



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Quebec



## October 2022

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

### OVERVIEW

After several months of stagnation and small declines, there were employment gains in October (+27,800 or +0.6% compared to September), according to the latest data from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey. This monthly growth peaked at 4,408,300 jobs, which was slightly higher than the last peak in March 2022 (4,406,000 jobs). There was a significant increase only in full-time jobs (+64,600 or +1.8%), which was tempered by a decline of -36,700 (or -4.5%) in part-time employment. Job gains were mainly among men (+26,400 or +1.2%) and those aged 55 and over (+25,200 or +2.7%). Ontario (+0.6%) and all of Canada (+0.6%) saw job growth comparable to Quebec.

Over 12 months, job gains totaled +99,500 (or +2.3%). However, in comparison with February 2020, growth consisted of only 50,200 jobs (+1.2%). Compared to the pre-pandemic level, there was growth in full-time employment with 78,800 jobs (or +2.2%), but part-time employment remained lower than its level in February 2020 (-28,600 or -3.5%). Among the major age groups, only 15- to 24-year-olds had an employment deficit compared to their pre-pandemic level (-32,500 or -5.3%), while those aged 25 to 54 (+52,200 or +1.9%) and 55 and over (+30,600 or +3.3%) surpassed it.

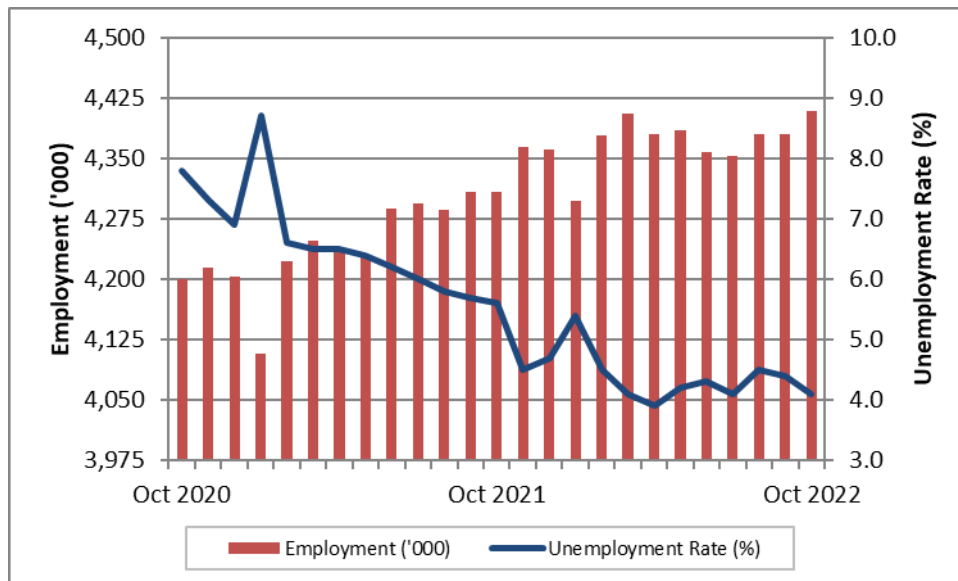
### Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	Oct. 2022	Sept. 2022	Oct. 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15+ ('000)</b>	7,181.5	7,173.6	7,112.3	7.9	0.1	69.2	1.0
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	4,596.8	4,579.9	4,562.6	16.9	0.4	34.2	0.7
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	4,408.3	4,380.5	4,308.8	27.8	0.6	99.5	2.3
Full-Time ('000)	3,623.3	3,558.7	3,548.4	64.6	1.8	74.9	2.1
Part-Time ('000)	785.0	821.7	760.4	-36.7	-4.5	24.6	3.2
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	188.5	199.5	253.7	-11.0	-5.5	-65.2	-25.7
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	4.1	4.4	5.6	-0.3	-	-1.5	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	64.0	63.8	64.2	0.2	-	-0.2	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	61.4	61.1	60.6	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



As a result of the job growth, the number of unemployed people was down from September (-11,000 or -5.5%). Therefore, the unemployment rate decreased by 0.3 percentage points (pp) to 4.1%, which is the lowest unemployment rate among Canadian provinces, but not to its lowest level from last April (3.9%). Finally, the participation rate (+0.2 pp at 64.0%) and the employment rate (+0.3 pp at 61.4%) were up from the previous month.

Compared to February 2020, Quebec's current unemployment rate is lower (-0.5 pp), while the employment rate is still lower (-0.5 pp). On the one hand, the employment rate for 25- to 54-year-olds, the core working-age group in the labour market, was higher than in February 2020 (+1.3 pp), but their weight relative to the population aged 15 and over declined over 21 months. On the other hand, 15- to 24-year-olds (-3.6 pp) and those aged 55 and over (-0.5 pp) never reached their pre-pandemic employment rates. There was a slight decrease in the relative weight of youth among the population aged 15 and over, while that of those aged 55 and over increased, which is indicative of an aging population.

## Quebec Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Oct. 2022	Sept. 2022	Oct. 2021	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	4.1	4.4	5.6	-0.3	-1.5
<b>25 years and over</b>	3.7	3.8	5.1	-0.1	-1.4
Men - 25 years and over	3.9	4.3	5.4	-0.4	-1.5
Women - 25 years and over	3.4	3.3	4.8	0.1	-1.4
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	6.9	7.8	8.4	-0.9	-1.5
Men - 15 to 24 years	6.5	9.4	10.8	-2.9	-4.3
Women - 15 to 24 years	7.3	6.0	6.2	1.3	1.1

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

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

From an industry perspective, the goods-producing sector added 15,600 jobs (+1.7%) compared to September. This gain was driven primarily by a rebound in construction (+16,800 or +5.9%), even though this industry was moving into negative territory after peaking in March 2022 in the context of consecutive interest rate hikes. However, the forestry, fishing and mining industry was down (-6,100 or -13.2%) from September.

