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THE FORD-Q

# ECONOMIC UPDATE

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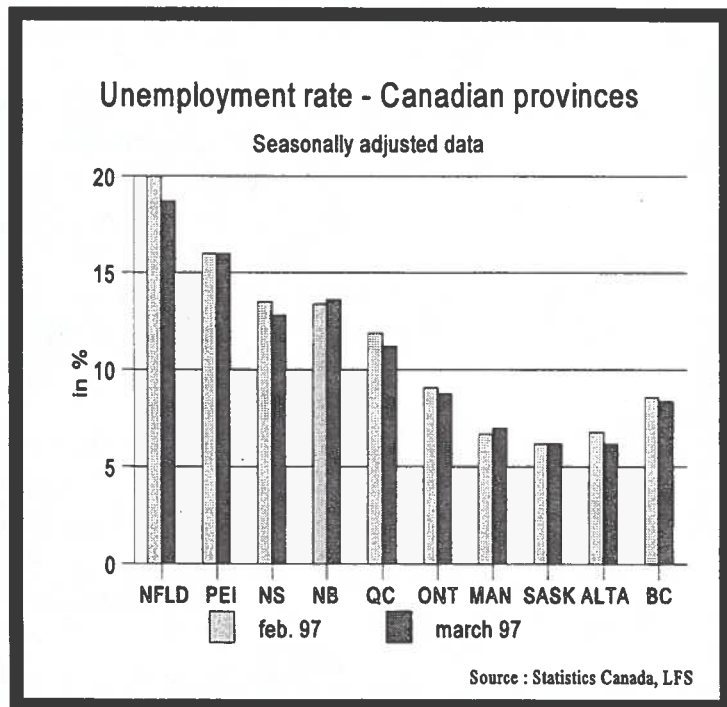
## Strong increase in employment in Quebec

The rate of unemployment dropped 0.7 of a percentage point between February and March 1997, levelling off at 11.2% during March. This drop is partly attributable to the creation of 27,000 new jobs during the period. The number of unemployed also dropped 26,000 between February and March 1997.

Labour market conditions have continued, therefore, to be favourable for the province since November, after last summer's large job losses, and the stagnation seen in the early fall. In the last four months, 57,000 new jobs have been created in Quebec, and the rate of unemployment has dropped 1.5 of a percentage point.

Unemployment in Canada dropped from 9.7% in February to 9.3% in March 1997, primarily because of employment gains in Quebec and in Ontario. The number of jobs in Ontario increased by 46,000.

It was also another good month for the labour market in the Greater Montreal area. Between February and March 1997, 13,000 new jobs were created in the province's capital, and unemployment decreased from 11.8% in February to 11.5% in March. This was the lowest unemployment has dropped in the area since May 1996. Unemployment in all cities in Quebec dropped between February and March 1997, with the greatest drop being in the Chicoutimi-Jonquière area (down by 1.3 of a percentage point).



Federal Office of  
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(Québec)

Bureau fédéral de  
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(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 editors are :**

Léonel Plasse and André Bernard

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## Regions having trouble making up last year's losses

On a non-seasonally adjusted basis, eight of Quebec's fifteen administrative regions saw their employment figures drop between March 1996 and March 1997, while eleven of these same regions saw their rate of unemployment go up. The regions most affected were the Lower St. Lawrence (6,000 jobs lost and unemployment up by 6.4%), Abitibi-Témiscamingue (3,000 jobs lost and unemployment up by 5.4%) and Gaspé/Magdalen Islands (3,000 jobs lost and unemployment up by 4.5%).

These rather unfavourable data underscore the fact that, despite recent job creation, Quebec has not yet returned to the early 1996 level.

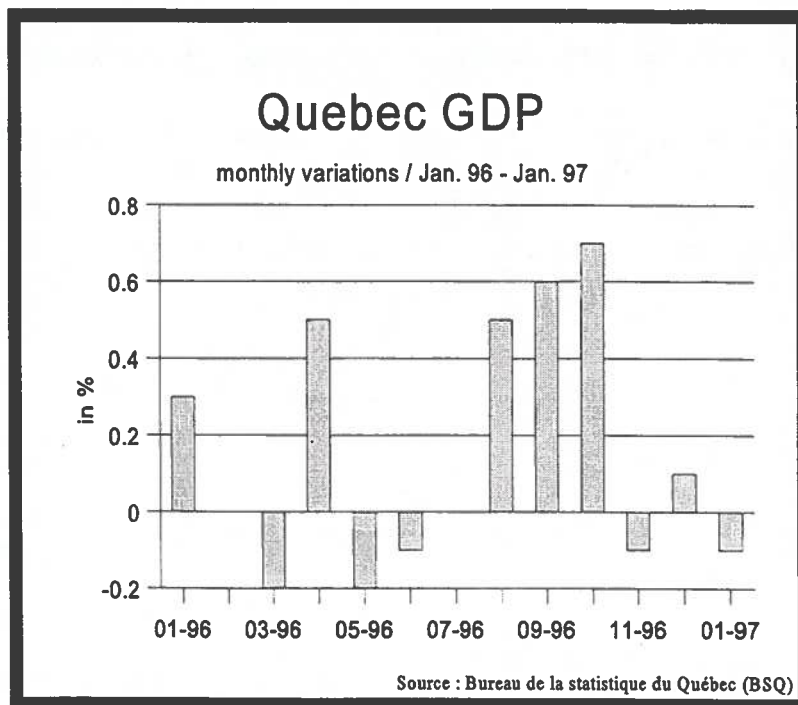
## Fewer exports in January

According to the Bureau de la statistique du Québec, the value of Quebec's foreign exports dropped by 0.6% between January 1996 and January 1997. This drop is primarily due to price drops in several important products such as aluminum and its alloys, office machinery and equipment, and newsprint.

