



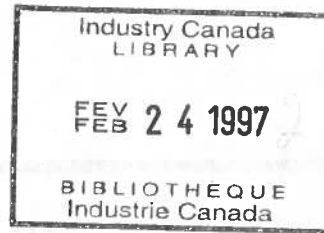
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THE FORD Q

**ECONOMIC UPDATE**

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Editors: Léonel Plasse  
André Bernard



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*Note to the reader: This month's Economic Update focuses on the **annual** labour market data for 1996, including a breakdown of the information by administrative region, metropolitan area and province. Analyses of **monthly** labour market data will appear in next month's issue.*

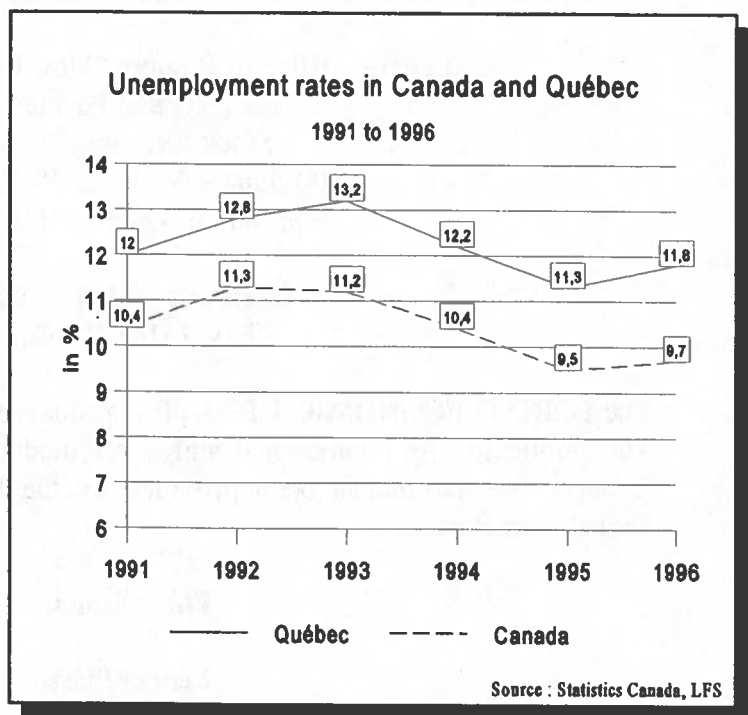
**Dismal year for job creation**

Quebec posted a slow rate of job creation in 1996. While 170,000 new jobs were created across Canada between 1995 and 1996, only 9,000 more jobs were created in Quebec. Ontario, by comparison, reported 80,000 new jobs in 1996, almost half of the Canadian total.

Between 1995 and 1996, Quebec's unemployment rate increased by 0.5 percentage points to 11.8%. The increase was partly attributable to the entry into the labour market of 22,000 more unemployed workers in 1996.

After Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, Quebec had the fourth highest unemployment rate in the country.

The employment situation in the Greater Montreal area reflected that of the province. The creation of 14,000 new jobs in 1996 was offset by the entry of 14,000 unemployed workers into the labour market. The unemployment rate for the Greater Montreal area was 11.9% in 1996, a 0.5 percentage point increase, compared with 1995. (Statistics Canada)



Federal Office of  
Regional Development  
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**Canada**

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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

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**The editor is:**

Léonel Plasse

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## Optimistic forecasts for 1997

Economists at Canada's leading financial institutions are predicting significant upturns in the Canadian and Quebec economies in 1997. They predict that Canada as a whole will post an economic growth rate of 3.2%, an unemployment rate of 9.2% and an inflation rate of 1.5%. Quebec will also see increased economic growth, but at 2.5%, it will be more modest than in the rest of the country. Quebec's projected unemployment rate will be 11.4% and its rate of inflation 1.6%.

According to economic analysts, the strength of the US economy will be a determining factor in Canada's stronger economic performance. Other factors will be the projected turnaround in the construction industry and strong performances by Quebec and Canadian export industries. However, the key factor will be the Bank of Canada's expansionist monetary policy, which is expected to have an impact by the middle of the year.

The following table lists economic performance data for Quebec, Canada, and the United States as forecast by Canada's leading financial institutions.

|                      | 1997 Economic Forecasts (in %)<br>Canadian Financial Institutions |              |           |        |              |           |               |              |           |
|----------------------|---|--------------|-----------|--------|--------------|-----------|---------------|--------------|-----------|
|                      | Quebec  |              |           | Canada |              |           | United States |              |           |
|                      | GDP   | Unemployment | Inflation | GDP    | Unemployment | Inflation | GDP           | Unemployment | Inflation |
| CIBC                 | ----  | ----         | ----      | 2.8    | 9.0          | 1.9       | 2.4           | 5.2          | 3.3       |
| Caisse Desjardins    | 2.6   | 11.3         | 1.6       | 3.5    | 9.6          | 1.3       | 3.0           | 5.4          | 3.7       |
| Laurentian Bank      | 1.9   | 11.8         | ----      | 3.3    | 9.2          | ----      | ----          | ----         | ----      |
| Bank of Montreal     | 2.5   | 11.3         | ----      | 3.4    | 8.7          | 1.0       | 2.1           | 5.5          | 3.2       |
| National Bank        | 2.9   | 10.8         | 1.7       | 3.4    | 9.0          | 1.6       | 2.2           | 5.6          | 3.2       |
| Royal Bank of Canada | 2.5   | 11.1         | 1.4       | 3.0    | 9.2          | 1.4       | 2.0           | 5.4          | 3.3       |
| Scotia Bank          |   | 11.8         | ----      | 3.1    | 9.4          | 1.8       | 2.6           | 5.1          | 3.2       |
| TD Bank              | ----  | ----         | ----      | 2.8    | 9.3          | 1.7       | 2.2           | 5.5          | 3.0       |
| 1997                 | 2.5   | 11.4         | 1.6       | 3.2    | 9.2          | 1.5       | 2.4           | 5.4          | 3.3       |
| 1996                 | 1.4   | 11.7         | 1.6       | 1.5    | 9.7          | 1.4       | 2.6           | 5.3          | 3.1       |
| 1995                 | 1.8   | 11.3         | 1.8       | 2.3    | 9.5          | 2.2       | 2.0           | 5.6          | 2.8       |

