 0.5% compared with May 1996. The June increase paralleled other monthly increases reported since the beginning of the year.

(Statistics Canada Daily 23/07/96)

Foreign investors clearly prefer Canadian stocks

In May 1996, there was almost no net foreign investment in securities. Foreign investors invested a record \$2.4 billion during the month to buy Canadian stocks, but sold off an equal amount of Canadian money market instruments. These movements of capital were largely attributable to the healthy performance of the Canadian stock market and falling short-term interest rate differentials that favoured investment in the United States. (Statistics Canada Daily, 24/07/96)

Revised outlook for public and private-sector investments in 1996

In 1996, governments and the private sector will likely spend \$99.7 billion (+2.2 %) on plant and equipment and \$29.1 billion (-4.3%) on accommodation for a total investment in capital assets of \$128.8 billion, 0.6% more than in 1995. The revised forecast by Statistics Canada is more optimistic than that of February 1996, when only a \$126-billion investment in capital assets was predicted for the current year.

Across Canada, industrial sectors such as logging and forestry, retail trade, real estate services, and accommodation and food and beverage services will all see investment decrease by more than 15%. However, the largest gains, compared with 1995, will occur in manufacturing and finance and insurance industries, where increases will be higher than 15%. It should be noted that these two bullish sectors alone account for 28.4% of total investment in capital assets for the year whereas the four bearish sectors mentioned above represent only 5.1% of investment in capital assets.

In contrast to the 2.0% increase forecast for Canada as a whole, capital expenditures will be lower in Quebec in 1996 than they were in 1995. They totalled \$25.46 billion in 1995 and will decrease by 2.0% in 1996 to \$24.96 billion. However, the decrease will not be distributed equally among the two main components of capital expenditures. From 1995 to 1996, capital expenditures on construction fell by 5.7% to \$14.19 billion while expenditures on machinery and equipment increased by 3.3% to \$10.77 billion.

The sharpest decrease in Quebec occurred in the accommodation and food and beverage services sector where a drop of 57.9% was reported. In sectors such as retail trade (-34.6%), real estate (31.5%), forestry industries (-22.9%) and other service industries (-15.1%), capital expenditures will fall by more than 15%. Other sectors, however, such as mining, quarrying and oil drilling (+22.2%), finance and insurance (+18.8%), health and social services (+18.7%) and manufacturing industries (+10.0%) will see hefty increases in capital expenditures. Investment in capital expenditures will remain stable for the most part in the transportation and storage (-0.3%) and wholesale trade (+1.6%) sectors, which posted fluctuations of less than 2.0% between 1995 and 1996.

(Statistics Canada Daily, 24/07/96)

Little change expected on the economic front

The Royal Bank of Canada predicts that the recent performance of the Canadian economy will continue to the end of 1996 and throughout 1997. Strong net exports are likely to offset weak domestic demand and generate moderate economic growth. Inflation is expected to hold steady at an average 1.6% in 1996 and 1.5% in 1997. A relatively weak dollar and a healthy American economy will help boost Canada's exports.

(Royal Bank Economic Outlook, 08/07/96)

REGIONAL REVIEW

ISLAND OF MONTREAL

	July 1996	June 1996	May 1996	July 1995	Month-Over-Month Change	Year-Over-Year Change
<i>Jobs</i>	775	769	766	773	0.8	0.3
<i>Unemployed</i>	116	112	113	115	3.6	0.9
<i>Labour force</i>	891	881	879	888	1.1	0.3
<i>Unemployment rate</i>	13.0	12.7	12.8	13.0	2.4	0.0

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

In thousands; unemployment rates and changes in percentages

Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average

62 jobs lost at Côte St Luc railway repair shops

The St Lawrence and Hudson Railway division of CP Rail plans to abolish 30 jobs in the Côte St Luc repair shops and transfer 32 jobs to Toronto. The 62 jobs will be lost because CP rolling stock is being converted to GM vehicles, which are maintained in Toronto, and older MLW models, which were maintained at the Côte St Luc yards, are being withdrawn from service.

(Le Devoir, 03/07/96)

DuMaurier Stadium, formerly Jarry Stadium, opens

The new open-air amphitheatre, which required an investment of \$24 million, has a 10,500-seat capacity and can accommodate sports and cultural events. The federal and provincial governments each contributed \$8 million, the City of Montreal invested \$4 million, and Tennis Canada obtained funding assistance from DuMaurier (\$3 million), the Laurentian Bank and Bell Canada.

(La Presse, The Gazette, 05/07/96)

Close to \$1 billion for telecommunications

Microcell consortium has more than \$810 million to invest in setting up a personal communications services network (PCS), which will likely become the next generation of cellular telephony. With the new digital technology, it will be possible to transmit many kinds of data, such as images, in addition to voice. Microcell currently employs 200 people and plans to increase this number to 350 by the end of the year.

