

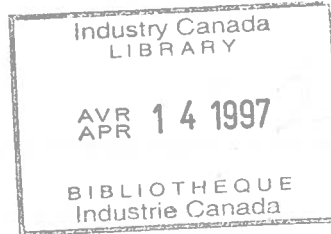


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THE FORD Q

# ECONOMIC UPDATE

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André Bernard

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## Slight increase in employment in Quebec and definite improvements in Montreal

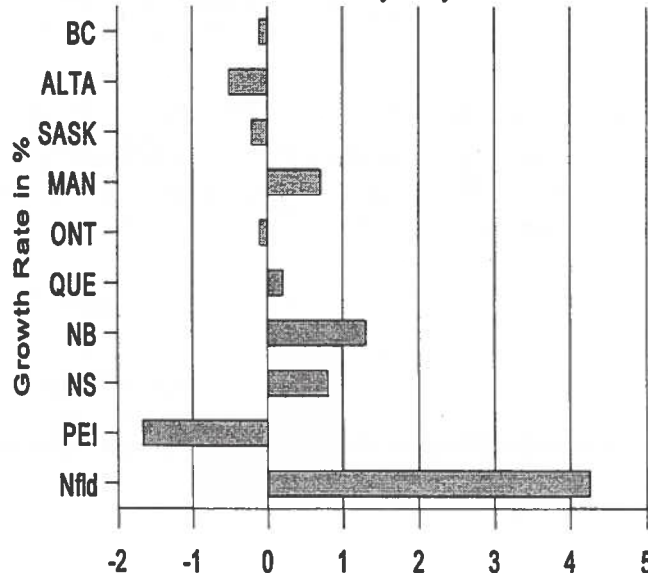
Quebec reported a little over 8,000 new jobs in January as compared to December 1996. Nevertheless the unemployment rate did increase somewhat, from 12.1% in December to 12.2% in January. This is to be explained mainly by the entry of 13,000 people into the labour market.

Across Canada, the job market remained fairly stable, with the unemployment rate of 9.7% unchanged from December. In Ontario, unemployment went from 9.1% in December to 9.0% in January, mainly because 12,000 people left the labour market.

Over the past two months, the economic situation in the Greater Montreal area has shown some very definite improvements. Between December and January, 11,000 jobs were created, and the unemployment rate dropped for the second month in a row: in January, it stood at 12.4%, down from 12.5% in December and 12.7% in November. There were 5,000 fewer unemployed workers in January than in November.

## Changes In Employment

in % - december 1996 to january 1997



Source : Statistics Canada



Federal Office of  
Regional Development  
(Québec)

Bureau fédéral de  
développement régional  
(Québec)

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.

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**The editor is:**

Léonel Plasse

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### Strong increase in retail sales in Quebec

Quebec retailers had a much more lucrative holiday period in 1996 than in 1995, with sales up 1.5% in December 1996 over December 1995. This was a larger increase than occurred in the country as a whole (up 1.1%). Retail sales in Ontario were up only 0.5% over the same period.

Sales of automobiles and recreational vehicles in Quebec rose 3.9% over the year. Once again this is greater than in Canada as a whole (2.4%).

The increase in retail sales can be seen as a sign of renewed consumer confidence, and suggests there will be accelerated economic growth in Quebec in 1997.

<b>Retail Sales</b>			
	1995	1996	Change (%)
	(\$ million)		
Quebec	49,598	51,546	3.93
Ontario	78,425	78,428	0.00
<b>Canada</b>	<b>211,522</b>	<b>216,624</b>	<b>2.41</b>

Source : Statistics Canada

## Private and Public Investment

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*Note to Reader: This month's Economic Update presents an analysis of new interim statistics on investment in Quebec and in Canada in 1996 and on the outlook for 1997.*

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### *Quebec's performance better than expected*

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The year 1996 saw greater than expected private and public investment in Quebec. According to Statistics Canada, investments were about \$25.7 billion, almost \$1 billion more than last summer's revised outlook. This new information shows a 3.3% increase in investments in 1996 over 1995, which is 0.5% greater than in Canada as a whole. The construction sector and the machinery & materials sector both made significant contributions, with increases of 2.3% and 4.5% respectively.

The rate of investment growth may however decline in Quebec during 1997. The forecast calls for an increase of only 1.4%, which is much lower than the expected increase of 5.2% in the country as a whole. Furthermore the small forecast increase in Quebec will be due entirely to investment in machinery & materials (up 8.7%), since it is expected that investment in construction will drop 4.1%.

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### *Two trends in the rest of Canada*

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In 1996, investment declined in Western Canada, by 1.0% in Alberta and by 3.4% in British Columbia. The sharpest drop across the country was in Newfoundland, where investment plunged by 18.2%.

Five provinces in addition to Quebec saw increases in investment in the year gone by, the greatest rise being in Saskatchewan (12.8%). There were also significant increases in Manitoba (9.0%), New Brunswick (8.7%), Ontario (6.6%) and Nova Scotia (3.0%).

The following table shows estimated investment levels for 1995, 1996 and 1997 in Quebec and in Canada as a whole:

**INVESTMENT SPENDING  
QUEBEC / CANADA**

		Construction	Machinery & materials	Total	Annual change (%)
\$ million					
<b>Quebec</b>	<b>1995</b>	14,278.3	10,578.8	<b>24,857.1</b>	-6.8
	<b>1996</b>	14,610.3	11,060.0	<b>25,670.8</b>	+3.3
	<b>1997</b>	14,009.4	12,028.5	<b>26,037.9</b>	+1.4
<b>Canada</b>	<b>1995</b>	76,391.3	51,411.5	<b>127,802.8</b>	-1.8
	<b>1996</b>	76,076.6	55,329.0	<b>131,405.6</b>	+2.8
	<b>1997</b>	78,698.4	59,554.6	<b>138,253.0</b>	+5.2

Note : 1995 : actual  
 1996 : interim  
 1997 : outlook

Source : Statistics Canada  
 Compilation : FORD(Q)