At the same time, the value of Quebec's imports increased by 10.1% between January 1996 and January 1997. Part of this increase is attributable to the jump in value of oil and automobile imports.

## Slight drop in economic activity

According to the Bureau de la statistique du Québec (BSQ), there was a slight drop in economic activity in Quebec last January. The real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at factor cost dropped 0.1% between December 1996 and January 1997. This decrease is primarily the result of the 0.9% drop in the manufacturing sector. This was the first decrease for this sector in six months. The growth in the GDP in Quebec for 1996 was 1.3%.



## **Canada-Quebec infrastructure program renewed**

The governments of Canada and of Quebec jointly announced the renewal of the infrastructure program for fiscal year 1997-98. The result will be over \$500 million in investments and an estimated 5,300 new jobs.

The program will be funded by all three levels of government, federal, provincial and municipal, and will give preference to projects in three major areas:

- upgrading of and repairs to major highways;
- repairs to municipal infrastructures;
- funding for projects that are technology based or conducive to a community's economic development.

The investments announced will include the \$219 million not spent last year (Le Soleil, 12/4/97)

## **Investments in road system**

According to the Quebec Department of Transportation, large amounts will be invested in Quebec's road system in 1997-98. Over one billion dollars has apparently been earmarked for various construction and repair projects throughout the province. (Constructo, 22/4/97)

## **Textiles Cavalier aiming for increased productivity**

Textiles Cavalier plans to invest \$15 million modernizing its four mills in Quebec. Although no additional hiring is planned in connection with this investment, the project would increase productivity of the plants in Sherbrooke, Saint-Georges-de-Beauce, Drummondville and Montmagny. In all, Textile Cavalier employs 760 people in Quebec. (La Presse, 4/12/97)

## REGIONAL REVIEW

### ISLAND OF MONTREAL

	March 97	March 96	Change	1997 (cumul.)	1996 (cumul.)	Change
<i>Jobs</i>	743	768	-25	737	762	-25
<i>Unemployed</i>	117	116	1	123	113	10
<i>Labour force</i>	860	884	-24	860	875	-15
<i>Unemployment</i>	13.6	13.1	0.5	14.3	12.9	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)

### Court of Appeal Rules in Favour of ADM

In an unexpected ruling handed down on April 7, the Quebec Court of Appeal overturned the ruling by Superior Court Justice Pierre Viau making it illegal to switch international flights from Mirabel to Dorval. Aéroports de Montréal (ADM) expects Dorval to be ready to handle these flights by next July, when the temporary pier is in place. (La Presse, 8/4/97)

### 400 new jobs for Bombardier in Dorval

Bombardier will hire 400 new finishers over the next two years for its brand new *Global Express*. The work will be done at the *Centre de finition Innotech*, recently acquired by Bombardier. (Le Soleil, 4/12/97)

### 600 new jobs for the Household call centre

*Household*, a Canadian financial corporation specializing in financial services, is planning to invest close to \$6 million in its call centre in east-end Montreal. This investment is expected to create 600 jobs. (Le Journal de Montréal, 4/12/97)

### **Expansion at Bas Iris generates 2,500 new jobs**

*Manufacturier Bas Iris* of Montreal will invest \$63 million to build a new plant in Anjou that should allow it to hire 2,500 new employees in the next two years. The hosiery manufacturer will take this opportunity to move its headquarters to the new facility. The Canadian government will contribute up to \$8.1 million in financing. *Bas Iris* recorded sales of \$85 million last year and is currently expanding, particularly on the American market. (La Presse, 18/3/97)

### **\$82 million to be spent revitalizing Lachine Canal**

The Canadian government and the City of Montreal will jointly invest \$82 million over the next five years to revitalize the Lachine Canal. The plan is to turn the site into a recreational and tourist centre for pleasure boating. It is estimated that the project will lead to the creation of 4,000 direct and indirect jobs over the next five years. (Le Journal de Montréal, 11/4/97)

### **Future of Montreal's Sucre Lantic at risk**

Montreal's Sucre Lantic could shut down if owner *BC Sugar Refinery* decides to keep its St. John, New Brunswick facility open. The company will have to shut down one of the plants in order to rationalize operations. The Montreal operation is said to be more modern and more profitable, but the Government of New Brunswick has apparently agreed to make several millions of dollars in funding available for the purpose of upgrading the St. John plant. Sucre Lantic employs 250 people in Montreal.