GDP: annual growth in %; Unemployment: Unemployment rates in %; Inflation: annual increases in %

Source: Journal Les Affaires, 14/12/96

### **Inflation still under control in Quebec**

The 1996 inflation rate was a modest 1.6% in Quebec and across Canada. Only two provinces, Alberta and Manitoba, had inflation rates above 2.0%. Quebec City and Montreal each reported inflation rates of 1.7% in 1996. (Statistics Canada)

### **Jean Coutu Group and Uniprix buy out Cumberland**

The Jean Coutu Group and Uniprix recently announced plans to acquire the Cumberland drugstore chain. The deal is expected to be completed by March 1997 after routine audits have been done. Cumberland's share of the Quebec market had been about 7% and the company was well established in the Eastern Townships and the western portion of the Island of Montreal. The drugstore chain had 53 outlets (two of them in Ontario) and employed 1,500 people. The purchase price was not disclosed. (Les Affaires, 11/1/97)

### **Quebec will have an ethanol plant by the end of the century**

Following the Quebec government's announcement that it would stop taxing ethanol as of January 1, 1999, the way now seems clear for the setting up of an ethanol plant in the province by the end of the century. The project promoter, Commercial Alcohols Inc, has stated that the plant could go into production in 1999. The project would generate economic spinoffs of some 95 direct and 300 indirect jobs. It will still be some time, however, before a decision is made on where to locate the plant. Sites in Montreal East and the Lanaudière region are being considered.

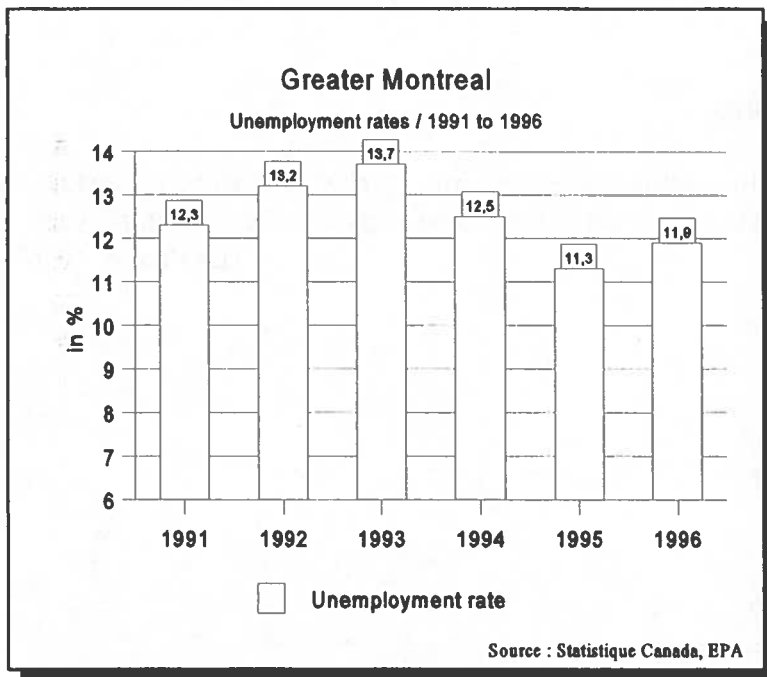
(La Terre de Chez Nous, 25/12/96)

# REGIONAL REVIEW

## ISLAND OF MONTREAL

|                          | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <i>Jobs</i>              | 804  | 783  | 785  | 788  | 765  | 761  |
| <i>Unemployed</i>        | 128  | 138  | 127  | 125  | 117  | 121  |
| <i>Labour force</i>      | 933  | 920  | 912  | 913  | 882  | 882  |
| <i>Unemployment rate</i> | 13.7 | 14.9 | 14.0 | 13.7 | 13.3 | 13.7 |

In thousands; unemployment rates in percentages  
 Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average  
 Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (LFS)



### Montreal suburbs post best results

After two years of consecutive decreases, the unemployment rate for the Greater Montreal area increased by 0.6 percentage points between 1995 and 1996. Since 1991, however, the area has seen a 0.4-percentage point decrease in unemployment.

The Greater Montreal area posted respectable figures for job creation. During the slump from 1993 to 1996, 70,000 new jobs were created.