(Le Journal de Montreal, 05/07/96)

A hundred jobs cut at Discreet Logic

The Montreal firm Discreet Logic will radically trim its staff after experiencing an upset in the stock market. It will be 28% smaller after approximately 100 jobs are cut. The computer imaging firm is also planning to consolidate its research and development activities in Montreal and close several offices abroad.

(Le Devoir, 31/07/96)

Renaud Bray rescued by the Fonds de Solidarité

A majority of the creditors of Montreal bookshop owner Renaud Bray have agreed to allow the FTQ solidarity fund to invest \$1.7 million in the company and own 49% of the shares. The company, under the protection of the Bankruptcy Act since March 1996, will now be able to preserve 150 jobs, of which 75 are permanent. (Le Devoir, 18/07/96)

Dominion Bridge hiring

The workforce at the Dominion Bridge factory in Lachine will soon number 276 employees, up from the initial 237. The company has called 53 employees, laid off during the Christmas holidays, back to work and is currently hiring 39 new welders and assemblers. The factory has a full order book and most departments operate 24 hours per day. (La Presse, 12/07/96)

Maintenance work on six Airbus 340s will be done in Montreal

Air Canada has announced that maintenance work on six Airbus 340 airliners, which it will acquire next year, will be done in Montreal. After a decision was made in 1991 to have maintenance work on 35 Airbus 319s and 35 Airbus 320s done at the Winnipeg centre, the Montreal shop was forced to trim 500 employees from its workforce when the DC-9 maintenance contract with Northwest Airlines expired. (La Presse, 11/07/96)

ABITIBI - TÉMISCAMINGUE

	July 1996	June 1996	May 1996	July 1995	Month-Over-Month Change	Year-Over-Year Change
<i>Jobs</i>	68	65	63	68	4.6	0.0
<i>Unemployed</i>	8	8	8	9	0.0	-11.1
<i>Labour force</i>	76	73	71	77	4.1	-1.3
<i>Unemployment rate</i>	10.6	11.1	11.5	11.9	-4.5	-10.9

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

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

Drinking water reservoir in Senneterre

A drinking water reservoir will soon be built in Senneterre at a cost of \$3 million. The project will also involve installation of three kilometres of water mains. Work will begin in September after a call for tenders in August. (Constructo, 03/07/96)

LOWER ST LAWRENCE

	July 1996	June 1996	May 1996	July 1995	Month-Over-Month Change	Year-Over-Year Change
<i>Jobs</i>	84	81	78	89	3.7	-5.6
<i>Unemployed</i>	12	11	12	13	9.1	-7.7
<i>Labour force</i>	96	92	90	102	4.3	-5.9
<i>Unemployment rate</i>	12.9	12.4	13.5	12.8	4.0	0.8

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

\$6 million for Matane pulp and paper plant

In order to cope more effectively with sagging international wood pulp prices, the Matane pulp and paper plant will require a \$3-million investment from Donohue Inc and an equal amount from the crown corporation Rexfor. Since reopening the plant in spring 1995, the two partners have invested \$42 million to keep the facility in operation. (La Voix Gaspésienne, 17/07/96)

Project to build a small power station near Rimouski

A small hydroelectric power station will likely be built on the site of a former Price Brothers dam seven kilometres south west of Rimouski. Boralex Inc, a division of Cascades Energy Inc, has already obtained the necessary authorizations and should start work on the \$6-million project in August and complete it the following summer. The facility will channel electricity to the St Odile transformer station, where it will be purchased by Hydro Quebec at 4.5 cents per kilowatt hour. (Le Soleil, 03/07/96)

New lumber processing mill at Dégelis

Groupe GDS Inc, already the owner of eight plants, is currently building another one at Dégelis at an approximate cost of \$2 million. The first phase will probably be completed by the end of the year and lead to the creation of 20 to 25 jobs. The mill will have three main production lines. Plans are in the works to introduce wood drying and laminating facilities during a second phase, which would begin in 1997 and involve a \$4-million investment. (Le Touladi, 07/07/96)

CHAUDIÈRE - APPALACHES

	July 1996	June 1996	May 1996	July 1995	Month-Over-Month Change	Year-Over-Year Change
<i>Jobs</i>	185	181	175	184	2.2	0.5
<i>Unemployed</i>	12	13	15	12	-7.7	0.0
<i>Labour force</i>	197	194	190	196	1.5	0.5
<i>Unemployment rate</i>	6.0	6.8	8.0	6.0	-11.8	0.0

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

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

Les Concassés du Québec will go into production shortly

Three young Beauce businessmen will soon begin operating a \$1-million mobile ore-crushing mill. The high-tech mobile mill will be used to extract minerals at each of the region's five quarries located in Beauceville, La Guadeloupe, Lambton, St Georges and Coleraine. The equipment, purchased as 30-year term fixed assets, has created jobs for ten workers. (Le Soleil, 03/07/96)