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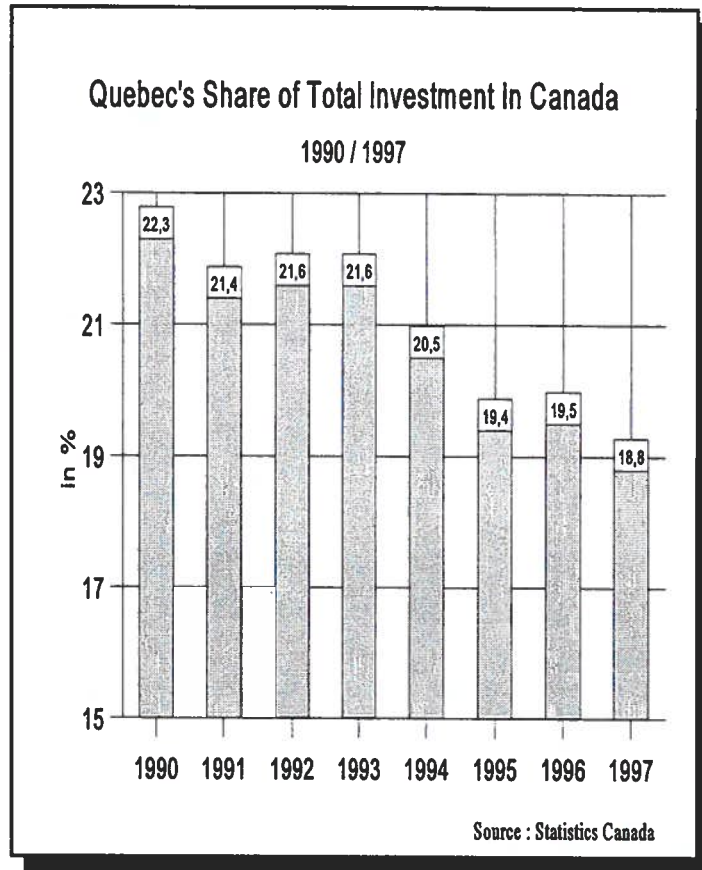
### Historical background

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The chart on the right shows Quebec's share of total investment in Canada from 1990 to 1997. According to the Statistics Canada outlook, the share has dropped from 22.3% in 1990 to an expected 18.8% in 1997. This will be Quebec's lowest share during the current decade.

The table on the next page shows that between 1990 and 1997, Quebec's investment growth was lower than the average for the country as a whole, except in 1996. However the trend was never opposite to that of the Canada as a whole -- investment in Quebec rose or fell as investment in the country rose or fell.

It is also important to note that, historically, investment growth in Quebec has most often been higher than in the other provinces. Because the year 1990 saw the end of several large-scale projects in Quebec, it is therefore not unnatural that in the years following, the rate of growth would be lower than the average for the country as a whole.



**PRIVATE AND PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN CANADA AND QUEBEC  
1990 to 1997**

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
<b>Quebec</b>	30,422.4	27,757.6	26,404.6	26,153.8	26,688.9	24,857.1	25,670.8	26,037.9
<b>Annual change</b>	--	-8.8	-4.9	-0.9	+2.0	-6.8	+3.3	+1.4
<b>Canada</b>	136,207.7	126,592.6	122,188.8	121,132.6	130,131.2	127,802.8	131,405.6	138,253.0
<b>Annual change</b>	--	-7.1	-3.5	-0.9	+7.4	-1.8	2.8	5.2

1990, 1991, 1992, 1994, 1995 : actual

1993 and 1996 : interim

1997 : forecast

Compilation : FORD(Q)

## REGIONAL REVIEW

### **A difficult month in the regions**

January was a difficult month for the great majority of Quebec's administrative regions. On a non-seasonally adjusted basis, ten regions lost jobs between January 1996 and January 1997, while twelve saw an increase in the unemployment rate.

The region worst hit was Lower St Lawrence, with 4,400 jobs lost and a huge (50%) increase in the number of people unemployed, pushing the unemployment rate up from 12.8% in January 1996 to 19.5% in January 1997.

There were significant increases in the rate of unemployment in other regions as well, including Gaspé and the Magdalen Islands (up 3.8%), Mauricie and Bois Francs (up 2.8%), the Island of Montreal (up 2.5%), Abitibi-Témiscamingue (up 2.4%) and Laval (also up 2.4%).

However in Chaudière-Appalaches, 4,600 jobs were created and the unemployment rate dropped by 1.4%, bringing it down to 7.6%, the lowest of any of Quebec's administrative regions.

### **Major merger in the paper industry**

The two giants of the paper industry, Abitibi-Price and Stone Consolidated, recently announced that they would merge. The merged company will be called Abitibi Consolidated and will be the largest newsprint producer in the world, with 20% of the global market. Executives at the two companies expect to be able to save \$100 million annually as a result of the merger. (Le Soleil, 15/2/97)

## ISLAND OF MONTREAL

	<i>Jan. 97</i>	<i>Jan. 96</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>1997 (cumul.)</i>	<i>1996 (cumul.)</i>	<i>Change</i>
<i>Jobs</i>	733	753	-20	733	753	-20
<i>Unemployed</i>	130	109	21	130	109	21
<i>Labour force</i>	863	862	1	863	862	1
<i>Unemployment</i>	15.1	12.6	2.5	15.1	12.6	2.5

Unemployment rates and Changes are percentages, other figures are in thousands  
 Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving averages  
 Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (LFS)

### **Court says no to more international flights at Dorval**

A Superior Court judgment handed down on February 12 says that the process used by Aéroports de Montréal (ADM) when it decided to concentrate regular international flights at Dorval was unlawful. ADM is thus obliged to put a stop to all the work that was under way at Dorval to increase the airport's capacity. As of the date of the judgment, ADM had 30 days to appeal.

(Le Devoir, La Presse, 13/2/97)

### **Zellers closes its distribution centre in Montreal North**

Zellers has announced that it will close its distribution centre in Montreal North by July. Management apparently sees it as outdated, and has also shut down facilities in Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto and Ottawa. The Montreal closing will result in 400 employees being laid off.