Between 1995 and 1996, 14,000 jobs were created throughout the Greater Montreal area. While the suburbs surrounding the Island of Montreal posted the best figures for job creation, the employment level on the Island of Montreal itself fell by 4,000 jobs. Moreover, the Island of Montreal has lost 24,000 jobs since 1993. *(Note to the reader: The Island of Montreal area takes in the 29 municipalities comprising the Montreal Urban Community (MUC), whereas the Greater Montreal area takes in the Island of Montreal and suburban municipalities to the north and south, such as Laval and Longueuil).*

### **Bombardier wins \$825-million contract**

Bombardier Inc has announced the signing of an \$825-million agreement with Atlantic Southeast Airlines to build 30 Regional Jets. It is the most lucrative contract to date for the company's Regional Jet project. Construction of the planes at the Canadair facility in St Laurent employs 2,500 people.  
(Le Journal de Montréal, 8/1/97)

### **Martineau Provancher Inc bought by American interests**

The Montreal firm Martineau Provancher Inc has been bought in a major deal by the US corporation Aon Consulting Worldwide Inc. Martineau Provancher is a consulting firm specializing in actuarial services, human resources, fringe benefits, management of change, and pay and benefits. The company has no plans to abolish any of the 130 positions at its offices in Montreal, Quebec City and Toronto. It also believes the recent transaction will allow it to expand, mainly in Toronto.  
(Les Affaires, 11/1/97)

### **Sears transfers 40 jobs to Ontario**

The Sales Support division of Sears Inc, which serves Ontario, Quebec, and eastern Canada, will move from St Laurent to Belleville, Ontario in early 1997. The transfer affects 40 employees.  
(La Presse, 10/1/97)

## ABITIBI-TÉMISCAMINGUE

|                          | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <b>Jobs</b>              | 60   | 60   | 61   | 63   | 66   | 66   |
| <b>Unemployed</b>        | 10   | 10   | 10   | 9    | 9    | 8    |
| <b>Labour force</b>      | 71   | 70   | 71   | 72   | 75   | 74   |
| <b>Unemployment rate</b> | 14.3 | 13.9 | 14.0 | 12.8 | 11.3 | 11.0 |

In thousands; unemployment rates in percentages  
 Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average  
 Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (LFS)

### Reopening of the Bachelor Mine

The Espalau mining corporation will invest \$3.8 million to overhaul its facilities at the old Bachelor Mine near Desmaraisville. The gold mine, which has been closed since 1989 and used to employ about 100 workers, could resume operations in mid-1998. (L'Écho, 31/12/96)

## LOWER ST LAWRENCE

|                          | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <b>Jobs</b>              | 80   | 78   | 75   | 79   | 82   | 81   |
| <b>Unemployed</b>        | 14   | 13   | 14   | 14   | 12   | 13   |
| <b>Labour force</b>      | 94   | 92   | 90   | 93   | 94   | 94   |
| <b>Unemployment rate</b> | 14.5 | 14.6 | 15.9 | 15.1 | 13.0 | 14.2 |

In thousands; unemployment rates in percentages  
 Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average  
 Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (LFS)

### Closing of Calko plant dye-works

The management of the Calko plant in Rivière du Loup recently decided to shut down the plant's dye-works by the end of the year. The decision will throw about 30 employees out of work. Reasons cited for the closing were the company's difficulty meeting environmental standards and increased transportation costs. (Le Soleil, 4/1/97)

## La Pocatière experimental farm privatized

The federal government recently announced that it will privatize the La Pocatière experimental farm. The decision will allow the farm to remain open. When the federal government made the announcement in May 1995, community residents set up a survival committee, which arranged a buyout of the facility. Under the new name of Centre de Développement Bioalimentaire du Québec, the farm will have a mandate to carry out research contracts and attract companies interested in setting up new research activities. (Le Soleil, 28/12/96)

### CHAUDIÈRE-APPALACHES

|                          | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <i>Jobs</i>              | 171  | 170  | 171  | 174  | 178  | 180  |
| <i>Unemployed</i>        | 14   | 16   | 15   | 16   | 14   | 13   |
| <i>Labour force</i>      | 185  | 186  | 186  | 190  | 192  | 193  |
| <i>Unemployment rate</i> | 7.3  | 8.6  | 7.9  | 8.4  | 7.1  | 6.9  |

In thousands; unemployment rates in percentages  
 Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average  
 Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (LFS)

## Federal government funding for the Bell Mine

A project to develop the Bell Mine in Thetford Mines will receive \$1.3 million in funding from the Government of Canada. The \$60-million project might also receive funding from the Quebec government. (Le Devoir, 13/1/97)

### NORTH SHORE / NORTHERN QUEBEC

|                          | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <i>Jobs</i>              | 56   | 55   | 55   | 55   | 58   | 55   |
| <i>Unemployed</i>        | 10   | 8    | 10   | 10   | 9    | 10   |
| <i>Labour force</i>      | 66   | 63   | 65   | 65   | 66   | 65   |
| <i>Unemployment rate</i> | 14.8 | 13.3 | 15.3 | 15.2 | 13.1 | 15.0 |

In thousands; unemployment rates in percentages  
 Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average  
 Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (LFS)

