



Labour Market Bulletin

Quebec



August 2022

This Labour Market Bulletin provides an analysis of Labour Force Survey results for the province of Quebec and its regions.

OVERVIEW

While Canada experienced a decline in employment, Quebec’s labour market showed gains in August, according to the latest data published by Statistics Canada in the Labour Force Survey. In fact, employment rose by 27,200 compared to July (+0.6%), which practically offset losses from the past two months (-31,500). The employment increase was only in part-time jobs (+55,700 or +7.1%), whereas full-time jobs were down (-28,600 or -0.8%). Employment growth was shared between women (+14,000 or +0.7%) and men (+13,100 or +0.6%). Within the age groups, persons aged 15 to 24 (+15,500 or +2.7%) and 25 to 54 (+11,400 or +0.4%) experienced employment gains, while the level remained the same for persons aged 55 and over. In Canada, employment declined by 39,700 (-0.2%), as it did in most provinces, including Ontario (-19,200 or -0.2%).

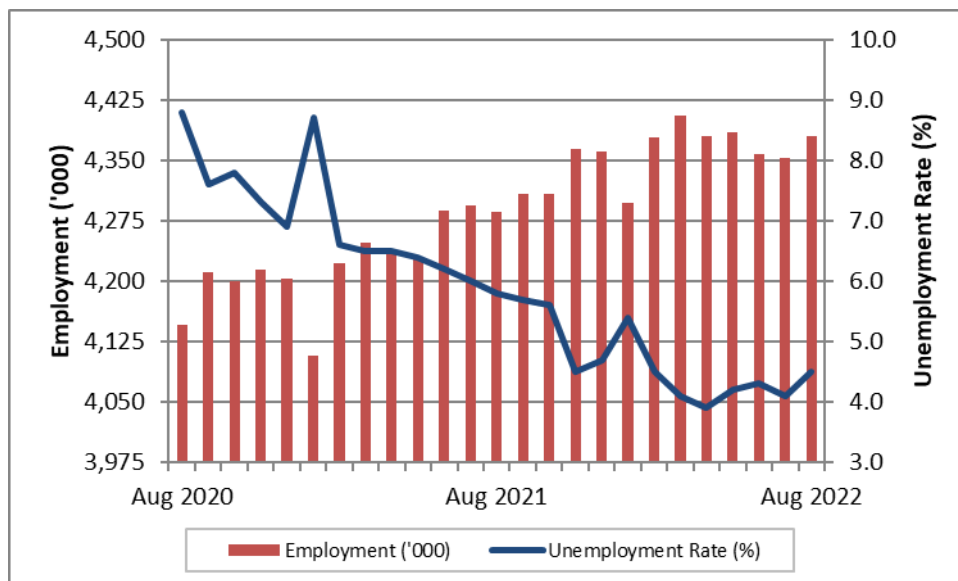
Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	August 2022	July 2022	August 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	7,165.4	7,157.9	7,103.4	7.5	0.1	62.0	0.9
Labour Force ('000)	4,588.0	4,538.3	4,551.6	49.7	1.1	36.4	0.8
Employment ('000)	4,380.3	4,353.1	4,286.3	27.2	0.6	94.0	2.2
Full-Time ('000)	3,541.5	3,570.1	3,525.7	-28.6	-0.8	15.8	0.4
Part-Time ('000)	838.8	783.1	760.6	55.7	7.1	78.2	10.3
Unemployment ('000)	207.7	185.1	265.3	22.6	12.2	-57.6	-21.7
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.5	4.1	5.8	0.4	-	-1.3	-
Participation Rate (%)	64.0	63.4	64.1	0.6	-	-0.1	-
Employment Rate (%)	61.1	60.8	60.3	0.3	-	0.8	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0287

Quebec Monthly Employment and Unemployment Rate



Over 12 months, employment increased by 94,000 (+2.2%), with over 80% of this increase coming from the private sector. In addition, with the gains from August, employment was slightly above the prepandemic level of February 2020 (+22,200 or +0.5%). Quebec's recovery to prepandemic levels remained weaker than Canada as a whole (+2.0%) and Ontario (+2.3%). The employment level for men was higher than in February 2020 (+30,500 or +1.3%), while the employment level for women was lower (-8,500 or -0.4%).

Despite the rise in employment, the number of unemployed people increased by 22,600 (+12.2%) compared to July, reaching 207,700. In fact, there was a more significant increase in the labour force (+49,700) than employment (+27,200), with more people returning to the labour market and actively looking for work. This also explains the increase in the unemployment rate to 4.5% in August (+0.4 percentage points), which is close to the level in February 2020 (4.6%). However, it remained the lowest of all 10 Canadian provinces. Growth in employment and the number of working people were reflected by increases in the participation rate (+0.6 percentage points) and employment rate (+0.3 percentage points). Among the age groups, only persons aged 25 to 54 had higher participation and employment rates compared to the February 2020 level, while those of persons aged 15 to 25 and 55 and over remained lower.

Quebec Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	August 2022	July 2022	August 2021	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	4.5	4.1	5.8	0.4	-1.3
25 years and over	4.2	3.5	5.6	0.7	-1.4
Men - 25 years and over	4.7	4.2	5.6	0.5	-0.9
Women - 25 years and over	3.5	2.7	5.6	0.8	-2.1
15 to 24 years	6.8	7.6	7.2	-0.8	-0.4
Men - 15 to 24 years	7.4	8.0	9.7	-0.6	-2.3
Women - 15 to 24 years	6.1	7.1	4.6	-1.0	1.5

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0287

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

From an industry perspective, the services-producing sector saw employment growth (+34,800 or +1.0%) compared to July. The most significant increases were in accommodation and food services (+14,000 or +7.3%), professional, scientific and technical services (+9,300 or +2.5%), wholesale and retail trade (+7,800 or +1.2%), and health care and social assistance (+7,600 or 1.3%). Some service industries posted a decline in employment, including business, building, and other support services (-4,300 or -2.5%) and educational services (-4,100 or -1.2%).