(La Presse, 27/2/97)

### **New electronics plant in Montreal region**

Montreal will likely be the site of a new electronics plant. Compositech, the New York company behind the project, has reached a partnership agreement with the Société générale de financement du Québec, the Société Innovatech du Grand Montréal and the Fonds de solidarité des travailleurs du Québec. The project would involve an investment of over \$40 million and could lead to the creation of some 150 high-tech jobs.

(Le Devoir, 10/2/97)

### **Natrel to invest \$20.5 million**

Dairy processor Natrel plans to expand and modernize its plant in St-Laurent. The cost could be as much as \$20.5 million. However the company does not plan to hire new workers at the plant, which currently employs 425. (La Presse, 17/1/97)

### **AlliedSignal to modernize its facilities in St-Laurent**

*AlliedSignal Aérospatiale Canada* will be investing \$4 million to expand and modernize its facilities in St-Laurent. Initially, this should create 38 new jobs. (La Presse/8/2/97)

### **Hemorrhaging continues in the railway industry**

As part of its strategy to centralize cash receipts in Toronto, CN has announced that it will eliminate 276 positions, including 121 in Montreal. The cuts will mainly take the form of layoffs and retirements, starting in the spring. (La Presse, 17/1/97)

### **Gaptek aims at sales of \$500 million**

The Montreal firm Gaptek has the wind in its sails as a result of consumer enthusiasm for its new home movie concept *Movie Max*. Several large electronics companies around the world have shown an interest in working with Gaptek. The company thinks that it may achieve annual sales of as much as \$500 million five years from now, and create 150 new jobs. (La Presse, 19/2/97)

### **Park Meditech trying to reduce costs**

*Park Meditech*, a firm specialized in medical imaging, has just laid off 30 of its 90 employees in order to reduce operating costs by \$250,000 a month. The company is experiencing serious problems and expects losses of \$2.7 million in the current quarter alone. The QFL's Fonds de solidarité has invested \$10 million in *Park Meditech*. (La Presse, 20/2/97)

### **New R&D company**

The Ontario company *WideCom*, which produces document digitalization equipment, will be joining with *Société Innovatech du Grand Montréal* to invest \$5 million in a new R&D company known as *Innovimage*, located in Montreal. *Innovimage*, which already has about 20 employees, could see this number double by the time the company is fully operational. (La Presse, 5/2/97)

## Eight new employment investment corporations

The City of Montreal, the Government of Quebec and the QFL's Fonds de solidarité will jointly invest \$4.2 million to set up eight new Sociétés locales d'investissement dans le développement de l'emploi (SOLIDES) in Montreal. Each of these "local corporations to invest in employment development" will provide loans of up to \$50,000 to companies. It should be possible to create 500 new jobs a year in this way. (La Presse, Le Devoir, le Journal de Montréal, 19/2/97)

### ABITIBI-TÉMISCAMINGUE

	<i>Jan. 97</i>	<i>Jan. 96</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>1997 (cumul.)</i>	<i>1996 (cumul.)</i>	<i>Change</i>
<i>Jobs</i>	64	66	-2	64	66	-2
<i>Unemployed</i>	9	7	2	9	7	2
<i>Labour force</i>	73	73	0	73	73	0
<i>Unemployment</i>	12.5	10.1	2.4	12.5	10.1	2.4

Unemployment rates and Changes are percentages, other figures are in thousands  
 Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving averages  
 Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (LFS)

## LOWER ST LAWRENCE

	<i>Jan. 97</i>	<i>Jan. 96</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>1997 (cumul.)</i>	<i>1996 (cumul.)</i>	<i>Change</i>
<i>Jobs</i>	75	79	-4	75	79	-4
<i>Unemployed</i>	18	12	6	18	12	6
<i>Labour force</i>	93	91	2	93	91	2
<i>Unemployment</i>	19.5	12.8	6.7	19.5	12.8	6.7

Unemployment rates and Changes are percentages, other figures are in thousands  
 Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving averages  
 Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (LFS)

### Fonds de solidarité comes to the aid of Glendyne/Quarry

The QFL's Fonds de solidarité des travailleurs du Québec together with the Fonds régional de solidarité Bas-Saint-Laurent will invest \$1.5 million in Glendyne/Quarry Inc. of St-Marc-de-Lac-Long in order to allow it to restart operations by March 17. This should enable the firm, which operates a slate quarry, to save 60 existing jobs. (Le Journal de Québec, 14/2/97)

## CHAUDIÈRE-APPALACHES

	<i>Jan. 97</i>	<i>Jan. 96</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>1997 (cumul.)</i>	<i>1996 (cumul.)</i>	<i>Change</i>
<i>Jobs</i>	177	173	4	177	173	4
<i>Unemployed</i>	15	17	-2	15	17	-2
<i>Labour force</i>	192	190	2	192	190	2
<i>Unemployment</i>	7.6	9.0	-1.4	7.6	9.0	-1.4

Unemployment rates and Changes are percentages, other figures are in thousands  
 Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving averages  
 Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (LFS)

## Ultramar to produce more gasoline in St-Romuald

Having obtained the go-ahead from its head office in Texas, the Ultramar refinery in St-Romuald will be investing \$17 million in order to increase gasoline production. At the height of the work on the refinery's facilities, about a thousand people will be employed. (La Presse, 13/2/97)

### NORTH SHORE / NORTHERN QUEBEC

	Jan. 97	Jan. 96	Change	1997 (cumul.)	1996 (cumul.)	Change
<i>Jobs</i>	52	58	-6	52	58	-6
<i>Unemployed</i>	10	10	0	10	10	0
<i>Labour force</i>	62	68	-6	62	68	-6
<i>Unemployment</i>	16.5	14.7	1.8	16.5	14.7	1.8

Unemployment rates and Changes are percentages, other figures are in thousands  
Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving averages  
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (LFS)

## Uniforêt to double productivity at its Port-Cartier plant

The Uniforêt corporation recently announced its intention to invest \$40 million in order to double production at its chemi-thermomechanical pulp plant in Port-Cartier. The work should be completed by the end of June. (Le Journal de Québec, 5/2/97)

