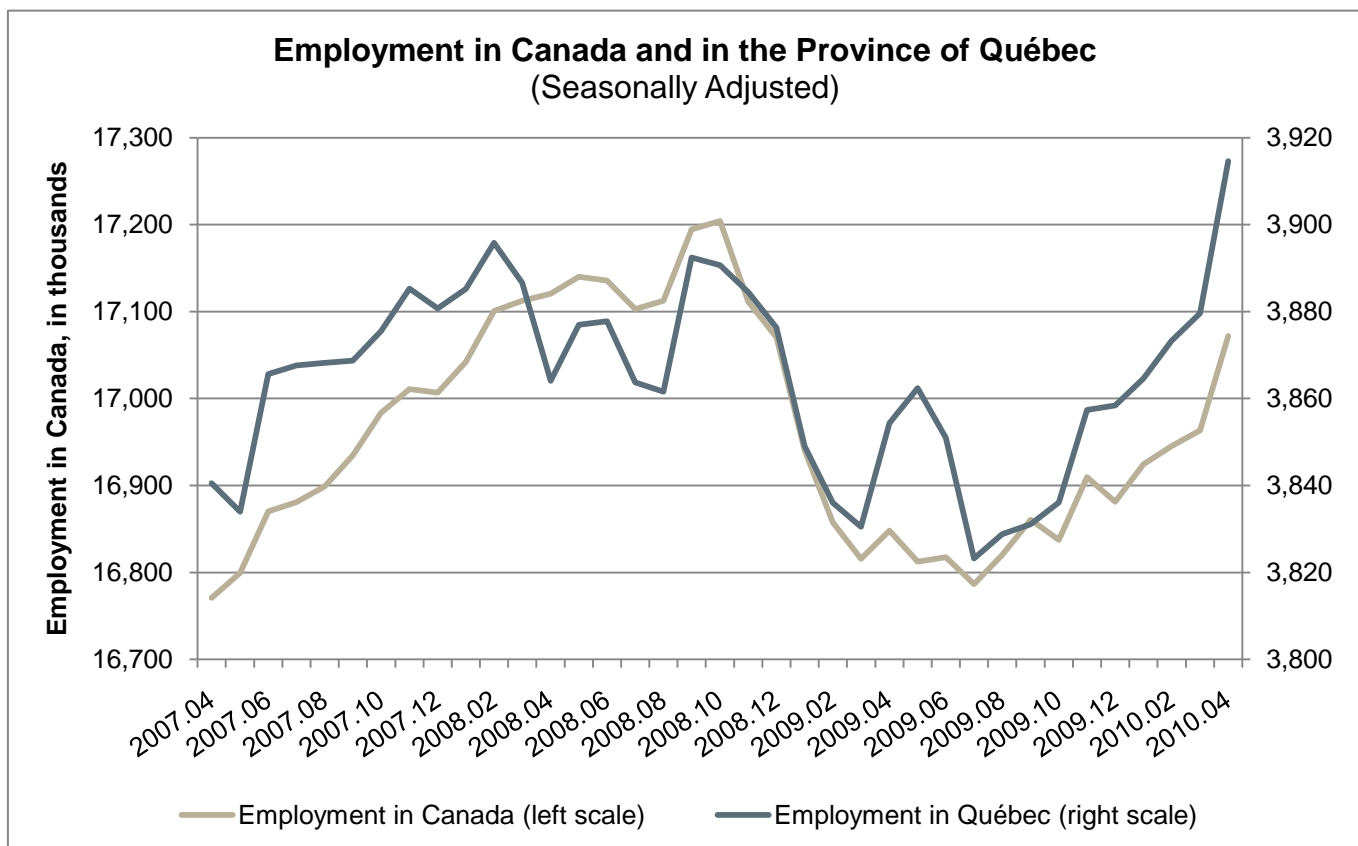


Large Increase in Employment in Canada and Québec in April

Canada's employment rate (seasonally adjusted) registered a fourth consecutive monthly increase in April as 108,700 jobs were created across the country, an increase of 0.6 per cent compared to the previous month, according to Statistics Canada. This represents the largest monthly increase in Canada, in terms of percentage, since August 2002. Employment also increased significantly in Québec as 35,000 jobs were created in April 2010, the province's ninth consecutive monthly increase. Although Canada's employment level is still below the peak reached in October 2008, in Québec the number of jobs has surpassed its pre-recession level with 22,200 more jobs than in September 2008, which was when employment began to decrease.



Source: Statistics Canada

In April 2010, the unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage points in both Canada and Québec, reaching 8.1 and 7.9 per cent, respectively. This is the lowest unemployment rate since January 2009 in Québec and since April 2009 in Canada.

To view the official Statistics Canada release, [click here](#).

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.