In the service industries, employment increased by 12,200 (+0.4%). The largest gains, in terms of numbers, came from finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing (+7,400 or +2.8%), other services (+4,600 or +2.9%), information, culture and recreation (+4,200 or +2.5%) and accommodation and food services (+4,000 or +1.9%). However, a few of the service industries saw declines, including transportation and warehousing (-5,200 or -2.3%) and retail and wholesale trade (-4,600 or -0.7%).

### Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	Oct. 2022	Sept. 2022	Oct. 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	4,408.3	4,380.5	4,308.8	27.8	0.6	99.5	2.3
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	924.0	908.4	887.2	15.6	1.7	36.8	4.1
Agriculture	63.3	62.5	53.0	0.8	1.3	10.3	19.4
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	40.2	46.3	39.8	-6.1	-13.2	0.4	1.0
Utilities	26.7	27.0	27.6	-0.3	-1.1	-0.9	-3.3
Construction	299.9	283.1	288.7	16.8	5.9	11.2	3.9
Manufacturing	494.0	489.5	477.9	4.5	0.9	16.1	3.4
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	3,484.3	3,472.1	3,421.6	12.2	0.4	62.7	1.8
Trade	644.9	649.5	648.6	-4.6	-0.7	-3.7	-0.6
Transportation and warehousing	218.2	223.4	227.0	-5.2	-2.3	-8.8	-3.9
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	268.1	260.7	289.9	7.4	2.8	-21.8	-7.5
Professional, scientific and technical services	396.7	396.9	374.1	-0.2	-0.1	22.6	6.0
Business, building and other support services	171.5	167.8	161.2	3.7	2.2	10.3	6.4
Educational services	335.9	338.6	352.2	-2.7	-0.8	-16.3	-4.6
Health care and social assistance	614.3	612.8	603.2	1.5	0.2	11.1	1.8
Information, culture and recreation	175.0	170.8	155.2	4.2	2.5	19.8	12.8
Accommodation and food services	219.1	215.1	181.4	4.0	1.9	37.7	20.8
Other services	166.0	161.4	162.1	4.6	2.9	3.9	2.4
Public administration	274.7	275.0	266.7	-0.3	-0.1	8.0	3.0

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 October data therefore correspond to an average of August, September and October.

There were job gains in just over half of Quebec's economic regions compared to 12 months ago. The strongest growth (in %) was observed in Chaudière-Appalaches (+24,900 or +11.6%), Lanaudière (+20,700 or +7.9%) and

Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean (+9,200 or +7.6%). On the other hand, seven regions were down, including Côte-Nord and Nord-du-Québec (-5,300 or -11.0%), Centre-du-Québec (-12,400 or -9.1%), Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine (-3,200 or -8.7%) and Mauricie (-6,300 or -5.0%).

Comparing the data with October 2019, that is, a snapshot prior to the pandemic, the economic regions with the strongest growth were Lanaudière (+5.3%), the Laval region (+5.0%), Montérégie (+3.6%) and Chaudière-Appalaches (+3.6%). However, nine regions had lower employment levels than in October 2019. The sharpest declines were in Côte-Nord and Nord-du-Québec (-21.0%), Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine (-5.9%) and Abitibi-Témiscamingue (-4.1%).

Only four regions had higher unemployment rates than in October 2021, but the rate in Mauricie (+2.4 pp at 6.4%) is noteworthy following the loss of 6,300 jobs compared to 12 months earlier (-5.0%). Unemployment rates continue to be historically low in most Quebec regions with nine regions reporting unemployment rates below 4.0%. Specifically, the unemployment rate fell sharply and settled at 1.4% (down 2.5 pp) in Centre-du-Québec and at 1.8% (down 1.5 pp) in Chaudière-Appalaches.

The dynamic remains positive for the Montréal Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), with an increase of 81,400 jobs compared to October 2021 (+3.6%). Its unemployment rate is down 1.6 pp at 4.7%, which is a record low since 2006.

### Quebec Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	Oct. 2022 ('000)	Oct. 2021 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	Oct. 2022 (%)	Oct. 2021 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Quebec</b>	4,430.2	4,341.1	2.1	4.2	5.4	-1.2
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine	33.7	36.9	-8.7	8.2	10.7	-2.5
Bas-Saint-Laurent	92.2	91.3	1.0	4.0	3.8	0.2
Capitale-Nationale	392.1	397.7	-1.4	3.1	3.6	-0.5
Chaudière-Appalaches	240.1	215.2	11.6	1.8	3.3	-1.5
Estrie	166.1	163.4	1.7	3.9	4.4	-0.5
Centre-du-Québec	123.2	135.6	-9.1	1.4	3.9	-2.5
Montérégie	856.4	826.0	3.7	3.2	5.0	-1.8
Montréal	1,128.5	1,089.7	3.6	5.7	7.3	-1.6
Laval	219.1	229.5	-4.5	5.0	7.5	-2.5
Lanaudière	281.3	260.6	7.9	4.6	5.0	-0.4
Laurentides	322.9	321.8	0.3	3.5	4.8	-1.3
Outaouais	209.9	205.7	2.0	3.9	4.1	-0.2
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	72.4	73.2	-1.1	3.7	3.6	0.1
Mauricie	119.0	125.3	-5.0	6.4	4.0	2.4
Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean	130.2	121.0	7.6	3.3	5.2	-1.9
Côte-Nord & Nord-du-Québec	43.0	48.3	-11.0	4.9	4.5	0.4

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](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)