## IOC plant to remain closed for another year

IOC's pelletization plant in Sept-Iles will not be able to restart operations for another year, according to management of *North Limited*, the company which recently became the majority shareholder of IOC. The process for relaunching the operation is necessarily a lengthy one, the company announced. (Le Soleil, 6/2/97)

## EASTERN TOWNSHIPS

	<i>Jan. 97</i>	<i>Jan. 96</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>1997 (cumul.)</i>	<i>1996 (cumul.)</i>	<i>Change</i>
<i>Jobs</i>	123	125	-2	123	125	-2
<i>Unemployed</i>	13	17	-4	13	17	-4
<i>Labour force</i>	136	142	-6	136	142	-6
<i>Unemployment</i>	9.6	12.1	-2.5	9.6	12.1	-2.5

Unemployment rates and Changes are percentages, other figures are in thousands  
 Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving averages  
 Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (LFS)

### Sherbrooke scores best on unemployment

While the labour market in the Greater Sherbrooke area remained fairly stable between December 1996 and January 1997, the unemployment rate dropped by 0.3 percentage point to 10.9%. This is the second consecutive month in which Sherbrooke has had the lowest unemployment rate among major metropolitan areas in Quebec. (Statistics Canada)

## GASPÉ / MAGDALEN ISLANDS

	<i>Jan. 97</i>	<i>Jan. 96</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>1997 (cumul.)</i>	<i>1996 (cumul.)</i>	<i>Change</i>
<i>Jobs</i>	30	28	2	30	28	2
<i>Unemployed</i>	9	7	2	9	7	2
<i>Labour force</i>	39	35	4	39	35	4
<i>Unemployment</i>	22.8	19.0	3.8	22.8	19.0	3.8

Unemployment rates and Changes are percentages, other figures are in thousands  
 Non-seasonally adjusted data three-month moving averages  
 Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (LFS)




### **Construction of wind farms to start in May**

3CI, the consortium which is developing two wind farms, at Cap-Chat and Matane, is set to start construction work in May. This should provide employment for at least 500 construction workers, and the regional economic spinoff is estimated at \$62.3 million. However 3CI is still awaiting a green light from the Quebec Government's environment ministry. (Le Soleil. 11/2/97)

### **New jobs at Biolyse**

Biolyse, a company in Port-Daniel that is conducting research to create an anti-cancer drug from a tree common in the Gaspé Peninsula, is planning to expand, and it may even create between 75 and 90 new seasonal jobs. Depending on the company's success in achieving its international sales targets, Biolyse would invest several hundreds of thousands of dollars in the expansion project. (Le Soleil. 11/2/97)

### **Croisières Nordik ends ferry service**



*Croisières Nordik*, which has been providing ferry service between Rivière-au-Renard, Anticosti Island and Havre-St-Pierre for the past three summers, has decided to terminate operations. The company believes it cannot achieve profitability in a reasonable time. Over the 3-year period, a total of \$400,000 was invested, and losses totalled \$2.4 million. The news comes shortly after an announcement from *Croisières Carleton/Les Iles* that it is shutting down its service between Carleton and the Magdalen Islands. (La Presse. 7/2/97)

### **Mines Gaspé to start up new copper-mining operation**

A new mining operation by Mines Gaspé, involving a 1-million-ton copper deposit in Murdochville, should save 200 jobs. (Le Soleil. 5/2/97)

## LANAUDIÈRE

	<i>Jan. 97</i>	<i>Jan. 96</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>1997 (cumul.)</i>	<i>1996 (cumul.)</i>	<i>Change</i>
<i>Jobs</i>	184	169	15	184	169	15
<i>Unemployed</i>	23	22	1	23	22	1
<i>Labour force</i>	207	191	16	207	191	16
<i>Unemployment</i>	11.0	11.4	-0.4	11.0	11.4	-0.4

Unemployment rates and Changes are percentages, other figures are in thousands  
 Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving averages  
 Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (LFS)

## LAURENTIANS

	<i>Jan. 97</i>	<i>Jan. 96</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>1997 (cumul.)</i>	<i>1996 (cumul.)</i>	<i>Change</i>
<i>Jobs</i>	203	210	-7	203	210	-7
<i>Unemployed</i>	31	28	3	31	28	3
<i>Labour force</i>	234	238	-4	234	238	-4
<i>Unemployment</i>	13.1	11.7	1.4	13.1	11.7	1.4

Unemployment rates and Changes are percentages, other figures are in thousands  
 Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving averages  
 Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (LFS)

## LAVAL

	<i>Jan. 97</i>	<i>Jan. 96</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>1997 (cumul.)</i>	<i>1996 (cumul.)</i>	<i>Change</i>
<i>Jobs</i>	164	158	6	164	158	6
<i>Unemployed</i>	20	15	5	20	15	5
<i>Labour force</i>	184	173	11	184	173	11
<i>Unemployment</i>	10.9	8.5	2.4	10.9	8.5	2.4

Unemployment rates and Changes are percentages; other figures are in thousands  
 Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving averages  
 Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (LFS)

### Fresh optimism about survival of Cosmodome

Following several months of beating around the bush, it now appears that the Laval Cosmodome may be saved from bankruptcy. While it is still too early for an official announcement, the principal parties involved have indicated that an additional last-minute effort by the public sector, together with financial commitments from governments, are ensuring that the Cosmodome will survive.

(La Presse. 28/2/97)

## MAURICIE/BOIS FRANCS

	<i>Jan. 97</i>	<i>Jan. 96</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>1997 (cumul.)</i>	<i>1996 (cumul.)</i>	<i>Change</i>
<i>Jobs</i>	192	191	1	192	191	1
<i>Unemployed</i>	32	24	8	32	24	8
<i>Labour force</i>	224	215	9	224	215	9
<i>Unemployment</i>	14.1	11.3	2.8	14.1	11.3	2.8

Unemployment rates and Changes are percentages; other figures are in thousands  
 Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving averages  
 Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (LFS)

## **Unemployment rate continues to rise in Trois-Rivières**

In the Greater Trois-Rivières area, there was little change in the number of jobs and the number of unemployed between December 1996 and January 1997. However the unemployment rate rose slightly, from 13.8% to 14.0%. The rate has been rising continuously since May 1996, when it was 10.4%. At that time, Trois-Rivières had almost the lowest unemployment rate among Quebec's metropolitan areas, second only to Quebec City. Since then, the situation has reversed and the city now has the second highest rate, with only Chicoutimi-Jonquière doing worse.