(Le Journal de Montréal, 15/4/97)

### **Rolls-Royce to invest \$20 million**

Investments of \$20.8 million will be used to expand Rolls Royce's Lachine plant and increase its production capacity. This would add approximately 100 jobs to the 1,000 that already exist. (Le Journal de Montréal, 12/4/97)

## ABITIBI-TÉMISCAMINGUE

	March 97	March 96	Change	1997 (cumul.)	1996 (cumul.)	Change
<i>Jobs</i>	63	65	-2	63	66	-3
<i>Unemployed</i>	12	8	4	11	8	3
<i>Labour force</i>	75	73	2	74	74	0
<i>Unemployment</i>	15.7	10.3	5.4	14.3	10.2	4.1

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)

### Mines going through rough stretch

The year 1996 was a difficult one for the mining sector, to say the least. According to Statistics Canada data as interpreted by the Société québécoise de développement de la main-d'oeuvre (SQDM), employment in this sector dropped by 14% in the region. The low prices for various metals and the depletion of reserves seem to have been the dominant factors in this sluggishness.

There were at least three closings or suspensions of activity among the region's traditional large employers. The Chimo mine had to suspend operations because of exhausted reserves, resulting in the lay-off of about one hundred employees. The Gonzague-Langlois mine, near Lebel-sur-Quivillon, halted operations at year's end following a drop in the price of zinc, throwing about a hundred employees out of work. Finally, the Sigma mine laid off 70 of its employees last summer after a restructuring exercise.

(L'Écho, 19/3/97)

### Rouyn-Noranda now owns its airport

Last month, the federal government handed over ownership of the Rouyn-Noranda airport to the local municipality. This transaction will be accompanied by a financial contribution of some \$1.8 million from the Federal Office of Regional Development (Quebec) to upgrade facilities.

(La Presse, 18/3/97)

## LOWER ST. LAWRENCE

	<i>March 97</i>	<i>March 96</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>1997 (cumul.)</i>	<i>1996 (cumul.)</i>	<i>Change</i>
<i>Jobs</i>	71	77	-6	73	78	-5
<i>Unemployed</i>	19	14	5	19	13	6
<i>Labour force</i>	90	91	-1	92	91	1
<i>Unemployment</i>	21.4	15.0	6.4	20.7	14.2	6.5

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)

### Phillips-Fitel to step up production

Phillips-Fitel will invest \$14.4 million over the next few years in its fibre optic sky wire plant in Rimouski. The company hopes this will help boost its production capacity and thus increase its share of the world market. The investment should make it possible to preserve the fifty or so jobs at the plant.  
 (Le Journal de Québec, 8/4/97)

## CHAUDIÈRE-APPALACHES

	<i>March 97</i>	<i>March 96</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>1997 (cumul.)</i>	<i>1996 (cumul.)</i>	<i>Change</i>
<i>Jobs</i>	173	171	2	175	172	3
<i>Unemployed</i>	18	17	1	17	18	-1
<i>Labour force</i>	191	188	3	192	190	2
<i>Unemployment</i>	9.5	9.2	0.3	8.6	9.2	-0.6

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)

## New direction for Bombardier

The Bombardier plant in Saint-Antoine-de-Tilly will switch from assembling jet boats to manufacturing fiberglass components. This new focus will reduce the number of people employed by the plant from 335 to 170 by year's end. Assembly will now be done in Illinois, in the United States. (Le Devoir, 25/3/97)

## BC mine workers offer to pitch in

Unionized workers of the Black Lake BC asbestos mine intend to take an active role in order to keep the mine from having to close, as it is expected to do in 27 months at the outside. A committee of local economic stakeholders and elected representatives is apparently on the point of being formed in order to recruit financial partners. At least 250 jobs hinge on the survival of the 107-year-old mine.

(Le Soleil, 12/4/97)

## NORTH SHORE / NORTHERN QUEBEC

	March 97	March 96	Change	1997 (cumul.)	1996 (cumul.)	Change
<i>Jobs</i>	52	56	-4	52	57	-5
<i>Unemployed</i>	11	11	0	11	11	0
<i>labour force</i>	63	67	-4	63	68	-5
<i>Unemployment</i>	17.0	16.0	1.0	16.9	15.3	1.6

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)

## Sawmill finally in the works

After 18 months of uncertainty, the Kruger Group has finally confirmed that it will invest \$90 million to build a new sawmill in the Baie-Comeau area. It is estimated that this investment could result in approximately 800 direct and indirect jobs. In addition to a factory, building plans include a railway line between Baie-Comeau and felling areas. (Le Soleil, 18/3/97)

## EASTERN TOWNSHIPS

	<i>March 97</i>	<i>March 96</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>1997 (cumul.)</i>	<i>1996 (cumul.)</i>	<i>Change</i>
<i>Jobs</i>	120	120	0	122	122	0
<i>Unemployed</i>	15	16	-1	14	17	-3
<i>Labour force</i>	135	136	-1	136	139	-3
<i>Unemployed</i>	11.0	11.6	-0.6	10.4	12.1	-1.7

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)

### ETFS to investir \$1.8 million in Lennoxville

ETFS, a company specializing in insurance program management, will invest \$1.8 million in its Lennoxville offices so that they can expand and hire forty or so new workers. The company also has offices in Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal. (CHLT MA, 630, Sherbrooke, 3/4/97)

### Sherbrooke airport officially turned over

The federal government officially announced that it had turned over ownership of Sherbrooke airport to municipal authorities. Along with the turnover, however, will go funding of almost \$1 million from the Federal Office of Regional Development (Quebec) to repair the landing strip and lighting system.