British Canadian mine reopens at Black Lake

The Black Lake region was dealt a severe blow when it lost the Magnola Inc megaproject to Asbestos, but its economy will now get a significant boost when the British Canadian mine reopens. In total, 310 workers will return to their old jobs, \$20 million in wages will be injected into the region's economy, and no fewer than 1,000 indirect jobs will be created. (Le Soleil, 08/07/96)

Repairs to several bridges

Highway bridge repair work will be carried out at several locations in the region in summer 1996 at a total cost of close to \$1 million. Three bridges in St Luc will be repaired as well as the Harper bridge in St Malachie. Work will also be carried out on two bridges in St Claire and one in St Vallier. (Constructo, 09/07/96)

NORTH SHORE

	July 1996	June 1996	May 1996	July 1995	Month-Over-Month Change	Year-Over-Year Change
<i>Jobs</i>	57	57	57	61	0.0	-6.6
<i>Unemployed</i>	10	10	10	7	0.0	42.9
<i>Labour force</i>	67	67	67	68	0.0	-1.5
<i>Unemployment rate</i>	14.5	14.3	15.6	10.3	1.4	40.8

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

\$7-million investment at Havre St Pierre

Havre St Pierre's wastewater treatment project will involve construction of three aeration ponds, interception work, repairs to the existing sewer network and various municipal work. The \$7-million project is expected to begin in 1997 or 1998. (Constructo, 03/07/96)

ESTRIE

	July 1996	June 1996	May 1996	July 1995	Month-Over-Month Change	Year-Over-Year Change
<i>Jobs</i>	122	119	119	126	2.5	-3.2
<i>Unemployed</i>	13	12	11	13	8.3	0.0
<i>Labour force</i>	135	131	130	139	3.1	-2.9
<i>Unemployment rate</i>	9.3	9.1	8.7	9.2	2.2	1.1

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

A new distribution centre may be built in Magog

Groupe Goyette Inc is currently studying a project to build a distribution centre in Magog's industrial park. The \$2-million facility would specialize in intermodal transportation, storage and transshipment. The project includes construction of a warehouse and rail services to link the building to the Canadian Pacific rail line. (Constructo, 12/07/96)

GASPÉ - MAGDALEN ISLANDS

	July 1996	June 1996	May 1996	July 1995	Month-Over-Month Change	Year-Over-Year Change
<i>Jobs</i>	35	30	27	35	16.7	0.0
<i>Unemployed</i>	7	7	7	8	0.0	-12.5
<i>Labour force</i>	42	37	34	43	13.5	-2.3
<i>Unemployment rate</i>	16.5	19.1	21.3	19.5	-13.6	-15.4

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

Bonaventure Bioparc will open a year from now

After several years of negotiations, the Bioparc de la Gaspésie in Bonaventure is at last being built. Beginning in late June 1997 and under the supervision of Corporation de Bioparc, the facility will allow visitors to view 45 animal species in typical Gaspé region ecosystems. Of the \$3.1 million required for the project, \$2.5 million was provided by the federal and provincial governments, \$350,000 by the private sector and \$300,000 by the municipality. (Le Soleil, 06/07/96)

Another investment in Murdochville by Noranda Group

After announcing the start-up of a \$35-million project to modernize its copper mine in Murdochville, Noranda Group is planning to invest another \$38 million in two projects. The first involves construction of a third converter and the purchase of slag-processing equipment (\$28.5 million), while in the second project, a new deposit will be mined at a cost of \$10 million. (Le Soleil, 19/07/96)

\$3.5 million for infrastructure in Havre aux Maisons

A total of \$3.5 million will be invested in construction of a residential sewage system (\$1.8 million) and in a water purification project (\$1.7 million) in Havre aux Maisons. The municipality will receive \$2.7 million in funding from the Quebec government to carry out the work. (Constructo, 09/07/96)

LANAUDIÈRE

	July 1996	June 1996	May 1996	July 1995	Month-Over-Month Change	Year-Over-Year Change
<i>Jobs</i>	171	167	164	176	2.4	-2.8
<i>Unemployed</i>	25	25	26	17	0.0	47.1
<i>Labour force</i>	196	192	190	193	2.1	1.6
<i>Unemployment rate</i>	12.9	12.9	13.8	8.7	0.0	48.3

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

CDERJ issues a glowing report for 1995

The Corporation de Développement Économique de la Région de Joliette (CDERJ) had an excellent year in 1995. The economic development corporation's investments in the industry, trade, tourism and professional service sectors totalled \$26.7 million. The organization helped launch several manufacturing firms, which alone have created 168 jobs in the Joliette RCM manufacturing sector. (L'Expression de Lanaudière, 30/06/96)

95 new companies set up under the Paillé Plan

In a 17-month period, 95 new businesses have sprouted up in Terrebonne county as a result of a business start-up plan called the Paillé Plan. Since its introduction in December 1994, the program of provincial government loan guarantees has generated investments totalling \$8.4 million in Terrebonne and Lachenaie. (Le Revue, 16/07/96)