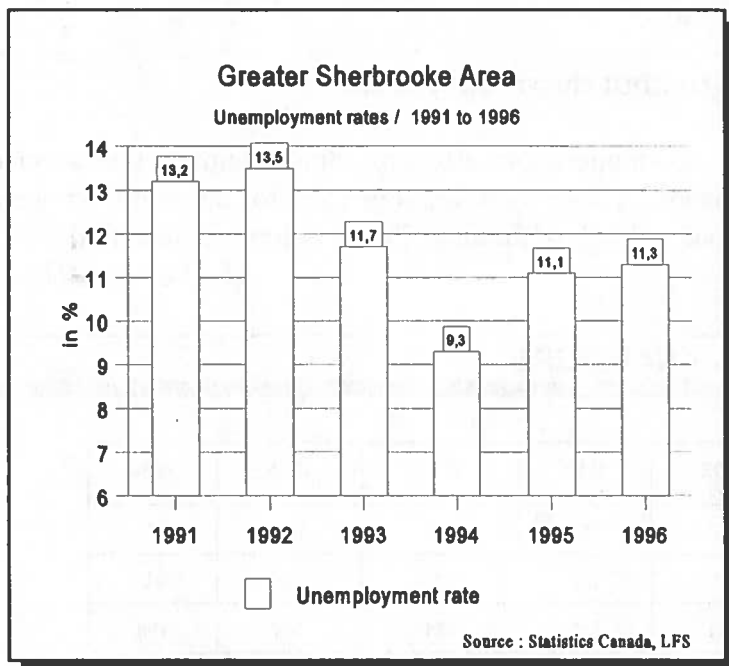
## Donohue Inc investing \$200 million

The Donohue pulp and paper company in Baie Comeau will invest \$200 million over the next five years to increase productivity at its facilities. The company's decision was motivated by its intention to stay competitive in foreign markets. (Le Soleil, 15/1/97)

### EASTERN TOWNSHIPS

|                          | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <b>Jobs</b>              | 116  | 112  | 116  | 119  | 124  | 122  |
| <b>Unemployed</b>        | 17   | 17   | 14   | 13   | 14   | 13   |
| <b>Labour force</b>      | 132  | 129  | 130  | 132  | 139  | 135  |
| <b>Unemployment rate</b> | 12.5 | 13.3 | 11.0 | 9.6  | 10.3 | 9.7  |

In thousands; unemployment rates in percentages  
 Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average  
 Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (LFS)



## Sherbrooke unemployment rising

In 1996, the Greater Sherbrooke area reported a second yearly increase in its unemployment rate. The rate rose by 0.2 percentage points to 11.3% between 1995 and 1996. The trend in Sherbrooke contrasted the downward trend reported throughout the Eastern Townships. A year-over-year decrease of 0.6 percentage points was reported for the entire administrative region between 1995 and 1996.

In 1996, 1,000 jobs were created in the Sherbrooke area, compared with the year before. The new jobs compensated for the loss of as many

jobs in 1995. Sherbrooke's employment level in 1996 was at the same level it was in 1991 before the last recession.

## Optimistic forecasts for Sherbrooke

According to the Bank of Montreal, 1997 will be a good year for the Greater Sherbrooke area economy. There will be a 5% increase in the number of housing starts in 1997, compared with 1996, and a 15% increase in activity in the resale housing market during the same period. A net improvement in the job market is expected following the recovery that occurred in the final months of 1996. (La Tribune, 9/1/97)

## GASPÉ / MAGDALEN ISLANDS

|                          | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <i>Jobs</i>              | 32   | 29   | 30   | 31   | 31   | 31   |
| <i>Unemployed</i>        | 7    | 8    | 9    | 8    | 8    | 7    |
| <i>Labour force</i>      | 39   | 37   | 39   | 40   | 39   | 38   |
| <i>Unemployment rate</i> | 18.2 | 21.2 | 22.0 | 21.1 | 20.2 | 18.5 |

In thousands; unemployment rates in percentages  
 Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average  
 Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (LFS)

## Croisières Carleton-les-Îles ferries to shut down operations

Croisières Carleton-les-Îles ferries will shut down operations after providing a summer boat service between Chaleur Bay and the Magdalen Islands for two years. Reasons cited for the shutdown were government marine transportation regulations and lack of funding. The decision will lead to the loss of 90 jobs. (Le Soleil, 14/1/97)

## LANAUDIÈRE

|                          | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <i>Jobs</i>              | 147  | 150  | 155  | 158  | 169  | 173  |
| <i>Unemployed</i>        | 19   | 21   | 20   | 23   | 20   | 25   |
| <i>Labour force</i>      | 165  | 171  | 175  | 181  | 189  | 198  |
| <i>Unemployment rate</i> | 11.3 | 12.3 | 11.6 | 12.4 | 10.5 | 12.5 |

In thousands; unemployment rates in percentages  
 Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average  
 Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (LFS)

## Rapid expansion at Metacor International

Metacor International, a plate metal manufacturer in Repentigny, is going through a period of rapid growth. After signing a lucrative contract with DEC Group in St Jean sur Richelieu, the company expects to hire new workers shortly. Over the next 18 months, the company could add 90 people to its staff for a total of 180. (Les Affaires, 11/1/97)

### LAURENTIANS

|                          | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <b>Jobs</b>              | 173  | 186  | 184  | 196  | 199  | 211  |
| <b>Unemployed</b>        | 28   | 27   | 30   | 31   | 26   | 25   |
| <b>Labour force</b>      | 200  | 212  | 215  | 227  | 224  | 236  |
| <b>Unemployment rate</b> | 13.8 | 12.5 | 14.1 | 13.5 | 11.3 | 10.7 |

In thousands; unemployment rates in percentages  
 Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average  
 Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (LFS)

