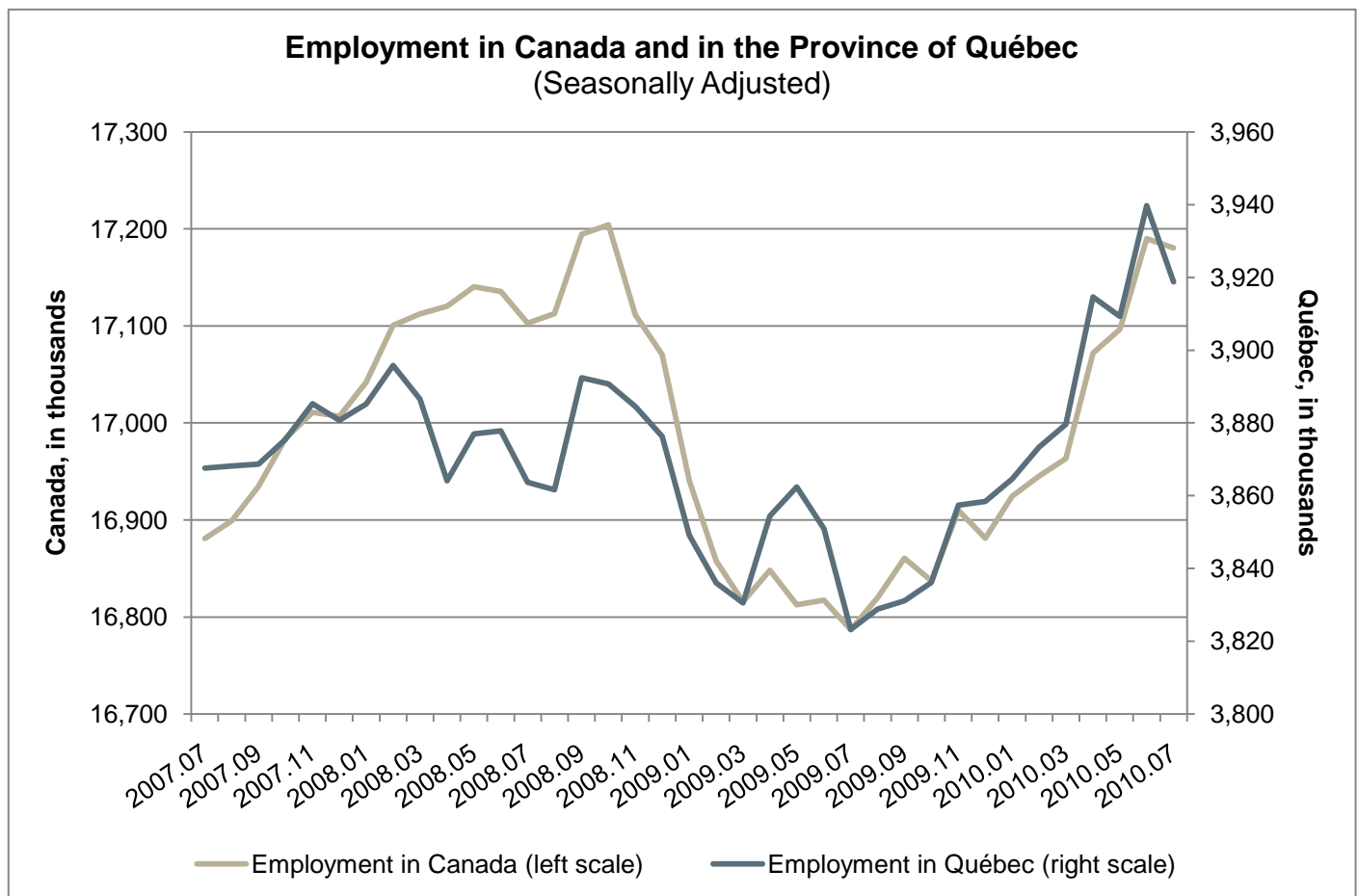


Employment Declines in Canada and Québec in July

According to Statistics Canada, employment (seasonally adjusted) in Canada decreased slightly in July, with 9,300 fewer jobs compared to June, when there was a significant increase of 93,200 jobs created. This is the first time since the beginning of 2010 that employment has decreased in Canada.

In Québec, after strong gains in June (30,400 jobs created), employment (seasonally adjusted) decreased sharply in July, as 20,900 jobs were lost. This is the second decrease over the last twelve months.



Source: Statistics Canada

In July 2010, Canada's unemployment rate reached 8 per cent, an increase of 0.1 percentage points compared to June 2010. In Québec, the unemployment rate increased by 0.4 percentage points in July and the unemployment rate reached 8.2 per cent. Note that the unemployment rate had been lower in Québec than in Canada since November 2009.

View the [official Statistics Canada release](#).

Details About Employment and the Unemployment Rate

Employment and the unemployment rate are the two main indicators of labour market conditions. The employment level is measured monthly in the Labour Force Survey (LFS), published by Statistics Canada. The unemployment rate, also published in the LFS, measures the proportion of unemployed persons compared to the active population :

$$\text{Unemployment Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of unemployed persons}}{\text{Active population}} \times 100$$

with

Active population = People who are working + people who are unemployed

and

Unemployed Person = An individual aged 15 and over who is unemployed,
but who is prepared to work and is seeking work

The evolution of the unemployment rate therefore depends on the relative variation in the number of jobs and the number of unemployed persons. Thus, even if there's a decline in employment, the unemployment rate can also decrease if the number of unemployed persons decreases proportionately faster than the number of employed persons. Conversely, if there's an increase in employment, the unemployment rate can also increase if the number of unemployed persons increases proportionately faster than the number of employed persons.

The series on employment and the unemployment rate provided by Statistics Canada began in 1986. Data for Canada and Québec are published monthly. Data for the six Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) and the 17 administrative regions¹ (ARs), (seasonally adjusted for the CMAs and not adjusted for the ARs) are also published monthly, but as three-month moving averages. Statistics Canada publishes data on an annual basis for the following cities: Sept-Îles, Baie-Comeau, Rimouski, Shawinigan, Drummondville, Granby, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu and Rouyn-Noranda/Val-d'Or.

The Labour Market and the Resale Market in Québec

Labour market conditions have a direct impact on the real estate market. However, these effects are often delayed so they are felt in the medium and long term. Only a sustainable trend (upward or downward) in employment level and in the unemployment rate has an influence on real estate market activity. It is therefore preferable to rely on the long-term trend that these two indicators follow.

¹ Statistics Canada jointly publishes data for the Côte-Nord region and the Nord-du-Québec region.