

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

According to Statistics Canada, most of Québec's administrative regions registered an increase in employment in the second quarter of 2010 compared to the same period last year. The greatest increases were in the Montréal (43,600 additional jobs) and Laval (20,500 additional jobs) administrative regions. Conversely, the largest decreases in employment were in the administrative regions of Estrie (11,300 jobs lost), Centre-du-Québec (8,200 jobs lost) and Bas Saint-Laurent (6,500 jobs lost).

In terms of unemployment, most of Québec's administrative regions registered a decrease in their unemployment rate in the second quarter of 2010. The largest decreases were in the administrative regions of Côte-Nord et Nord-du-Québec (-2.8 percentage points), Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean (-2.4 percentage points) and Montréal (-2.3 percentage points). The largest increases in unemployment rate were in the Bas Saint-Laurent (+1.2 percentage points) and Laurentides (+1.1 percentage points) regions.

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

Administrative Regions	EMPLOYMENT, IN THOUSANDS (UNADJUSTED DATA)			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (UNADJUSTED DATA)		
	Second Quarter 2010	Annual Change		Second Quarter 2010	Annual Change	
Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine	37.4	2.0	↑	17.4 %	0.5	↑
Bas Saint-Laurent	89.4	- 6.5	↓	10.0 %	1.2	↑
Capitale Nationale	364.9	- 1.4	↓	5.3 %	0.4	↑
Chaudière-Appalaches	222.2	8.0	↑	5.5 %	0.2	↑
Estrie	142.3	- 11.3	↓	8.5 %	0.2	↑
Centre-du-Québec	112.5	- 8.2	↓	5.4 %	- 1.8	↓
Montérégie	736.0	4.5	↑	7.5 %	- 0.1	↓
Montréal	958.4	43.6	↑	9.6 %	- 2.3	↓
Laval	209.9	20.5	↑	6.3 %	- 1.9	↓
Lanaudière	246.1	7.5	↑	6.7 %	- 0.5	↓
Laurentides	279.6	6.9	↑	7.9 %	1.1	↑
Outaouais	196.8	5.5	↑	7.0 %	0.7	↑
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	66.1	- 1.1	↓	8.7 %	- 1.6	↓
Mauricie	114.2	- 3.5	↓	8.3 %	- 1.2	↓
Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean	120.4	- 1.9	↓	8.0 %	- 2.4	↓
Côte-Nord et Nord-du-Québec	51.5	3.9	↑	6.4 %	- 2.8	↓

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 regions<sup>1</sup> (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.

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