### LAVAL

|                          | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <b>Jobs</b>              | 153  | 156  | 152  | 149  | 165  | 158  |
| <b>Unemployed</b>        | 17   | 15   | 24   | 20   | 18   | 18   |
| <b>Labour force</b>      | 170  | 172  | 175  | 169  | 183  | 176  |
| <b>Unemployment rate</b> | 10.1 | 8.8  | 13.5 | 12.1 | 10.0 | 10.4 |

In thousands; unemployment rates in percentages  
 Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average  
 Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (LFS)

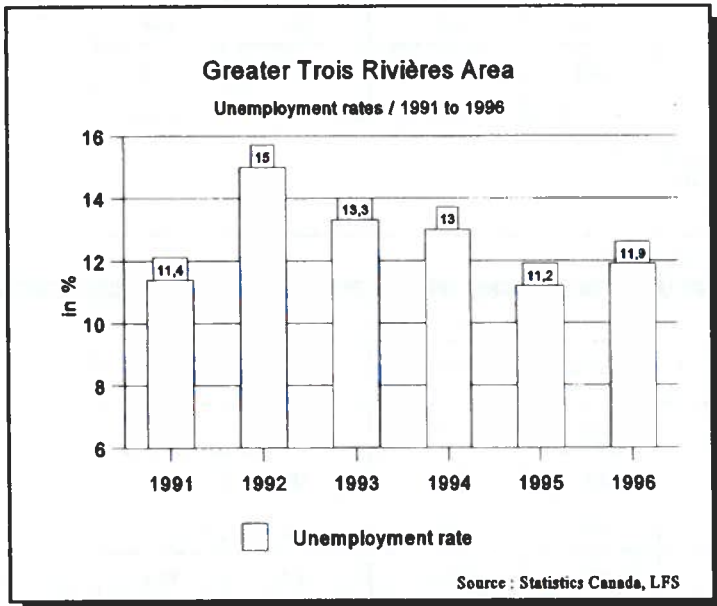
## Sipca Inc leaving Laval for Ontario

Sipca Inc, a Swiss company specializing in the manufacture of printing ink, has decided to close its Laval plant and move production to its plant in Oakville, Ontario. The plant closing will lay off 13 workers. (La Presse, 10/1/97)

## MAURICIE / BOIS FRANCS

|                          | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <i>Jobs</i>              | 190  | 195  | 203  | 206  | 209  | 199  |
| <i>Unemployed</i>        | 27   | 30   | 29   | 26   | 23   | 27   |
| <i>Labour force</i>      | 218  | 225  | 232  | 232  | 232  | 226  |
| <i>Unemployment rate</i> | 12.5 | 13.3 | 12.6 | 11.2 | 10.1 | 12.0 |

In thousands; unemployment rates in percentages  
 Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average  
 Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (LFS)



### Unemployment increasing

After three years of consecutive annual decreases in its unemployment rate, the Trois Rivières area had to deal with a 0.7-percentage point increase in unemployment in 1996, compared with 1995.

The area's employment level remained unchanged between 1995 and 1996. There were 63,000 jobs in the Greater Trois Rivières area in both years.

### Hotel complex across from the Cité de l'Énergie

Developers are planning to build a new \$7-million hotel with approximately 100 rooms near the Cité de l'Énergie by 1998. However, financial partners still have to be found before the project can proceed. (Le Nouvelliste, 9/1/97)

## Japanese market a boon for Mauricie company

Les Industries Fermco, a pre-fabricated house manufacturer in St Adelphe, expects its 1997 turnover will be between \$20 million and \$40 million. The Mauricie company bases these impressive growth forecasts on its major breakthrough into the Japanese market. The company might even hire 40 new workers during the year. (Les Affaires, 11/1/97)

## MONTÉRÉGIE

|                          | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <i>Jobs</i>              | 577  | 563  | 568  | 596  | 616  | 620  |
| <i>Unemployed</i>        | 67   | 72   | 87   | 68   | 64   | 70   |
| <i>Labour force</i>      | 643  | 635  | 655  | 663  | 680  | 690  |
| <i>Unemployment rate</i> | 10.3 | 11.3 | 13.2 | 10.2 | 9.4  | 10.1 |

In thousands; unemployment rates in percentages  
Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average  
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (LFS)

## \$147-million loan for Pratt & Whitney

The federal government will grant \$147 million in funding to Pratt & Whitney, a Longueuil aircraft manufacturer that employs close to 6,000 people. The money will be used to develop a modified version of the PW 150 engine. The investment could lead to the creation of some 500 new specialized jobs. (Le Journal de Québec, 10/1/97; La Presse, 11/1/97)

## Tokamak may be rescued

The Government of Canada has promised to invest \$20 million over the next three years in Tokamak, a scientific research centre located in Varennes. The money will prevent the facility from closing in the short term. It should be remembered that the federal government in its last budget announced that it would reduce its financial commitment to the centre. Tokamak employs about 100 research scientists. (Le Journal de Montréal, 11/1/97)