(CFKS, Canal 30 ; CHLT, Canal 7 ; CKSH, Canal 9 ; CIMO MF, 106,1, Sherbrooke, 10/4/97)

## GASPÉ / MAGDALEN ISLANDS

	March 97	March 96	Change	1997 (cumul.)	1996 (cumul.)	Change
<i>Jobs</i>	29	26	3	29	26	3
<i>Unemployed</i>	10	7	3	9	6	3
<i>Labour force</i>	39	33	6	38	32	6
<i>Unemployment</i>	25.7	21.2	4.5	24.5	19.9	4.6

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)

### Bois Tamarack re-opened

The larch finishing plant, Bois Tamarack, in Bonaventure has been renamed *Vernissage M.A.*, following the arrival on the scene of two new shareholders, who intend to re-open the plant in the near future. Initially, about twenty workers are expected to be hired, and the re-opened factory should provide work for about 75 employees in a few months.

(Le Soleil, 19/3/97)

## LANAUDIÈRE

	March 97	March 96	Change	1997 (cumul.)	1996 (cumul.)	Change
<i>Jobs</i>	188	164	24	186	166	20
<i>Unemployed</i>	22	28	-6	22	25	-3
<i>Labour force</i>	210	192	18	208	191	17
<i>Unemployment</i>	10.5	14.4	-3.9	10.6	13.0	-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)

## LAURENTIANS

	March 97	March 96	Change	1997 (cumul.)	1996 (cumul.)	Change
<i>Jobs</i>	201	212	-11	202	211	-9
<i>Unemployed</i>	34	28	6	32	28	4
<i>Labour force</i>	235	240	-5	234	239	-5
<i>Unemployment</i>	14.4	11.6	2.8	13.6	11.5	2.1

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)

### GM hires back 250 employees

In April, the GM plant in Boisbriand will start recalling some 250 employees laid off in the fall of 1995. This will make up for 250 workers who took retirement. In October 1995, it will be remembered, the plant's second shift was cancelled, following disappointing *Pontiac Firebird* and *Chevrolet Camaro* sales. It was this decision that led to the lay-offs.

(The Globe and Mail, 9/12/97)

## LAVAL

	March 97	March 96	Change	1997 (cumul.)	1996 (cumul.)	Change
<i>Jobs</i>	167	152	15	166	155	11
<i>Unemployed</i>	25	19	6	23	17	6
<i>Labour force</i>	192	171	21	189	172	17
<i>Unemployment</i>	13.0	10.8	2.2	12.0	9.6	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)

### Avcorp to expand

Aircraft parts manufacturer Avcorp, located in Laval, will invest more than \$12 million over the next two years to expand and modernize its plant. The number of people employed by the company could increase from 110 to 340 in the next five years as a result.

(La Presse, 18/3/97, 8/4/97)

## MAURICIE/BOIS-FRANCS

	March 97	March 96	Change	1997 (cumul.)	1996 (cumul.)	Change
<i>Jobs</i>	194	190	4	192	190	2
<i>Unemployed</i>	32	31	1	32	28	4
<i>Labour force</i>	226	221	5	224	218	6
<i>Unemployment</i>	14.1	14.1	0.0	14.2	12.8	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)

### Partnership to develop *Lithium Metal*

Hydro-Québec and Lithos Corporation recently reached a partnership agreement for development of the *Lithium Metal* project that will result in the construction of a pilot plant in Shawinigan in the near future. The consortium will then build a real factory capable of turning out 450 tonnes annually by 1999. Costing \$35 million, it would be located in Shawinigan or Jonquière and would employ approximately 150 people.

(Le Soleil, 5/4/97)

## MONTÉRÉGIE

	March 97	March 96	Change	1997 (cumul.)	1996 (cumul.)	Change
<i>Jobs</i>	607	602	5	605	605	0
<i>Unemployed</i>	71	73	-2	70	71	-1
<i>Labour force</i>	678	675	3	675	676	-1
<i>Unemployment</i>	10.4	10.9	-0.5	10.4	10.5	-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)

## Hydrogen peroxide plant in Valleyfield

*Akzo Nobel*, a chemical products company, is planning to build a new hydrogen peroxide factory in the area around its Valleyfield facilities. The investment required would be in the neighbourhood of \$100 million and would result in the creation of about sixty jobs.

(La Presse, 8/4/97)

## Municipality of Saint-Jean to take over ownership of its airport

In accordance with the Canadian government's wish to divest itself of regional airports, the municipality of Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu recently announced its intention to acquire ownership of its airport. The municipality will receive \$2 million in compensation from the Federal Office of Regional Development (Quebec) for renovations to facilities.

(CIMOMF, 106,1, Sherbrooke, 10/4/97)

## Air Liquide thinking of building new plant in Varennes

Air Liquide du Canada is thinking of building a CO<sub>2</sub> purification and liquefaction plant in Varennes. This project would require \$4 million. Work could begin in the next few months.