Major infrastructure work in Repentigny

A total of \$7.5 million in projects announced by the City of Repentigny will receive \$4.7 million in funding under the Canada-Quebec infrastructure program. The federal and provincial governments will each contribute \$2.4 million and the municipality will absorb residual costs of \$2.8 million. Work will be carried out on sewage and water systems and at three water chlorination plants. (L'Artisan, 09/07/96)

LAURENTIANS

	July 1996	June 1996	May 1996	July 1995	Month-Over-Month Change	Year-Over-Year Change
<i>Jobs</i>	217	218	217	204	-0.5	6.4
<i>Unemployed</i>	22	21	22	23	4.8	-4.3
<i>Labour force</i>	239	239	239	227	0.0	5.3
<i>Unemployment rate</i>	9.2	8.7	9.4	10.3	5.7	-10.7

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

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

Hubert-Maisonneuve centre in Rosemere will be extended

Beginning in September, work is expected to begin at the Drapeau Deschambeault residential and extended care centre (CHSLD) to extend and renovate the Hubert-Maisonneuve centre at a cost of \$4.5 million. Other changes at the institution will increase total investment to \$7 million or \$8 million. The main project involves construction of two wings, which will increase the capacity of the facility to 154 beds by the end of March 1997. (Constructo, 30/07/96)

New schedule for St Jerome courthouse

A proposal by the Société Immobilière du Québec recommends that one less storey than planned of the new St Jerome courthouse be built in order to save \$3.2 million. The initiative arises from a budget review that trimmed the budget from \$24.5 million to \$21.3 million. The surface area of the new facility will be reduced from 12,068 to 10,630 square metres. Work under the new schedule is only expected to begin in spring 1997 and finish in December 1998. (Constructo, 24/07/96)

\$9-million infrastructure project in Bois des Filion

The town of Bois des Filion's wastewater treatment project will require an overhaul of the treatment system at Terrebonne's water purification plant and installation of a force main at a total cost of \$9 million. Work is expected to begin during summer 1997. (Constructo, 12/07/96)

LAVAL

	July 1996	June 1996	May 1996	July 1995	Month-Over-Month Change	Year-Over-Year Change
<i>Jobs</i>	160	159	156	164	0.6	-2.4
<i>Unemployed</i>	20	21	21	20	-4.8	0.0
<i>Labour force</i>	180	180	177	184	0.0	-2.2
<i>Unemployment rate</i>	10.9	11.5	11.7	10.9	-5.2	0.0

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

New corporate centre in Laval

A 438,000-square-foot corporate centre specially designed to meet the needs of pharmaceutical and biotechnology firms will open shortly in Laval. The site, built at a cost of \$30 million by Syscomax Inc, will be known as Technoval and provide several companies with a total of 193,000 square feet of space in six buildings. Each occupant will be linked to the others through sharing of infrastructures such as laboratories. (La Presse, 15/07/96)

Sonoco Inc closes

The industrial packaging firm Sonoco Inc shut down operations on August 16, causing the loss of 25 jobs at its facilities in Laval. North American production will be consolidated at the company's six American plants and one Mexican plant. (La Presse, 04/07/96)

ESP International moves to Laval Technopôle industrial park

ESP International Inc is setting up operations in Laval and will invest a total of \$2 million to develop uses for recycled plastic. The company is Quebec's largest plastic recycler and will build a new 2,500-square metre plant to increase and diversify its production. (La Presse, 05/07/96)

Laval reports a budget surplus

In its 1995 financial statements, the City of Laval reported a \$7.4-million surplus on a budget of \$425.8-million. The surplus for the fiscal year ending December 1995 was slightly greater than the \$4.9-million surplus reported in 1994 but equalled that of 1993. The city reported \$710.5 million of bonded debt in 1995, \$23.7 million lower than in the 1994 fiscal year. (Nouvelles Chomedey, 06/07/96)

MAURICIE - BOIS FRANCS

	July 1996	June 1996	May 1996	July 1995	Month-Over-Month Change	Year-Over-Year Change
<i>Jobs</i>	207	204	198	224	1.5	-7.6
<i>Unemployed</i>	23	23	25	20	0.0	15.0
<i>Labour force</i>	230	227	223	224	1.3	-5.7
<i>Unemployment rate</i>	10.2	10.2	11.4	8.4	0.0	21.4

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

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

Small power station opens in St Paulin

At Chutes à Magnan, a small power station close to the Le Baluchon tourist site has been officially opened by Inergex Inc. The \$12.4-million investment was raised entirely in the private-sector and will generate an average yearly production of 4.5 megawatts of electricity. (Le Nouvelliste, 28/06/96)