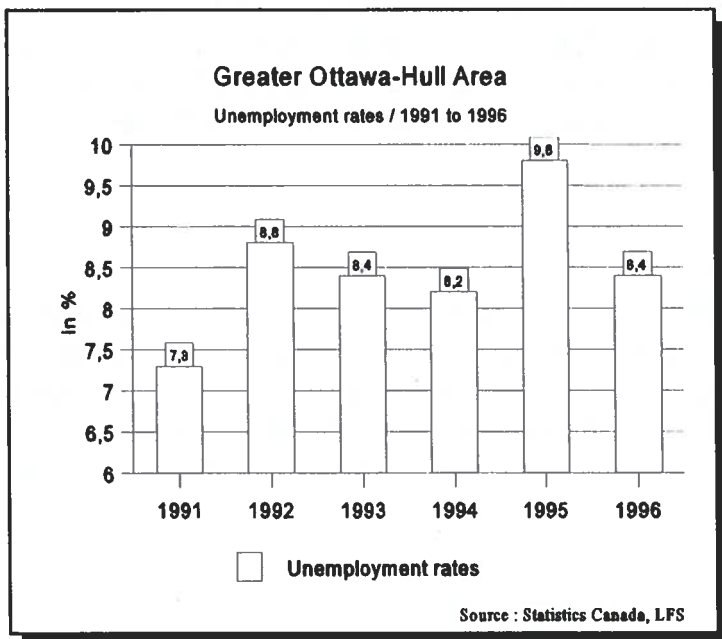
## FTQ Solidarity Fund may take control of Donharco Inc

To prevent Donharco Inc, a St Hyacinthe company specializing in the manufacture of forest industry equipment, from being taken over by US interests, the FTQ Solidarity Fund is seriously studying the option of buying shares put up for sale by the company's current management. The purchase option would give the FTQ Solidarity Fund control over 90% of Donharco shares. The purchase would be unusual in that the Fund currently has 50% or more of the shares of only three companies -- SSQ Vie, Entourage Inc and NovaBus Inc. (Les Affaires, 14/12/96)

## OUTAOUAIS

|                          | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <b>Jobs</b>              | 146  | 144  | 146  | 148  | 149  | 150  |
| <b>Unemployed</b>        | 15   | 19   | 19   | 18   | 18   | 19   |
| <b>Labour force</b>      | 161  | 162  | 165  | 167  | 167  | 169  |
| <b>Unemployment rate</b> | 9.0  | 11.4 | 11.5 | 11.1 | 10.8 | 11.1 |

In thousands; unemployment rates in percentages  
 Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average  
 Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (LFS)



### Ottawa-Hull recovering after losses

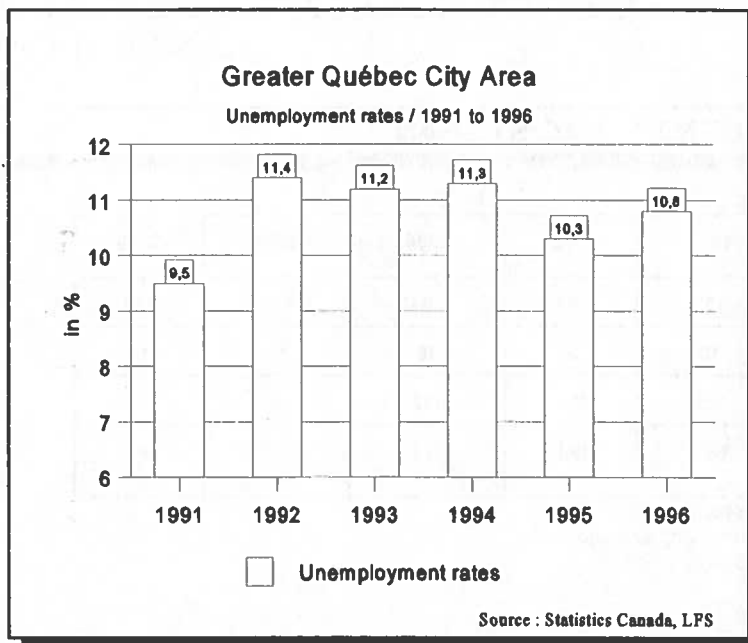
After reaching a high of 9.8% in 1995, the Ottawa-Hull area unemployment rate fell an impressive 1.4 percentage points in 1996, thus returning to its 1993 level.

The drop was partly caused by the creation in 1996 of 15,000 new jobs, which fully compensated for the loss of 11,000 jobs in 1995.

## QUEBEC CITY

|                          | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <b>Jobs</b>              | 284  | 278  | 272  | 290  | 282  | 291  |
| <b>Unemployed</b>        | 33   | 39   | 39   | 40   | 37   | 42   |
| <b>Labour force</b>      | 318  | 317  | 311  | 331  | 319  | 333  |
| <b>Unemployment rate</b> | 10.4 | 12.2 | 12.6 | 12.1 | 11.7 | 12.5 |

In thousands; unemployment rates in percentages  
 Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average  
 Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (LFS)



### Rise in Quebec City unemployment

Between 1995 and late 1996, the unemployment rate in the Greater Quebec City area increased by 0.5 percentage points to 10.8%. The creation of 9,000 jobs in 1996 was not enough to offset the impact of 5,000 more unemployed workers entering the labour market.

Although the Greater Quebec City Area has been affected by downsizing in the Quebec government (Quebec City's unemployment rate increased by 3.9 percentage points between 1989

and 1996), the unemployment rate was still below the 1996 provincial average of 11.8%.