In the goods-producing sector, the employment level decreased compared to July (-7,600 or -0.8%), resulting from a decline in employment in manufacturing (-8,500 or -1.7%) and construction (-3,900 or -1.3%). Despite the monthly decrease, employment in construction remained above its prepandemic level (+3.9%), while manufacturing returned below its prepandemic level (-1.7%).

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	August 2022	July 2022	August 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	4,380.3	4,353.1	4,286.3	27.2	0.6	94.0	2.2
Goods-producing sector	913.3	920.9	872.3	-7.6	-0.8	41.0	4.7
Agriculture	59.8	56.0	54.2	3.8	6.8	5.6	10.3
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	44.2	43.7	36.8	0.5	1.1	7.4	20.1
Utilities	27.5	27.2	26.6	0.3	1.1	0.9	3.4
Construction	289.6	293.5	287.3	-3.9	-1.3	2.3	0.8
Manufacturing	492.1	500.6	467.4	-8.5	-1.7	24.7	5.3
Services-producing sector	3,467.0	3,432.2	3,414.0	34.8	1.0	53.0	1.6
Trade	650.9	643.1	656.0	7.8	1.2	-5.1	-0.8
Transportation and warehousing	235.6	233.5	222.9	2.1	0.9	12.7	5.7
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	268.2	268.5	285.3	-0.3	-0.1	-17.1	-6.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	386.8	377.5	365.7	9.3	2.5	21.1	5.8
Business, building and other support services	165.9	170.2	162.2	-4.3	-2.5	3.7	2.3
Educational services	335.3	339.4	351.0	-4.1	-1.2	-15.7	-4.5
Health care and social assistance	604.5	596.9	596.8	7.6	1.3	7.7	1.3
Information, culture and recreation	179.8	178.5	154.9	1.3	0.7	24.9	16.1
Accommodation and food services	205.4	191.4	199.1	14.0	7.3	6.3	3.2
Other services	158.3	155.4	154.3	2.9	1.9	4.0	2.6
Public administration	276.2	277.7	265.8	-1.5	-0.5	10.4	3.9

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0355

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Labour Force Survey data for the economic regions are three-month non-seasonally adjusted moving averages; the August data therefore correspond to an average of June, July and August.

Employment levels in Quebec's economic regions were fairly well distributed in August. On one hand, eight regions saw an increase compared to August 2021, of which the most significant were in Chaudière-Appalaches (+25,100 or +11.6%), Lanaudière (+21,300 or +7.9%), Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean (+7,000 or + 5.8%), and Montréal (+48,400 or +4.5%). The remaining eight regions posted job losses over 12 months, particularly Mauricie (-11,400 or -8.9%), Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec (-3,700 or -7.5%), and Laval (-16,000 or -6.9%).

Most regions had lower unemployment rates compared to August 2021, except for Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec (+0.7 percentage points, at 5.0%) and Bas-Saint-Laurent (+0.2 percentage points, at 3.1%). Once again, this month, the unemployment rate was below 4% in 10 economic regions, most notably in Chaudière-Appalaches and Centre-du-Québec, where the unemployment rate is only 1.5%.

The Montréal census metropolitan area (CMA) added 47,000 jobs compared to August 2021 (+2.0%), which is a higher rate than Quebec as a whole (+1.7%). The unemployment rate decreased by 2.0 percentage points over 12 months, reaching 5.3%.

Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	August 2022 ('000)	August 2021 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	August 2022 (%)	August 2021 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Quebec	4,442.9	4,369.0	1.7	4.4	6.0	-1.6
Economic Regions						
Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine	36.3	38.2	-5.0	7.2	7.7	-0.5
Bas-Saint-Laurent	91.2	94.9	-3.9	3.1	2.9	0.2
Capitale-Nationale	399.2	395.6	0.9	3.2	4.1	-0.9
Chaudière-Appalaches	240.8	215.7	11.6	1.5	3.6	-2.1
Estrie	163.9	162.3	1.0	3.2	5.0	-1.8
Centre-du-Québec	128.9	129.5	-0.5	1.5	4.4	-2.9
Montréal	850.8	838.2	1.5	3.7	5.2	-1.5
Montréal	1,134.1	1,085.7	4.5	6.6	9.4	-2.8
Laval	216.0	232.0	-6.9	5.7	6.7	-1.0
Lanaudière	289.8	268.5	7.9	3.7	4.0	-0.3
Laurentides	314.1	328.3	-4.3	4.4	4.5	-0.1
Outaouais	211.5	205.0	3.2	3.4	5.1	-1.7
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	75.2	75.9	-0.9	3.1	3.8	-0.7
Mauricie	117.3	128.7	-8.9	4.0	5.0	-1.0
Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean	128.2	121.2	5.8	3.2	5.5	-2.3
Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec	45.6	49.3	-7.5	5.0	4.3	0.7

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0387

Note: In preparing this document, the authors have taken care to provide clients with labour market information that is timely and accurate at the time of publication. Since labour market conditions are dynamic, some of the information presented here may have changed since this document was published. Users are encouraged to also refer to other sources for additional information on the local economy and labour market. Information contained in this document does not necessarily reflect official policies of Employment and Social Development Canada.

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For information on the Labour Force Survey, please visit the Statistics Canada website at:

www.statcan.gc.ca