\$20-million investment at Norsk Hydro

Magnesium producer Norsk Hydro will invest \$20 million at its plant in Bécancour and thus add 30 permanent employees to its workforce. The first project will involve construction of a new alloy ingot flow line with a 15,000-metric-tonne yearly capacity. During the second project, ways will be found to refine and recycle production residues so that only 20% of original residues will be buried as hazardous material. (Le Nouvelliste, 13/07/96)

\$9.5 million for Hôpital Sainte-Croix

Plans and specifications are currently being drawn up for a large-scale project at Hôpital Sainte-Croix in Drummondville. Work could begin in May 1997. An investment of \$9.5 million will be used to reorganize a number of services and extend the emergency and surgery departments. Project plans also include the addition of 918 square metres of space to three floors and hospital security-related improvements. (Constructo, 17/07/96)

MONTÉRÉGIE

	July 1996	June 1996	May 1996	July 1995	Month-Over-Month Change	Year-Over-Year Change
<i>Jobs</i>	640	627	612	636	2.1	0.6
<i>Unemployed</i>	66	66	69	56	0.0	17.9
<i>Labour force</i>	706	693	681	692	1.9	2.0
<i>Unemployment rate</i>	9.3	9.5	10.1	8.1	-2.1	14.8

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

St Jean military base will be as busy as it was ten years ago

Beginning this summer, usage rates for facilities at Canadian Forces Base St Jean will likely reach 75% or 85%. St Jean will become home to the training school for officer cadets, formerly located in Chilliwack, BC, and the Leadership and Specialized Training Centre currently located in Borden, Ont. In addition, relocation of the Air Cadets' Gliding School to St Jean airport adjacent to the Base will push usage rates up to 100% during the summer. (Le Canada Français, 15/06/96)

Finepasta Inc expanding its operations in Candiac

Finepasta Inc is planning to set up a dry pasta manufacturing plant in Candiac by October at a total cost of \$24.9 million. The company plans to refit the former Dalton plant and install three production lines. Later in 1997, it will add a fourth assembly line and a \$12-million mill to its facilities. Both levels of government have authorized \$1.5 million in repayable funding. (Constructo, 30/07/96)

\$27.6-million investment at Sabex Inc

Sabex Inc is planning a major project to extend and modernize its plant in Boucherville. Under the Canada-Quebec Subsidiary Agreement, \$2.8 million of repayable funding will be invested in the project, the completion date of which is still to be decided. (Constructo, 17/07/96)

Extensions will be built to two of the region's CHSLDs in 1997

Two residential and extended care centres (CHSLDs) will each receive funding of between \$2.5 million and \$3 million to add 32 beds to their respective capacities. Work at these institutions in Varennes and Boucherville is expected to begin in fall 1997. (Constructo, 17/07/96)

NORTHERN QUEBEC

Official opening of Gonzague Langlois mine

The mining company Cambior Inc has changed the name of the former Grevet mine in Lebel sur Quévillon to Gonzague Langlois mine after investing \$115 million to develop the site. The mine currently has 11 million tonnes of ore reserves, which will keep it in operation for approximately 12 years. Commercial production, which began during the first quarter of 1996, will employ 200 workers and inject \$10 million in wages every year into the region's economy. (L'Écho, 25/06/96)

OUTAOUAIS

	July 1996	June 1996	May 1996	July 1995	Month-Over-Month Change	Year-Over-Year Change
<i>Jobs</i>	154	151	149	151	2.0	2.0
<i>Unemployed</i>	19	18	18	17	5.6	11.8
<i>Labour force</i>	173	169	167	168	2.4	3.0
<i>Unemployment rate</i>	10.8	10.7	11.0	10.0	0.9	8.0

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

In thousands; unemployment rates and changes in percentages

Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average

New \$100-million plant in Bois Franc

Groupe Forex Inc in Val d'Or will invest more than \$100 million to build a laminated particleboard factory in Bois Franc near Maniwaki. Forex Maniwaki Inc, a new subsidiary, will oversee construction of the plant, which will be completed in May 1997 and create 150 plant and 200 forestry jobs when it begins operating. The facility will have a particleboard capacity of 450,000 metres and will primarily target the Asian market. (La Presse, 05/07/96)

\$6.1 million for Gatineau infrastructure

Major projects under the Canada-Quebec infrastructure program will be launched in Gatineau. Objectives of the projects include replacing sections of water mains and sewers in various streets of the municipality. (La Revue de Gatineau, 24/07/96)

QUEBEC CITY

	July 1996	June 1996	May 1996	July 1995	Month-Over-Month Change	Year-Over-Year Change
<i>Jobs</i>	303	301	296	288	0.7	5.2
<i>Unemployed</i>	39	38	38	35	2.6	11.4
<i>Labour force</i>	342	339	334	323	0.9	5.9
<i>Unemployment rate</i>	11.5	11.3	11.5	10.9	1.8	5.5