### \$150-million project at Mont Sainte Anne

A project to turn the Mont Sainte Anne ski resort into a full-fledged recreation and tourism complex with a golf course is still in the planning stages. In 1994, the new owners of the ski resort made a commitment to invest \$150 million in the project. Now the promoters are saying that \$200 million in investment may be required. They are studying the option of recruiting financial partners for the project.  
 (Le Soleil, 30/12/96)

## Galvacor hopes to break into the US market

A Quebec City company specializing in galvanized metal (for rust-proofing purposes) recently acquired an operating permit for North America that will allow it to use a new metal galvanizing technology developed in France. The new process is faster, less costly, and more environmentally friendly. Galvacor believes it can break into the US market by selling licences for the new process to US companies. (Les Affaires, 11/1/97)

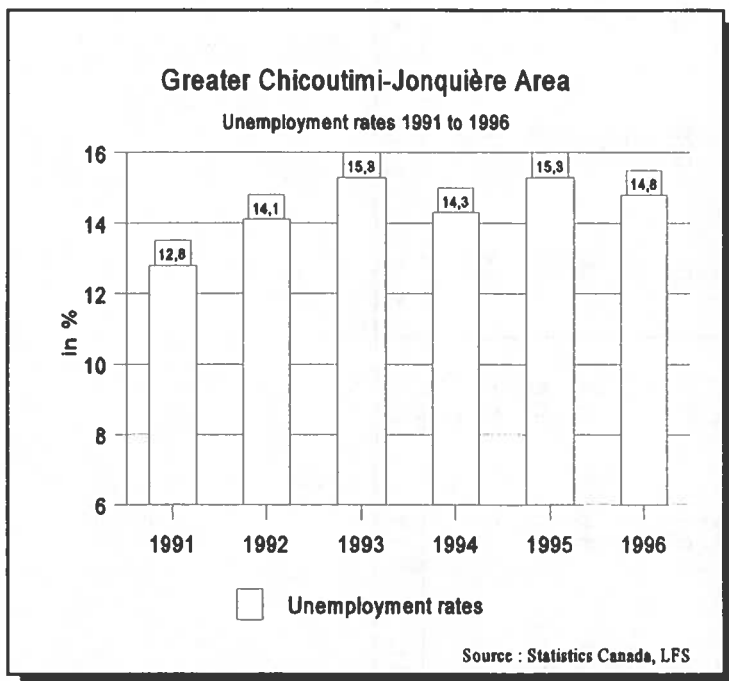
## Increased marine cargo traffic at Pointe au Pic

Marine cargo traffic at Pointe au Pic wharf increased substantially in 1996 because of the higher volume of exports from the Donohue Inc plant. Donohue Inc, the sole user of the wharf facilities, shipped 128,000 tonnes of paper to Europe and Asia in 1996. This was a 20% increase in shipments from the wharf. (Le Soleil, 31/12/96)

### SAGUENAY / LAC ST JEAN

|                          | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <i>Jobs</i>              | 110  | 109  | 107  | 104  | 112  | 113  |
| <i>Unemployed</i>        | 19   | 19   | 20   | 18   | 19   | 19   |
| <i>Labour force</i>      | 129  | 128  | 127  | 122  | 131  | 132  |
| <i>Unemployment rate</i> | 14.8 | 14.8 | 15.5 | 14.8 | 14.6 | 14.3 |

In thousands; unemployment rates in percentages  
Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving average  
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (LFS)



### Chicoutimi-Jonquière area still has the highest unemployment rate in Canada

In 1996, the Chicoutimi-Jonquière area continued to post the highest unemployment rate of Canada's metropolitan areas.

However, the area's unemployment rate, when compared with 1995, followed a downward trend in 1996, dropping by 0.5 percentage points to 14.8%. The number of unemployed remained unchanged during the year and 2,000 new jobs were created.

### Approval for St Fulgence project in doubt

It is currently doubtful whether a project to overhaul water catchment equipment and build a bottling plant will obtain approval. The problem stems from the refusal by the Commission de Protection du Territoire Agricole (CPTAQ) to make necessary zoning changes on St Anne Range. The project promoters, who are a numbered company, plan to create about 30 new jobs and invest \$3.4 million if the project gets off the ground.  
(Le Progrès-Dimanche, 29/12/96)

# LABOUR FORCE DATA

By province, annual data

|                      | Employment |        |        | Unemployment rate |      |        | Unemployed |       |        |
|----------------------|------------|--------|--------|-------------------|------|--------|------------|-------|--------|
|                      | 1995       | 1996   | Change | 1995              | 1996 | Change | 1995       | 1996  | Change |
| Newfoundland         | 197        | 190    | -7     | 18.3              | 19.4 | 1.1    | 44         | 46    | 2      |
| Prince Edward Island | 59         | 60     | 1      | 14.7              | 14.5 | -0.2   | 10         | 10    | 0      |
| Nova Scotia          | 384        | 385    | 1      | 12.1              | 12.6 | 0.5    | 53         | 56    | 3      |
| New Brunswick        | 314        | 313    | -1     | 11.5              | 11.7 | 0.2    | 41         | 41    | 0      |
| Quebec               | 3,204      | 3,213  | 9      | 11.3              | 11.8 | 0.5    | 408        | 430   | 22     |
| Ontario              | 5,231      | 5,311  | 80     | 8.7               | 9.1  | 0.4    | 501        | 528   | 27     |
| Manitoba             | 521        | 526    | 5      | 7.5               | 7.5  | 0      | 42         | 43    | 1      |
| Saskatchewan         | 460        | 461    | 1      | 6.9               | 6.6  | -0.3   | 34         | 33    | -1     |
| Alberta              | 1,373      | 1,413  | 40     | 7.8               | 7.0  | -0.8   | 116        | 107   | -9     |
| British Columbia     | 1,762      | 1,806  | 44     | 9.0               | 8.9  | -0.1   | 173        | 176   | 3      |
| Canada               | 13,506     | 13,676 | 170    | 9.5               | 9.7  | 0.2    | 1,422      | 1,469 | 47     |