(Constructo, 8/4/97)

### OUTAOUAIS

	March 97	March 96	Change	1997 (cumul.)	1996 (cumul.)	Change
<i>Jobs</i>	143	147	-4	144	146	-2
<i>Unemployed</i>	20	18	2	20	18	2
<i>Labour force</i>	163	165	-2	164	164	0
<i>Unemployment</i>	12.0	11.0	1.0	12.0	10.9	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)

## Outaouais on economic mission to Morocco

Last April 5 to 12, the Société de diversification économique de l'Outaouais organized an economic mission of elected representatives and business people from the Outaouais to Morocco. The successful mission allowed several area businesses to create partnerships with businesses in Morocco in sectors such as the environment, construction, forestry, information technologies, transportation and tourism. (Société de diversification économique de l'Outaouais)

### QUEBEC CITY

	March 97	March 96	Change	1997 (cumul.)	1996 (cumul.)	Change
<i>Jobs</i>	278	285	-7	280	284	-4
<i>Unemployed</i>	40	44	-4	41	42	-1
<i>Labour force</i>	318	329	-11	321	326	-5
<i>Unemployment</i>	12.6	13.3	-0.7	12.7	12.8	-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)

## Centre des Congrès turns in great performance

Over seven months after it opened last August 23, the Centre des Congrès de Québec is doing very well and is well ahead of most of last year's objectives. Originally, plans had been for 54 activities generating \$70 million, but by March 31, 1997 the Centre had hosted 81 events with direct economic benefits of \$100 million. Centre managers expect to host 72 events with economic benefits of \$80 million in the next twelve months.

(Le Journal de Québec, 4/12/97)

## SAGUENAY/LAC ST JEAN

	<i>March 97</i>	<i>March 96</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>1997 (cumul.)</i>	<i>1996 (cumul.)</i>	<i>Change</i>
<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>	16.8	14.9	1.9	16.8	15.2	1.6

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)

### Alcan to put \$10 million into its Jonquière plant

Alcan plans to invest \$10 million expanding its sheet aluminum plant in Jonquière. Work should begin in May and finish in June 1998. During the height of the work, some 50 construction workers are expected to be employed on the site.  
 (Le Journal de Québec, 26/3/97)

### Massive investment by Alcan in the Saguenay region

Alcan's various facilities in the Saguenay region should see investments of over \$200 million this year. Plants in the region would receive \$130 million for various expansion and modernization projects. In addition, Alcan's Energy division is to receive \$77.5 million, most of it earmarked for repairs to dams and power stations.  
 (Constructo, 2/4/97)

LABOUR FORCE DATA  
BY PROVINCE  
(Seasonally adjusted estimates)

Provinces	Employment									Unemployment rate								
	Mar-97	Feb-97	Jan-97	Change		Change		Mar-97	Feb-97	Jan-97	Change		Change					
				Mar-97	Feb-97	Fev - 97	Jan-97				Mar-97	Feb-97	Fev - 97	Jan-97				
Newfoundland	191	191	192	-1		-1		18.7	20.0	20.4	-1.3		-1.7					
Prince Edward Island	60	59	59	1		1		16.0	16.0	16.2	0.0		-0.2					
Nova Scotia	392	389	390	3		2		12.8	13.5	13.0	-0.7		-0.2					
New Brunswick	307	312	312	-5		-5		13.6	13.4	13.0	0.2		0.6					
Quebec	3,250	3,223	3,213	27		37		11.2	11.9	12.2	-0.7		-1.0					
Ontario	5,348	5,302	5,322	46		26		8.8	9.1	9.0	-0.3		-0.2					
Manitoba	535	541	541	-6		-5		7.0	6.7	7.1	0.3		-0.1					
Saskatchewan	465	466	462	-0		3		6.2	6.2	6.3	0.0		-0.1					
Alberta	1,435	1,430	1,428	5		7		6.2	6.8	6.9	-0.6		-0.7					
British Columbia	1,819	1,828	1,841	-9		-22		8.4	8.6	8.0	-0.2		0.4					
Canada	13,801	13,740	13,759	61		42		9.3	9.7	9.7	-0.4		-0.4					
Provinces	Unemployed									Employment/population ratio								
	Mar-97	Feb-97	Jan-97	Change		Change		Mar-97	Feb-97	Jan-97	Change		Change					
				Mar-97	Feb-97	Fev - 97	Jan-97				Mar-97	Feb-97	Fev - 97	Jan-97				
Newfoundland	44	48	49	-4		-5		42.2	42.3	42.5	-0.1		-0.3					
Prince Edward Island	12	11	12	0		0		56.3	55.1	55.4	1.2		0.9					
Nova Scotia	58	61	58	-3		-0		52.9	52.5	52.7	0.4		0.2					
New Brunswick	48	48	47	0		2		51.0	51.8	51.8	-0.8		-0.8					
Quebec	409	434	448	-26		-39		55.0	54.6	54.4	0.4		0.6					
Ontario	516	529	529	-13		-13		59.8	59.4	59.7	0.4		0.1					
Manitoba	40	39	42	1		-2		62.3	63.0	63.0	-0.7		-0.7					
Saskatchewan	31	31	31	0		0		61.4	61.4	61.0	0.0		0.4					
Alberta	95	104	105	-9		-10		67.0	66.9	66.9	0.1		0.1					
British Columbia	167	173	161	-6		6		59.1	59.5	60.0	-0.4		-0.9					
Canada	1418	1,477	1,481	-59		-63		58.5	58.3	58.5	0.2		0.0					

