

Employment Levels in Québec's Administrative Regions in the First Quarter of 2010

According to Statistics Canada, most of Québec's administrative regions registered an increase in employment in the first quarter of 2010 compared to the same period last year. The greatest increases were in the Laurentians (16,100 additional jobs), Laval (15,000 additional jobs) and Montréal (15,000 additional jobs) administrative regions. Conversely, the largest decreases in employment were in the Centre-du-Québec (13,100 jobs lost), Estrie (13,000 jobs lost) and Capitale-Nationale (9,000 jobs lost) administrative regions.

In the first quarter of 2010, most of Québec's administrative regions registered a decrease in the unemployment rate, and the decrease was most pronounced in the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean (-2.3 percentage points) and Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine (-3.5 percentage points) regions. Despite this decrease, Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine remains the region most affected by unemployment in Québec, with an unemployment rate of 16.4 per cent in the first quarter of 2010.

The chart below shows the evolution of the labour market in Québec's administrative regions in the one-year period ending at the first quarter of 2010.

Administrative Regions	EMPLOYMENT (UNADJUSTED DATA, IN THOUSANDS)			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (UNADJUSTED DATA)		
	First Quarter 2010	Annual Change		First Quarter 2010	Annual Change	
Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine	33.7	3.9	↑	16.4 %	- 3.5	↓
Bas Saint-Laurent	85.7	- 5.6	↓	10.5 %	- 0.8	↓
Capitale Nationale	346.2	- 9.0	↓	5.6 %	0.0	↔
Chaudière-Appalaches	205.8	8.5	↑	7.0 %	- 0.9	↓
Estrie	134.2	- 13.0	↓	9.4 %	- 0.5	↓
Centre-du-Québec	102.9	- 13.1	↓	9.6 %	0.2	↑
Montérégie	719.5	6.6	↑	8.7 %	0.6	↑
Montréal	921.1	15.0	↑	10.3 %	- 0.6	↓
Laval	203.3	15.0	↑	9.2 %	0.3	↑
Lanaudière	229.5	7.2	↑	9.0 %	1.2	↑
Laurentides	275.5	16.1	↑	8.2 %	- 1.2	↓
Outaouais	194.6	8.6	↑	7.8 %	- 0.1	↓
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	65.0	- 2.6	↓	8.6 %	- 1.3	↓
Mauricie	104.2	- 7.7	↓	10.3 %	0.8	↑
Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean	116.9	1.1	↑	9.8 %	- 2.3	↓
Côte-Nord et Nord-du-Québec	49.8	6.6	↑	8.8 %	- 6.0	↓

Source: Statistics Canada

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.