(Statistics Canada)

## **A new administrative region is born**

As of April 1, Quebec will have a 17th administrative region as a result of the friendly split-up of the Mauricie / Bois Francs region. The new region (04-south) will include the following RCMs: Arthabaska, Bécancour, Drummond, l'Érable and Nicolet-Yamaska. (La Presse. 21/2/97)

*(Note to the reader: Economic Update will contain a separate section for each of the two new regions as soon as Statistics Canada begins compiling separate labour market data for them.)*

## **Shermag to create 250 new jobs in Victoriaville**

The conversion to a factory of the Shermag distribution centre in Victoriaville will require investing over \$7 million and hiring 250 workers by the time the work is completed in 1999. The distribution activities currently carried out in Victoriaville will be moved to Sherbrooke.

(La Tribune. 23/1/97)

## MONTÉRÉGIE

	Jan. 97	Jan. 96	Change	1997 (cumul.)	1996 (cumul.)	Change
<i>Jobs</i>	605	609	-4	605	609	-4
<i>Unemployed</i>	70	70	0	70	70	0
<i>Labour force</i>	675	679	-4	675	679	-4
<i>Unemployment</i>	10.4	10.3	0.1	10.4	10.3	0.1

Unemployment rates and Changes are percentages, other figures are in thousands  
 Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving averages  
 Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (LFS)

### A new environmental research centre in Sorel

An environmental firm, Hebco International, will be investing \$34 million to set up a new research centre in Sorel which should create about a hundred new jobs. The federal government will be contributing \$1.3 million to the project. (Le Devoir. 6/2/97)

### Agropur continues its expansion

The dairy co-operative Agropur, of Granby, will become the largest dairy business in Canada once it acquires *Ault*, an Ontario firm, at a cost of \$145 million. Agropur expects that as a result of the acquisition, sales will grow by \$400 million and its share of the Ontario market will rise to 30%. (Le Devoir. 8/2/97)

### Major investments in Iberville

*Power Batteries*, a US firm which produces backup storage batteries for telecommunications equipment, will invest \$3 million in expanding its Iberville plant -- a figure which includes work currently under way. It is expected that in a few months' time, the Iberville facility will be employing 135 people, double the number that were employed two years ago. (La Presse. 1/2/97)

## OUTAOUAIS

	<i>Jan. 97</i>	<i>Jan. 96</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>1997 (cumul.)</i>	<i>1996 (cumul.)</i>	<i>Change</i>
<i>Jobs</i>	146	146	0	146	146	0
<i>Unemployed</i>	20	18	2	20	18	2
<i>Labour force</i>	166	164	2	166	164	2
<i>Unemployment</i>	11.9	10.8	1.1	11.9	10.8	1.1

Unemployment rates and Changes are percentages, other figures are in thousands  
 Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving averages  
 Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (LFS)

### Ottawa-Hull loses 11,000 jobs in January

The Ottawa-Hull region has had to face the loss of 11,000 jobs between December 1996 and January 1997. During this same time, the labour market declined by 12,000 people, compensating so to speak for the heavy job losses. The overall result was that the unemployment rate fell 0.2 percentage point, bringing it down to 9.1% for January.

## QUEBEC CITY

	<i>Jan. 97</i>	<i>Jan. 96</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>1997 (cumul.)</i>	<i>1996 (cumul.)</i>	<i>Change</i>
<i>Jobs</i>	281	285	-4	281	285	-4
<i>Unemployed</i>	42	40	2	42	40	2
<i>Labour force</i>	323	325	-2	323	325	-2
<i>Unemployment</i>	12.9	12.2	0.7	12.9	12.2	0.7

Unemployment rates and Changes are percentages, other figures are in thousands  
 Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving averages  
 Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (LFS)

### Little change in Quebec City

The labour market was very stable in the Quebec City metropolitan area. The numbers of jobs and of unemployed workers remained about the same from December 1996 to January 1997, and the unemployment rate dropped just 0.2 percentage point. This region continues to have the best record in Quebec, with the lowest unemployment and the highest employment-population ratio among major metropolitan areas.

### Exfo has the wind in its sails

*Exfo ingénierie électro-optique*, of Vanier, which manufactures fibre optics metering instruments, plans to hire about 50 new workers in 1997. The company is doing exceptionally well. In 1996, sales increased 50%, rising to \$28.5 million. All indications are that 1997 will bring a repeat of this sterling performance. (Le Journal de Québec. 8/2/97)

### SAGUENAY/LAC ST JEAN

	Jan. 97	Jan. 96	Change	1997 (cumul.)	1996 (cumul.)	Change
<i>Jobs</i>	110	111	-1	110	111	-1
<i>Unemployed</i>	22	20	2	22	20	2
<i>Labour force</i>	132	131	1	132	131	1
<i>Unemployment</i>	16.6	15.5	1.1	16.6	15.5	1.1

Unemployment rates and Changes are percentages, other figures are in thousands  
Non-seasonally adjusted data, three-month moving averages  
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (LFS)

### Chicoutimi-Jonquière has highest unemployment

The Chicoutimi-Jonquière region saw a big increase in its unemployment rate, from 15.8% in December 1996 to 16.6% in January 1997. This is the highest rate of any metropolitan region in Quebec, and indeed in Canada. The increase may be explained by the arrival of 1000 new unemployed workers in the labour force and by the loss of a similar number of jobs.