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

Inauguration of the François Bernier concert hall

The new concert hall at Domaine Forget in St Irénée has been inaugurated as the François Bernier concert hall in honour of the institution's founder. The 600-seat facility was built with the help of \$1-million in donations as well as \$6.7 million in funding from the federal and provincial governments.
 (Le Soleil, 29/07/96)

\$6-million project at CFB Valcartier

Three infrastructure projects worth \$6 million are currently under way at Canadian Forces Base Valcartier. The money will be used to build a facility to house four specialized combat vehicles as well as two buildings to store 20 armoured vehicles. Construction has already begun and should continue until December 1996.
 (L'Actuel, 14/07/96)

Adélar Laberge Ltd in danger of closing

After being in business for 73 years, Adélar Laberge Ltée - Plomberie et Électricité is currently under the protection of the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act and planning to submit a proposal to its creditors shortly. On average in recent years, the family-owned business employed 200 workers and as many as 500 in the past. Now only 25 employees remain to finish up the company's final contracts.
 (Le Journal de Québec, 28/06/96)

SAGUENAY - LAC ST JEAN

	July 1996	June 1996	May 1996	July 1995	Month-Over-Month Change	Year-Over-Year Change
<i>Jobs</i>	117	116	113	120	0.9	-2.5
<i>Unemployed</i>	18	18	19	17	0.0	5.9
<i>Labour force</i>	135	134	132	137	0.7	-1.5
<i>Unemployment rate</i>	13.2	13.3	14.1	12.4	-0.8	6.5

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

In thousands; unemployment rates and changes in percentages

Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average

Floods cause job losses

Forestry and paper industries have been severely affected by floods hitting the region. Temporary layoffs included 2,000 workers at Abitibi-Price, Cascades and Stone Consolidated. The tourism industry was also affected although the full impact on employment in this sector will only be known in the more distant future. (Le Grand Journal, TQS, 26/07/96)

Official opening of the Parc de la Rivière aux Sables

On June 28, 1996, the City of Jonquière officially opened the Parc de la Rivière aux Sables. The public park includes walkways, fountains, playgrounds, and a concert hall. The project, made possible under the Canada-Quebec infrastructure program, involved a \$2.1-million investment and created approximately 50 jobs. (TVA Régional, Chicoutimi, 28/06/96)

New Uniboard Inc plant in La Baie

Uniboard Inc will build a new medium-density particleboard manufacturing plant in La Baie's new industrial park. Construction required in the \$120-million project will create 145 jobs. Subsequent production at the 220,000-cubic metre facility is expected to create 100 direct and 100 indirect jobs. (Le Soleil, 10/07/96)

LABOUR FORCE DATA
BY PROVINCE
(Seasonally adjusted data)

Province	Jobs					Unemployment rate				
	July 96	June 96	July 95	Change July 96 / June 96	Change July 96 / July 95	July 96	June 96	July 95	Change July 96 / June 96	Change July 96 / July 95
Newfoundland	192	188	194	4	-2	18.6	20.7	18.8	-2.1	-0.2
Prince Edward Island	60	59	58	1	2	14.5	15.1	15.3	-0.6	-0.8
Nova Scotia	381	388	384	-7	-3	12.2	12.4	12.7	-0.2	-0.5
New Brunswick	318	315	315	3	3	11.4	11.3	11.0	0.1	0.4
Quebec	3,167	3,202	3,194	-35	-27	12.4	11.8	11.1	0.6	1.3
Ontario	5,309	5,278	5,220	31	89	9.2	9.5	9.2	-0.3	0.0
Manitoba	521	519	526	2	-5	8.1	8.0	7.2	0.1	0.9
Saskatchewan	462	461	457	1	5	7.0	7.2	7.5	-0.2	-0.5
Alberta	1,420	1,408	1,371	12	49	6.8	7.4	8.0	-0.6	-1.2
British Columbia	1,814	1,798	1,766	16	48	8.1	8.7	9.0	-0.6	-0.9
Canada	13,641	13,622	13,488	19	153	9.8	10.0	9.7	-0.2	0.1
Provinces	Unemployed					Job/population ratio				
	July 96	June 96	July 95	Change July 96 / June 96	Change July 96 / July 95	July 96	June 96	July 95	Change July 96 / June 96	Change July 96 / July 95
Newfoundland	44	49	45	56	-1	42.5	41.6	42.6	0.9	-0.1
Prince Edward Island	10	11	11	-1	-1	55.9	55.8	55.7	0.1	0.2
Nova Scotia	53	55	56	-2	-3	51.8	52.8	52.5	-1.0	-0.7
New Brunswick	41	40	39	1	2	53.0	52.5	52.7	0.5	0.3
Quebec	448	427	400	21	48	53.9	54.6	55.0	-0.7	-1.1
Ontario	536	554	530	-18	6	60.0	59.7	59.8	0.3	0.2
Manitoba	46	45	41	1	5	60.9	60.7	61.8	0.2	-0.9
Saskatchewan	35	36	37	-1	-2	61.4	61.3	61.0	0.1	0.4
Alberta	103	113	119	-10	-16	67.4	66.9	66.3	0.5	1.1
British Columbia	160	172	175	-12	-15	59.9	59.5	59.9	0.4	0.0
Canada	1,488	1,510	1,449	-22	39	58.4	58.4	58.5	0.0	-0.1