Employment in thousands and Unemployment rates in percentages

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

Prepared by Léonel Plasse, Planning and strategic Orientations

**LABOUR FORCE DATA  
BY PROVINCE  
(Unadjusted estimates)**

Provinces	Employment						Unemployment rates					
	Mar-97	Mar-96	1997 cumulative	Change Mar-97 / Mar-96		Change (cumulatives) 1997 / 1996	Mar-97	Mar-96	1997 cumulative	Change Mar-97 / Mar-96		Change (cumulatives) 1997 / 1996
Newfoundland	177	174	177	3		3	20.3	20.9	20.9	-0.6		-0.1
Prince Edward Island	55	54	54	1		-1	20.6	18.5	20.4	2.1		2.4
Nova Scotia	374	363	372	11		5	14.4	14.6	14.3	-0.2		1.0
New Brunswick	287	294	289	-7		-3	15.4	12.1	14.9	3.3		2.5
Quebec	3,174	3,147	3,139	27		-7	12.4	12.6	13.0	-0.2		0.5
Ontario	5,236	5,180	5,205	57		40	9.6	9.8	9.6	-0.2		0.0
Manitoba	525	513	527	11		18	7.7	8.1	7.8	-0.4		-0.8
Saskatchewan	452	447	451	6		5	7.4	8.3	7.2	-0.9		-0.9
Alberta	1,418	1,388	1,403	30		31	6.4	7.5	7.0	-1.1		-0.9
British Columbia	1,789	1,766	1,785	23		39	8.8	9.0	9.1	-0.2		-0.5
Canada	13,487	13,326	13,402	161		129	10.2	10.4	10.4	-0.2		0.0
Provinces	Unemployed						Employment/population ratio					
	Mar-97	Mar-96	1997 cumulative	Change Mar-97 / Mar-96		Change (cumulatives) 1997 / 1996	Mar-97	Mar-96	1997 cumulative	Change Mar-97 / Mar-96		Change (cumulatives) 1997 / 1996
Newfoundland	45	46	47	-1		0	39.3	38.4	39.2	0.9		0.7
Prince Edward Island	14	12	14	2		2	50.8	51.0	50.4	-0.2		-1.6
Nova Scotia	63	62	62	1		6	50.6	49.5	50.3	1.1		0.3
New Brunswick	52	41	50	12		10	47.7	49.1	48.0	-1.4		-0.7
Quebec	448	453	467	-5		19	53.7	53.8	53.1	-0.1		-0.7
Ontario	558	565	555	-8		3	58.6	58.8	58.3	-0.2		-0.4
Manitoba	44	45	44	-1		-3	61.0	60.2	61.3	0.8		1.6
Saskatchewan	36	40	35	-4		-4	59.7	59.5	59.5	0.2		0.1
Alberta	97	112	106	-15		-12	66.2	66.3	65.6	-0.1		-0.0
British Columbia	173	175	178	-2		-6	58.1	58.8	58.1	-0.7		-0.2
Canada	1530	1,551	1,558	-21		14	57.2	57.3	56.9	-0.1		-0.2

Employment in thousands and Unemployment rates in percentages

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

Prepared by Léonel Plasse, Planning and strategic Orientations

**LABOUR FORCE DATA  
BY METROPOLITAN AREAS**  
(Seasonally adjusted estimates, Three-month moving averages)

Metropolitan Areas	Employment						Unemployment rates									
	Mar-97	Feb-97	Jan-97	Change		Fev - 97	Change		Mar-97	Feb-97	Jan-97	Change		Fev - 97	Change	
				Mar-97	Feb-97		Mar-97	Feb-97				Mar-97	Feb-97		Mar-97	Feb-97
Halifax	169	169	170	1			-1		9.2	9.2	8.9	0.0			0.3	
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	65	64	63	1			2		15.3	16.6	16.6	-1.3			-1.3	
Québec	317	321	320	-4			-3		11.0	11.2	11.2	-0.2			-0.2	
Montréal	1,580	1,567	1,558	13			22		11.5	11.8	12.4	-0.3			-0.9	
Trois-Rivières	64	64	63	-0			0		13.6	13.7	14.0	-0.1			-0.4	
Sherbrooke	67	66	66	0			1		10.9	11.4	11.4	-0.5			-0.5	
Ottawa-Hull	520	521	524	-1			-5		9.0	9.2	9.1	-0.2			-0.1	
Toronto	2,199	2,197	2,207	2			-8		8.5	8.5	8.5	0.0			0.0	
Winnipeg	352	352	350	0			2		8.0	8.2	8.5	-0.2			-0.5	
Calgary	461	461	459	1			2		6.4	6.4	6.5	0.0			-0.1	
Vancouver	942	948	945	-6			-3		7.9	7.7	8.0	0.2			-0.1	
Metropolitan Areas	Unemployed						Employment/population ratio									
	Mar-97	Feb-97	Jan-97	Change		Fev - 97	Change		Mar-97	Feb-97	Jan-97	Change		Fev - 97	Change	
				Mar-97	Feb-97		Mar-97	Feb-97				Mar-97	Feb-97		Mar-97	Feb-97
Halifax	17	17	17	0			1		62.0	61.9	62.4	0.1			-0.4	
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	12	13	13	-1			-1		48.2	47.4	46.9	0.8			1.3	
Québec	39	40	41	-1			-1		54.9	55.7	55.6	-0.8			-0.7	
Montréal	205	210	220	-5			-15		56.8	56.4	56.1	0.4			0.7	
Trois-Rivières	10	10	10	-0			-0		53.5	54.0	53.4	-0.5			0.1	
Sherbrooke	8	9	9	-0			-0		54.6	54.5	54.2	0.1			0.4	
Ottawa-Hull	51	53	53	-2			-2		60.3	60.5	60.9	-0.2			-0.6	
Toronto	204	204	204	1			0		61.8	61.8	62.2	0.0			-0.4	
Winnipeg	31	31	32	-1			-2		62.5	62.6	62.3	-0.1			0.2	
Calgary	31	32	32	-0			-1		68.9	69.0	69.0	-0.1			-0.1	
Vancouver	81	79	82	2			-1		61.0	61.5	61.4	-0.5			-0.4	