Employment and unemployed in thousands; Unemployment rate in %

prepared by FORD-Q

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

## LABOUR FORCE DATA

By metropolitan areas, annual data

|                      | Employment |      |        | Unemployment rate |      |        | Unemployed |      |        |
|----------------------|------------|------|--------|-------------------|------|--------|------------|------|--------|
|                      | 1995       | 1996 | Change | 1995              | 1996 | Change | 1995       | 1996 | Change |
| Halifax              | 166        | 168  | 2      | 8.9               | 8.6  | -0.3   | 16         | 16   | 0      |
| Chicoutimi-Jonquière | 62         | 64   | 2      | 15.3              | 14.8 | -0.5   | 11         | 11   | 0      |
| Québec               | 316        | 325  | 9      | 10.3              | 10.8 | 0.5    | 36         | 39   | 3      |
| Montréal             | 1544       | 1558 | 14     | 11.3              | 11.9 | 0.6    | 197        | 211  | 14     |
| Trois-Rivières       | 63         | 63   | 0      | 11.2              | 11.9 | 0.7    | 8          | 8    | 0      |
| Sherbrooke           | 66         | 67   | 1      | 11.1              | 11.3 | 0.2    | 8          | 8    | 0      |
| Ottawa-Hull          | 510        | 525  | 15     | 9.8               | 8.4  | -1.4   | 55         | 48   | -7     |
| Toronto              | 2123       | 2159 | 36     | 8.5               | 9.1  | 0.6    | 198        | 215  | 17     |
| Winnipeg             | 344        | 346  | 2      | 8.2               | 8.4  | 0.2    | 31         | 32   | 1      |
| Calgary              | 427        | 450  | 23     | 8.1               | 7.1  | -1     | 38         | 35   | -3     |
| Vancouver            | 910        | 933  | 23     | 8.3               | 8.1  | -0.2   | 82         | 82   | 0      |

Employment and unemployed in thousands; Unemployment rate in %  
 prepared by FORD-Q  
 Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

## LABOUR FORCE DATA

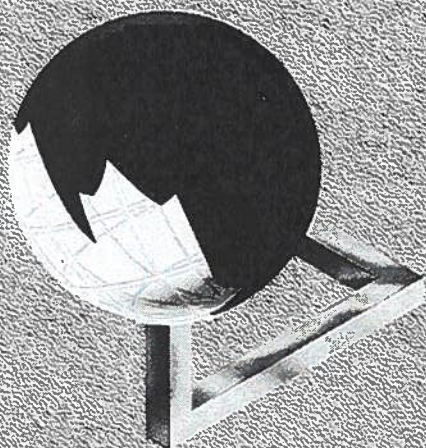
By administrative regions, annual data

|                               | Employment |      |        | Unemployment rate |      |        | Unemployed |      |        |
|-------------------------------|------------|------|--------|-------------------|------|--------|------------|------|--------|
|                               | 1995       | 1996 | Change | 1995              | 1996 | Change | 1995       | 1996 | Change |
| Gaspésie/Îles-de-la-Madeleine | 31         | 31   | 0      | 20.2              | 18.5 | -1.7   | 8          | 7    | -1     |
| Bas-Saint-Laurent             | 82         | 81   | -1     | 13.0              | 14.2 | 1.2    | 12         | 13   | 1      |
| Québec                        | 282        | 291  | 9      | 11.7              | 12.5 | 0.8    | 37         | 42   | 5      |
| Chaudière/Appalaches          | 178        | 180  | 2      | 7.1               | 6.9  | -0.2   | 14         | 13   | -1     |
| Estrie                        | 124        | 122  | -2     | 10.3              | 9.7  | -0.6   | 14         | 13   | -1     |
| Montérégie                    | 616        | 620  | 4      | 9.4               | 10.1 | 0.7    | 64         | 70   | 6      |
| Montréal                      | 765        | 761  | -4     | 13.3              | 13.7 | 0.4    | 117        | 121  | 4      |
| Laval                         | 165        | 158  | -7     | 10.0              | 10.4 | 0.4    | 18         | 18   | 0      |
| Lanaudière                    | 169        | 173  | 4      | 10.5              | 12.5 | 2      | 20         | 25   | 5      |
| Laurentides                   | 199        | 211  | 12     | 11.3              | 10.7 | -0.6   | 25         | 25   | 0      |
| Outaouais                     | 149        | 150  | 1      | 10.8              | 11.1 | 0.3    | 18         | 19   | 1      |
| Abitibi-Témiscamingue         | 66         | 66   | 0      | 11.3              | 11.0 | -0.3   | 8          | 8    | 0      |
| Mauricie/Bois-Francs          | 209        | 199  | -10    | 10.1              | 12.0 | 1.9    | 23         | 27   | 4      |
| Saguenay/Lac-Saint-Jean       | 112        | 113  | 1      | 14.6              | 14.3 | -0.3   | 19         | 19   | 0      |
| Côte-Nord/Nord-du-Québec      | 58         | 55   | -3     | 13.1              | 15.0 | 1.9    | 9          | 10   | 1      |

Employment and unemployed in thousands; Unemployment rate in %  
 prepared by FORD-Q  
 Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

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