Jobs in thousands; unemployment rates in percentages
Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

Prepared by Léonel Plasse, Analysis and Partnership

LABOUR FORCE DATA
BY METROPOLITAN REGION
(Seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average)

Metropolitan region	Jobs					Unemployment rate				
	July 96	June 96	July 95	Change July 96 / June 96	Change July 96 / July 95	July 96	June 96	July 95	Change July 96 / June 96	Change July 96 / July 95
Halifax	168	166	165	2	3	8.0	8.9	9.8	-0.9	-1.8
Chicoutimi- Jonquière	64	65	62	-1	2	14.5	14.7	14.9	-0.2	-0.4
Quebec City	329	333	316	-4	13	10.1	9.6	9.2	0.5	0.9
Montreal	1,555	1,568	1,536	-13	19	11.9	11.5	11.3	0.4	0.6
Trois Rivières	64	65	63	-1	1	10.9	10.4	11.3	0.5	-0.4
Sherbrooke	66	67	64	-1	2	11.5	11.4	11.2	0.1	0.3
Ottawa-Hull	524	518	511	6	13	8.2	8.5	10.2	-0.3	-2.0
Toronto	2,139	2,140	2,111	-1	28	9.7	9.5	8.9	0.2	0.8
Winnipeg	345	346	346	-1	-1	9.1	8.6	7.9	0.5	1.2
Calgary	455	453	431	2	24	7.1	7.1	8.0	0.0	-0.9
Vancouver	931	930	899	1	32	7.5	7.4	8.7	0.1	-1.2
Metropolitan region	Unemployed					Job/population ratio				
	July 96	June 96	July 95	Change July 96 / June 96	Change July 96 / July 95	July 96	June 96	July 95	Change July 96 / June 96	Change July 96 / July 95
Halifax	15	16	18	-1	-3	62.1	61.6	61.5	0.5	0.6
Chicoutimi- Jonquière	11	11	11	0	0	48.3	48.7	46.9	-0.4	1.4
Quebec City	37	35	32	2	5	57.5	58.2	55.9	-0.7	1.6
Montreal	210	203	195	7	15	56.3	56.8	56.2	-0.5	0.1
Trois Rivières	8	8	8	0	0	54.0	54.9	54.0	-0.9	0.0
Sherbrooke	9	9	8	0	1	55.0	55.1	53.2	-0.1	1.8
Ottawa-Hull	47	48	58	-1	-11	61.4	60.8	61.1	0.6	0.3
Toronto	229	225	205	4	24	60.9	61.0	61.3	-0.1	-0.4
Winnipeg	34	33	30	1	4	61.6	61.7	62.1	-0.1	-0.5
Calgary	35	35	37	0	-2	69.4	69.3	67.4	0.1	2.0
Vancouver	76	74	86	2	-10	61.4	61.5	60.9	-0.1	0.5

Jobs in thousands; unemployment rates in percentages
Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

Prepared by Léonel Plasse, Analysis and Partnership

LABOUR FORCE DATA BY ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

(Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average)

Administrative region	Jobs					Unemployment rate				
	July 96	June 96	July 95	Change July 96 / June 96	Change July 96 / July 95	July 96	June 96	July 95	Change July 96 / June 96	Change July 96 / July 95
Gaspé-Magdalen Islands	35	30	35	5	0	16.5	19.1	19.5	-2.6	-3.0
Lower St Lawrence	84	81	89	3	-5	12.9	12.4	12.8	0.5	0.1
Quebec City	303	301	288	2	15	11.5	11.3	10.9	0.2	0.6
Chaudière-Appalaches	185	181	184	4	1	6.0	6.8	6.0	-0.8	0.0
Estrie	122	119	126	3	-4	9.3	9.1	9.2	0.2	0.1
Montréal	640	627	636	13	4	9.3	9.5	8.1	-0.2	1.2
Montreal	775	769	773	6	2	13.0	12.7	13.0	0.3	0.0
Laval	160	159	164	1	-4	10.9	11.5	10.9	-0.6	0.0
Lanaudière	171	167	176	4	-5	12.9	12.9	8.7	0.0	4.2
Laurentians	217	218	204	-1	13	9.2	8.7	10.3	0.5	-1.1
Outaouais	154	151	151	3	3	10.8	10.7	10.0	0.1	0.8
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	68	65	68	3	0	10.6	11.1	11.9	-0.5	-1.3
Mauricie/Bois Francs	207	204	224	3	-17	10.2	10.2	8.4	0.0	1.8
Saguenay/Lac St Jean	117	116	120	1	-3	13.2	13.3	12.4	-0.1	0.8
North Shore/Northern Quebec	57	57	61	0	-4	14.5	14.3	10.3	0.2	4.2
Province of Quebec	3,293	3,245	3,300	48	-7	11.0	11.0	10.4	0.0	0.6