**LABOUR FORCE DATA  
BY PROVINCE**  
(Seasonally adjusted estimates)

Provinces	Employment						Unemployment rate							
	jan. 97	dec. 96	nov. 96	Change		Change		jan. 97	dec. 96	nov. 96	Change		Change	
				jan. 97	dec. 96	jan. 97	nov. 96				jan. 97	dec. 96	jan. 97	nov. 96
Newfoundland	192	188	189	4		3		20.4	20.4	18.9	0.0		1.5	
Prince Edward Island	59	60	59	-1		0		16.2	15.9	15.6	0.3		0.6	
Nova Scotia	390	387	384	3		6		13.0	12.9	12.9	0.1		0.1	
New Brunswick	312	308	309	4		3		13.0	13.3	13.0	-0.3		0.0	
Quebec	3,213	3,205	3,193	8		20		12.2	12.1	12.7	0.1		-0.5	
Ontario	5,322	5,329	5,341	-7		-19		9.0	9.1	9.2	-0.1		-0.2	
Manitoba	541	536	533	4		8		7.1	7.5	7.8	-0.4		-0.7	
Saskatchewan	462	463	458	-1		4		6.3	5.9	5.9	0.4		0.4	
Alberta	1,428	1,435	1,427	-7		1		6.9	6.3	6.4	0.6		0.5	
British Columbia	1,841	1,843	1,829	-2		12		8.0	8.7	9.4	-0.7		-1.4	
Canada	13,759	13,754	13,721	5		38		9.7	9.7	10.0	0.0		-0.3	
Provinces	Unemployed						Rapport emploi/population							
	jan. 97	dec. 96	nov. 96	Change		Change		jan. 97	dec. 96	nov. 96	Change		Change	
				jan. 97	dec. 96	jan. 97	nov. 96				jan. 97	dec. 96	jan. 97	nov. 96
Newfoundland	49	48	44	1		5		42.5	41.7	41.8	0.8		0.7	
Prince Edward Island	12	11	11	0		1		55.4	56.3	55.3	-0.9		0.1	
Nova Scotia	58	57	57	1		1		52.7	52.3	52.0	0.4		0.7	
New Brunswick	47	47	46	-1		0		51.8	51.1	51.5	0.7		0.3	
Quebec	448	443	464	5		-15		54.4	54.4	54.2	0.0		0.2	
Ontario	529	534	543	-5		-14		59.7	59.8	60.0	-0.1		-0.3	
Manitoba	42	43	45	-2		-4		63.0	62.5	62.1	0.5		0.9	
Saskatchewan	31	29	29	2		2		61.0	61.2	60.6	-0.2		0.4	
Alberta	105	96	98	9		7		66.9	67.4	67.2	-0.5		-0.3	
British Columbia	161	176	189	-15		-28		60.0	60.2	59.8	-0.2		0.2	
Canada	1481	1,485	1,525	-5		-45		58.5	58.5	58.4	0.0		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 PROVINCE

(Unadjusted estimates)

Provinces	Employment						Unemployment rates					
	jan. 97	jan. 96	1997 cumulative	Change		Change (cumulatives) 1997 / 1996	jan. 97	jan. 96	1997 cumulative	Change		Change (cumulatives) 1997 / 1996
				jan. 97	jan. 96					jan. 97	jan. 96	
Newfoundland	177	175	177	2		2	21.4	20.6	21.4	0.8		0.8
Prince Edward Island	54	56	54	-2		-2	20.0	17.3	20.0	2.7		2.7
Nova Scotia	372	371	372	1		1	14.0	12.7	14.0	1.3		1.3
New Brunswick	289	290	289	-1		-1	14.5	12.6	14.5	1.9		1.9
Quebec	3,107	3,135	3,107	-28		-28	13.5	12.3	13.5	1.2		1.2
Ontario	5,192	5,136	5,192	56		56	9.6	9.5	9.6	0.1		0.1
Manitoba	526	502	526	24		24	8.2	9.1	8.2	-0.9		-0.9
Saskatchewan	448	445	448	3		3	7.2	8.1	7.2	-0.9		-0.9
Alberta	1,393	1,361	1,393	32		32	7.4	8.2	7.4	-0.8		-0.8
British Columbia	1,784	1,729	1,784	55		55	9.0	10.3	9.0	-1.3		-1.3
Canada	13,342	13,200	13,342	142		142	10.6	10.5	10.6	0.1		0.1

Provinces	Unemployed						Employment/population ratio					
	jan. 97	jan. 96	1997 cumulative	Change		Change (cumulatives) 1997 / 1996	jan. 97	jan. 96	1997 cumulative	Change		Change (cumulatives) 1997 / 1996
				jan. 97	jan. 96					jan. 97	jan. 96	
Newfoundland	48	45	48	3		3	39.2	38.6	39.2	0.6		0.6
Prince Edward Island	14	12	14	2		2	50.7	52.8	50.7	-2.1		-2.1
Nova Scotia	61	54	61	7		7	50.3	50.5	50.3	-0.2		-0.2
New Brunswick	49	42	49	8		8	48.1	48.4	48.1	-0.3		-0.3
Quebec	485	439	485	46		46	52.6	53.7	52.6	-1.1		-1.1
Ontario	552	541	552	11		11	58.2	58.5	58.2	-0.3		-0.3
Manitoba	47	51	47	-4		-4	61.3	59.0	61.3	2.3		2.3
Saskatchewan	35	39	35	-4		-4	59.1	59.3	59.1	-0.2		-0.2
Alberta	112	121	112	-9		-9	65.3	65.2	65.3	0.1		0.1
British Columbia	176	198	176	-23		-23	58.1	57.8	58.1	0.3		0.3
Canada	1578	1,542	1,578	36		36	56.7	56.9	56.7	-0.2		-0.2