Employment in thousands and unemployment rates in percentages  
Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

Prepared by Léonel Plasse, Planning and strategic Orientations

**LABOUR FORCE DATA  
BY METROPOLITAN AREAS**  
(Unadjusted estimates, Three-month moving averages)

Metropolitan Areas	Employment						Unemployment rates					
	Mar-97	Mar-96	1997 cumulative	Change		Change (cumulatives) 1997 / 1996	Mar-97	Mar-96	1997 cumulative	Change		Change (cumulatives) 1997 / 1996
				Mar-97	Mar-96					Mar-97	Mar-96	
Halifax	167	164	168	3		2	9.8	8.7	9.1	1		1
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	63	62	62	1		0	16.2	14.9	16.8	1		2
Québec	310	319	312	-9		-5	11.7	11.5	11.6	0		0
Montréal	1,556	1,548	1,546	8		2	12.2	11.8	12.3	0		1
Trois-Rivières	61	60	61	1		1	14.8	12.3	14.9	3		3
Sherbrooke	65	66	65	-1		-2	11.2	12.1	11.4	-1		-1
Ottawa-Hull	511	500	514	11		15	9.5	9.6	9.3	-0		0
Toronto	2,171	2,111	2,182	60		67	8.7	9.4	8.4	-1		-0
Winnipeg	346	339	347	7		8	8.7	9.3	8.6	-1		-0
Calgary	452	430	452	22		25	7.0	8.3	6.6	-1		-1
Vancouver	925	913	928	12		19	8.5	8.5	8.3	0		-0
Metropolitan Areas	Unemployed						Employment/population ratio					
	Mar-97	Mar-96	1997 cumulative	Change		Change (cumulatives) 1997 / 1996	Mar-97	Mar-96	1997 cumulative	Change		Change (cumulatives) 1997 / 1996
				Mar-97	Mar-96					Mar-97	Mar-96	
Halifax	18	16	17	3		3	61.1	60.9	61.6	0.2		-0
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	12	11	13	1		2	46.9	46.7	46.5	0.2		-1
Québec	41	42	41	-0		1	53.7	55.9	54.2	-2.2		-2
Montréal	216	208	218	8		19	55.9	56.2	55.6	-0.3		-1
Trois-Rivières	11	8	11	2		3	51.3	51.0	51.3	0.3		0
Sherbrooke	8	9	8	-1		(1)	53.4	55.0	53.7	-1.6		-2
Ottawa-Hull	54	53	53	1		2	59.3	59.0	59.7	0.3		1
Toronto	208	218	200	-10		(4)	61.0	60.6	61.4	0.4		1
Winnipeg	33	35	33	-2		(1)	61.5	60.7	61.6	0.8		1
Calgary	34	39	32	-5		(5)	67.4	66.3	67.7	1.1		2
Vancouver	86	85	83	0		(3)	59.9	60.8	60.2	-0.9		-0

Employment in thousands and unemployment rates in percentages  
Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

Prepared by Léonel Plasse, Planning and strategic Orientations

LABOUR FORCE DATA  
BY ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS  
(Unadjusted estimates, Three-month moving averages)