Administrative region	Unemployed					Job/population ratio				
	July 96	June 96	July 95	Change July 96 / June 96	Change July 96 / July 95	July 96	June 96	July 95	Change July 96 / June 96	Change July 96 / July 95
Gaspé-Magdalen Islands	7	7	8	0	-1	41.3	36.5	41.7	4.8	-0.4
Lower St Lawrence	12	11	13	1	-1	51.1	49.2	54.5	1.9	-3.4
Quebec City	39	38	35	1	4	56.2	55.9	53.9	0.3	2.3
Chaudière-Appalaches	12	13	12	-1	0	61.0	59.7	61.7	1.3	-0.7
Estrie	13	12	13	1	0	54.8	53.8	57.2	1.0	-2.4
Montréal	66	66	56	0	10	61.5	60.4	62.3	1.1	-0.8
Montreal	116	112	115	4	1	52.4	51.9	52.3	0.5	0.1
Laval	20	21	20	-1	0	58.6	58.2	61.0	0.4	-2.4
Lanaudière	25	25	17	0	8	55.3	54.1	58.6	1.2	-3.3
Laurentians	22	21	23	1	-1	61.3	61.7	59.2	-0.4	2.1
Outaouais	19	18	17	1	2	60.2	59.2	60.2	1.0	0.0
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	8	8	9	0	-1	55.8	53.9	56.4	1.9	-0.6
Mauricie/Bois Francs	23	23	20	0	3	53.4	52.7	58.3	0.7	-4.9
Saguenay/Lac St Jean	18	18	17	0	1	50.6	50.0	52.7	0.6	-2.1
North Shore/Northern Quebec	10	10	7	0	3	54.3	54.7	58.7	-0.4	-4.4
Province of Quebec	409	403	383	6	26	56.1	55.3	56.9	0.8	-0.8

Jobs and unemployed in thousands; unemployment rates and job/population ratios in percentages

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

Prepared by Léonel Plasse, Analyst and Partnership

LABOUR FORCE DATA
FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME JOBS AND EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR
 (Non-seasonally adjusted data)

Province	Full-Time Jobs					Part-Time Jobs				
	July 96	June 96	July 95	Change July 96 / June 96	Change July 96 / July 95	July 96	June 96	July 95	Change July 96 / June 96	Change July 96 / July 95
Newfoundland	189	165	187	24	2	30	30	32	0	-2
Prince Edward Island	57	55	56	2	1	8	10	8	-2	0
Nova Scotia	334	327	332	7	2	69	74	75	-5	-6
New Brunswick	293	282	292	11	1	48	55	45	-7	3
Quebec	2,826	2,756	2,876	70	-50	476	556	473	-80	3
Ontario	4,536	4,398	4,476	138	60	903	987	873	-84	30
Manitoba	444	427	450	17	-6	93	104	91	-11	2
Saskatchewan	392	380	382	12	10	85	96	91	-11	-6
Alberta	1,218	1,178	1,161	40	57	230	261	238	-31	-8
British Columbia	1,537	1,485	1,492	52	45	330	353	322	-23	8
Canada	11,825	11,452	11,703	373	122	2,273	2,526	2,247	-253	26

Sector	Employment by sector in Quebec				
	July 96	June 96	July 95	Change July 96 / June 96	Change July 96 / July 95
Agriculture	87	82	77	5	10
Other primary sectors	41	35	49	6	-8
Manufacturing sector	613	590	640	23	-27
Construction	150	155	167	-5	-17
Transport, communications, public services	232	236	257	-4	-25
Trade	550	539	571	11	-21
Finance, insurance and real estate	203	209	199	-6	4
Services	1,203	1,246	1,182	-43	21
Public administration	224	221	208	3	16
All sectors combined	3,302	3,312	3,349	-10	-47

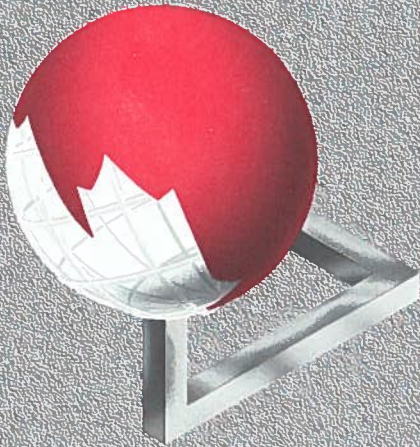
Jobs in thousands

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

Prepared by Léonel Plasse, Analysis and Partnership

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