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							
	jan. 97	dec. 96	nov. 96	Change		Change		jan. 97	dec. 96	nov. 96	Change		Change	
				jan. 97	dec. 96	jan. 97	nov. 96				jan. 97	dec. 96	jan. 97	nov. 96
Halifax	170	170	170	-0		-0		8.9	8.8	8.8	0.1		0.1	
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	63	64	65	-1		-2		16.6	15.8	15.4	0.8		1.2	
Québec	320	320	319	0		1		11.2	11.4	11.6	-0.2		-0.4	
Montréal	1,558	1,547	1,544	11		15		12.4	12.5	12.7	-0.1		-0.3	
Trois-Rivières	63	63	62	1		2		14.0	13.8	13.5	0.2		0.5	
Sherbrooke	66	66	66	0		-0		11.4	11.2	10.9	0.2		0.5	
Ottawa-Hull	524	535	538	-11		-14		9.1	8.9	8.2	0.2		0.9	
Toronto	2,207	2,196	2,181	12		26		8.5	8.6	8.9	-0.1		-0.4	
Winnipeg	350	349	347	1		4		8.5	8.4	8.3	0.1		0.2	
Calgary	459	454	453	5		6		6.5	6.8	7.0	-0.3		-0.5	
Vancouver	945	939	931	6		14		8.0	8.9	9.2	-0.9		-1.2	
Metropolitan Areas	Unemployed						Employment/population ratio							
	jan. 97	dec. 96	nov. 96	Change		Change		jan. 97	dec. 96	nov. 96	Change		Change	
				jan. 97	dec. 96	jan. 97	nov. 96				jan. 97	dec. 96	jan. 97	nov. 96
Halifax	17	16	17	0		0		62.4	62.6	62.7	-0.2		-0.3	
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	13	12	12	1		1		46.9	47.5	48.2	-0.6		-1.3	
Québec	41	41	42	-1		-2		55.6	55.6	55.5	0.0		0.1	
Montréal	220	222	225	-2		-5		56.1	55.7	55.7	0.4		0.4	
Trois-Rivières	10	10	10	0		1		53.4	52.7	52.0	0.7		1.4	
Sherbrooke	9	8	8	0		0		54.2	54.2	54.5	0.0		-0.3	
Ottawa-Hull	53	52	48	1		4		60.9	62.2	62.7	-1.3		-1.8	
Toronto	204	205	214	-1		-10		62.2	61.9	61.6	0.3		0.6	
Winnipeg	32	32	31	0		1		62.3	62.1	61.7	0.2		0.6	
Calgary	32	33	34	-1		-2		69.0	68.4	68.4	0.6		0.6	
Vancouver	82	92	94	-9		-12		61.4	61.2	60.8	0.2		0.6	

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

(Unadjusted estimates, Three-month moving averages)

Metropolitan Areas	Employment									Unemployment rates					
	jan. 97	jan. 96	1997 cumulative	Change		Change (cumulatives)			jan. 97	jan. 96	1997 cumulative	Change		Change (cumulatives)	
				jan. 97	jan. 96	1997	1997	1996				jan. 97	jan. 96	1997	1996
Halifax	170	168	170	2		2			8.3	7.0	8.3	1.3		1.3	
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	62	63	62	-1		-1			16.9	14.7	16.9	2.2		2.2	
Québec	313	318	313	-4		-4			11.4	10.8	11.4	0.6		0.6	
Montréal	1,537	1,539	1,537	-1		-1			12.6	11.0	12.6	1.6		1.6	
Trois-Rivières	61	60	61	1		1			14.9	10.8	14.9	4.1		4.1	
Sherbrooke	66	68	66	-2		-2			11.5	11.7	11.5	-0.2		-0.2	
Ottawa-Hull	518	499	518	19		19			9.0	8.9	9.0	0.1		0.1	
Toronto	2,198	2,122	2,198	76		76			8.1	8.1	8.1	0.0		0.0	
Winnipeg	347	339	347	8		8			8.5	8.6	8.5	-0.1		-0.1	
Calgary	453	426	453	27		27			6.4	7.7	6.4	-1.3		-1.3	
Vancouver	930	907	930	23		23			8.2	8.7	8.2	-0.5		-0.5	

Metropolitan Areas	Unemployed						Employment/population ratio								
	jan. 97	jan. 96	1997 cumulative	Change		Change (cumulatives)			jan. 97	jan. 96	1997 cumulative	Change		Change (cumulatives)	
				jan. 97	jan. 96	1997	1997	1996				jan. 97	jan. 96	1997	1996
Halifax	15	13	15	3		3			62.3	62.4	62.3	-0.1		-0.1	
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	13	11	13	2		2			46.4	47.4	46.4	-1.0		-1.0	
Québec	41	38	41	2		2			54.4	55.8	54.4	-1.4		-1.4	
Montréal	222	191	222	32		32			55.3	56.0	55.3	-0.7		-0.7	
Trois-Rivières	11	7	11	3		3			51.3	51.0	51.3	0.3		0.3	
Sherbrooke	9	9	9	-1		-1			54.0	56.7	54.0	-2.7		-2.7	
Ottawa-Hull	51	49	51	2		2			60.3	59.1	60.3	1.2		1.2	
Toronto	193	187	193	5		5			61.9	61.1	61.9	0.8		0.8	
Winnipeg	32	32	32	0		0			61.7	60.7	61.7	1.0		1.0	
Calgary	31	36	31	-5		-5			68.0	65.9	68.0	2.1		2.1	
Vancouver	83	86	83	-4		-4			60.5	60.7	60.5	-0.2		-0.2	