Administrative Regions	Employment						Unemployment rates					
	Mar-97	Mar-96	1997 cumulative	Change Mar-97 / Mar-96	Change (cumulative) 1997 / 1996		Mar-97	Mar-96	1997 cumulative	Change Mar-97 / Mar-96	Change (cumulative) 1997 / 1996	
Gaspé-Magdalen Islands	29	26	29	3	3		25.7	21.2	24.5	4.5	4.6	
Lower St Lawrence	71	77	73	-6	-5		21.4	15.0	20.7	6.4	6.5	
Québec City	278	285	280	-7	-4		12.6	13.3	12.7	-0.7	-0.1	
Chaudière-Appalaches	173	171	175	2	3		9.5	9.2	8.6	0.3	-0.6	
Eastern Townships	120	120	122	1	-0		11.0	11.6	10.4	-0.6	-1.7	
Montérégie	607	602	605	6	-0		10.4	10.9	10.4	-0.5	-0.1	
Montréal	743	768	737	-25	-25		13.6	13.1	14.3	0.5	1.4	
Laval	167	152	166	15	11		13.0	10.8	12.0	2.2	2.4	
Lanaudière	188	164	186	23	20		10.5	14.4	10.6	-3.9	-2.4	
Laurentians	201	212	202	-11	-9		14.4	11.6	13.6	2.8	2.1	
Outaouais	143	147	144	-4	-2		12.0	11.0	12.0	1.0	1.1	
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	63	65	63	-3	-3		15.7	10.3	14.3	5.4	4.1	
Mauricie/Bois-Francs	194	190	192	3	2		14.1	14.1	14.2	0.0	1.4	
Saguenay/Lac-St-Jean	110	111	110	-2	-1		16.8	14.9	16.8	1.9	1.6	
North Shore/North. Que.	52	56	52	-4	-5		17.0	16.0	16.9	1.0	1.6	
Province of Québec	3,139	3,146	3,136	-7	-17		12.9	12.5	12.9	0.4	0.8	
Administrative Regions	Unemployed						Employment/population ratio					
	Mar-97	Mar-96	1997 cumulative	Change Mar-97 / Mar-96	Change (cumulative) 1997 / 1996		Mar-97	Mar-96	1997 cumulative	Change Mar-97 / Mar-96	Change (cumulative) 1997 / 1996	
Gaspé-Magdalen Islands	10	7	9	3	3		34.6	30.7	34.9	3.9	3	
Lower St Lawrence	19	14	19	6	6		43.0	46.8	44.1	-3.8	-3.6	
Québec City	40	44	41	-4	-1		51.3	52.9	51.7	-1.6	-1.1	
Chaudière-Appalaches	18	17	17	1	-1		56.7	56.8	57.3	-0.1	0.2	
Eastern Townships	15	16	14	-1	-3		53.7	54.1	54.3	-0.4	-0.9	
Montérégie	71	73	70	-3	-1		57.9	58.2	57.7	-0.3	-0.9	
Montréal	117	116	123	2	10		50.2	51.9	49.8	-1.7	-1.8	
Laval	25	19	23	7	6		60.4	56.0	60.1	4.4	3.1	
Lanaudière	22	28	22	-6	-3		59.8	53.7	59.5	6.1	5.0	
Laurentians	34	28	32	6	4		56.0	60.6	56.3	-4.6	-4.2	
Outaouais	20	18	20	1	2		55.2	57.7	56.0	-2.5	-1.8	
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	12	8	11	4	3		51.5	54.1	51.9	-2.6	-2.7	
Mauricie/Bois-Francs	32	31	32	0	4		49.7	49.3	49.5	0.4	0.0	
Saguenay/Lac-St-Jean	22	20	22	3	2		47.1	48.3	47.1	-1.2	-1.2	
North Shore/North. Que.	11	11	11	-0	0		50.1	54.0	49.9	-3.9	-5.1	
Province of Québec	467	447	465	19	32		53.1	53.8	53.1	-0.7	-0.9	

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

Prepared by Léonel Plasse, Planning and strategic Orientations

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

Provinces	Full-time employment						Part-time employment					
	Mar-97	Mar-96	1997 cumulative	Change		Change (cumulatives) 1997 / 1996	Mar-97	Mar-96	1997 cumulative	Change		Change (cumulatives) 1997 / 1996
				Mar-97	Mar-96					Mar-97	Mar-96	
Newfoundland	146	143	146	3		3	32	31	31	1		-0
Prince Edward Island	43	42	42	1		-0	12	12	12	0		-1
Nova Scotia	289	290	286	-1		-2	85	74	86	12		6
New Brunswick	230	238	230	-9		-7	58	56	59	1		4
Quebec	2,561	2,532	2,526	29		-6	613	615	613	-2		-0
Ontario	4,168	4,141	4,153	27		29	1,069	1,039	1,052	30		10
Manitoba	404	397	405	7		12	120	116	122	4		6
Saskatchewan	351	338	348	13		11	101	109	103	-7		-6
Alberta	1,118	1,110	1,114	8		24	300	278	289	22		7
British Columbia	1,399	1,404	1,389	-5		15	390	362	395	28		24
Canada	10,708	10,636	10,640	73		79	2,779	2,691	2,762	89		51

Industries	Employment by industry					
	Mar-97	Mar-96	1997 cumulative	Change		Change (cumulatives) 1997 / 1996
				Mar-97	Mar-96	
Agriculture	58	68	63	-10		-2
Other primary	32	31	34	1		-1
Manufacturing	601	522	589	79		61
Construction	107	120	107	-13		-10
Transp., comm., utilities	205	198	196	7		2
Trade	531	551	531	-20		-23
Finance, insur., real estate	160	201	163	-41		-37
Services	1,251	1,214	1,228	37		12
Public administration	194	205	198	-11		-2
Total	3,174	3,147	3,139	27		-7

Employment in thousands

Source: Statistics Canada, LFS

Prepared by Léonel Plasse, Planning and strategic Orientation

**A D V I S O R S**

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