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										
	jan. 97	jan. 96	1997 cumulative	Change		Change (cumulatives)		jan. 97	jan. 96	1997 cumulative	Change		Change (cumulatives)				
				jan. 97	/	jan. 96	1997	/	1996				jan. 97	/	jan. 96	1997	/
Gaspé-Magdalen Islands	30	28	30	2		2		22.8	19.0	22.8	3.8		3.8				
Lower St Lawrence	75	79	75	-4.4		-4.4		19.5	12.8	19.5	6.7		6.7				
Québec City	281	285	281	-3.5		-3.5		12.9	12.2	12.9	0.7		0.7				
Chaudière-Appalaches	177	173	177	4.6		4.6		7.6	9.0	7.6	-1.4		-1.4				
Eastern Townships	123	125	123	-1.6		-1.6		9.6	12.1	9.6	-2.5		-2.5				
Montérégie	605	609	605	-4.3		-4.3		10.4	10.3	10.4	0.1		0.1				
Montréal	733	753	733	-21		-20.7		15.1	12.6	15.1	2.5		2.5				
Laval	164	158	164	6.3		6.3		10.9	8.5	10.9	2.4		2.4				
Lanaudière	184	169	184	15.1		15.1		11.0	11.4	11.0	-0.4		-0.4				
Laurentians	203	210	203	-7		-7		13.1	11.7	13.1	1.4		1.4				
Outaouais	146	146	146	-0.1		-0.1		11.9	10.8	11.9	1.1		1.1				
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	64	66	64	-1.7		-1.7		12.5	10.1	12.5	2.4		2.4				
Mauricie/Bois-Francis	192	191	192	0.9		0.9		14.1	11.3	14.1	2.8		2.8				
Saguenay/Lac-St-Jean	110	111	110	-1.3		-1.3		16.6	15.5	16.6	1.1		1.1				
North Shore/North. Que.	52	58	52	-6.7		-6.7		16.5	14.7	16.5	1.8		1.8				
Province of Québec	3,139	3,161	3,139	-22		-22.3		12.8	11.6	12.8	1.2		1.2				
Administrative Regions	Unemployed						Employment/population ratio										
	jan. 97	jan. 96	1997 cumulative	Change		Change (cumulatives)		jan. 97	jan. 96	1997 cumulative	Change		Change (cumulatives)				
				jan. 97	/	jan. 96	1997	/	1996				jan. 97	/	jan. 96	1997	/
Gaspé-Magdalen Islands	9	7	9	2.3		2.3		35.6	33.3	35.6	2.3		2				
Lower St Lawrence	18	12	18	6.5		6.5		45.5	48.5	45.5	-3.0		-3.0				
Québec City	42	40	42	2		2		51.9	53.0	51.9	-1.1		-1.1				
Chaudière-Appalaches	15	17	15	-2.5		-2.5		58.1	57.5	58.1	0.6		0.6				
Eastern Townships	13	17	13	-4.1		-4.1		55.0	56.4	55.0	-1.4		-1.4				
Montérégie	70	70	70	-0.1		-0.1		57.8	59.1	57.8	-1.3		-1.3				
Montréal	130	109	130	20.9		20.9		49.5	51.0	49.5	-1.5		-1.5				
Laval	20	15	20	5.4		5.4		59.5	58.1	59.5	1.4		1.4				
Lanaudière	23	22	23	1.2		1.2		58.9	55.4	58.9	3.5		3.5				
Laurentians	31	28	31	2.9		2.9		56.7	60.3	56.7	-3.6		-3.6				
Outaouais	20	18	20	2		2		56.7	57.7	56.7	-1.0		-1.0				
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	9	7	9	1.8		1.8		52.7	54.7	52.7	-2.0		-2.0				
Mauricie/Bois-Francis	32	24	32	7.2		7.2		49.5	49.7	49.5	-0.2		-0.2				
Saguenay/Lac-St-Jean	22	20	22	1.4		1.4		47.2	48.3	47.2	-1.1		-1.1				
North Shore/North. Que.	10	10	10	0.1		0.1		49.6	55.9	49.6	-6.3		-6.3				
Province of Québec	462	415	462	47.3		47.3		53.2	54.2	53.2	-1.0		-1.0				

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					
	jan. 97	jan. 96	1997 cumulative	Change		Change (cumulatives) 1997 / 1996	jan. 97	jan. 96	1997 cumulative	Change		Change (cumulatives) 1997 / 1996
				jan. 97	jan. 96					jan. 97	jan. 96	
Newfoundland	146	144	146	1		1	31	31	31	1		1
Prince Edward Island	42	43	42	-1		-1	12	13	12	-1		-1
Nova Scotia	286	286	286	-0		-0	86	85	86	2		2
New Brunswick	228	238	228	-10		-10	61	52	61	9		9
Quebec	2,498	2537	2,498	-39		-39	609	597	609	11		11
Ontario	4,162	4099	4,162	63		63	1,029	1,037	1,029	-7		-7
Manitoba	403	389	403	14		14	124	113	124	11		11
Saskatchewan	344	337	344	8		8	103	109	103	-5		-5
Alberta	1,111	1074	1,111	37		37	282	288	282	-6		-6
British Columbia	1,394	1349	1,394	45		45	391	380	391	11		11
<b>Canada</b>	<b>10,614</b>	<b>10497</b>	<b>10,614</b>	<b>117</b>		<b>117</b>	<b>2,728</b>	<b>2,703</b>	<b>2,728</b>	<b>25</b>		<b>25</b>

Industries	Employment by industry					
	jan. 97	jan. 96	1997 cumulative	Change		Change (cumulatives) 1997 / 1996
				jan. 97	jan. 96	
Agriculture	71	62	71	9		9
Other primary	35	37	35	-3		-3
Manufacturing	581	532	581	49		49
Construction	108	117	108	-10		-10
Transp., comm., utilities	186	189	186	-3		-3
Trade	537	564	537	-28		-28
Finance, insur., real estate	159	196	159	-37		-37
Services	1,206	1,208	1,206	-1		-1
Public administration	196	194	196	2		2
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,107</b>	<b>3,135</b>	<b>3,107</b>	<b>-28</b>		<b>-28</b>

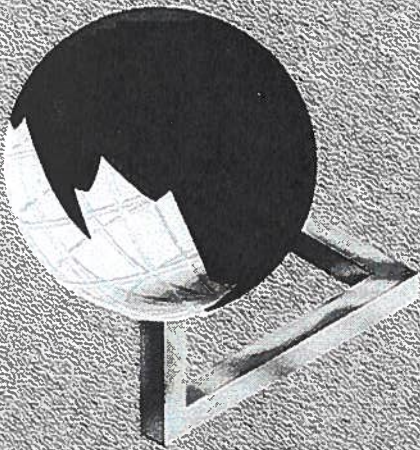
Employment in thousands

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

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**ACCESS**  
to business networks

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**ACCESS**  
to financial support

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