

## ECONOMIC VIEWPOINT

# Economic Structure of Major Urban Systems in Quebec and Canada (Part 2)

## Quebec may not have many big urban centres, but it has assets

In Part 1 of this [Economic Viewpoint](#), we saw that cities play an essential role in growth and development by offering specialized services and enabling complementarities between economic agents. Quebec has few urban systems with more than 100,000 inhabitants. However, they stand out for their large manufacturing sectors. Manufacturing's strong presence is an asset in terms of potential gains in productivity, exporting and innovation, although it also represents a challenge in a highly competitive global environment.

### The City's Role in Economic Development

The city's role as driver expands along with its size: a bigger city means more, and more diverse interactions between economic agents, and greater economies of scale that benefit some sectors; it is also more necessary to create a range of infrastructures to serve the public and businesses. However, the size premium has its limits in that, beyond a certain threshold, nuisances like pollution and congestion can outstrip the benefits associated with an increase in city size.

The importance assigned to urbanization as a factor in Quebec's economic development is not new. Even in 1970, the HMR (Higgins, Martin, Raynauld)<sup>1</sup> report bemoaned the fact that Quebec's economy had too few cities which, except for Montreal, were too small to act as economic development hubs.

Part 2 of this Economic Viewpoint aims to establish whether the situation has changed since the HMR report was published. In particular, it strives to answer the following questions: how many "big" cities does Quebec have and what is their economic fabric?

### Terms of Reference

As in Part 1 of this [Economic Viewpoint](#), a city is considered to be large when it has more than 50,000 residents. Cities generally stretch beyond municipal boundaries (box 1 on page 2), so they

are referred to as urban systems that can include more than one municipality.

The data from the 2016 Census are used in the analysis. Why? It is the most recent information: it will be 2022 before we start getting the first results from the 2021 Census. These results constitute a solid foundation, since censuses provide information about an important aspect of the economy: the labour market. These data show how the labour force (workers and job seekers) of a census metropolitan area (CMA) or census agglomeration (CA) is distributed among the 20 major sectors of economic activity under the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) and among the 10 major trade and occupation groups in the National Occupational Classification (NOC) (box 2 on page 3).

Employment can meet local needs or serve a clientele located outside the urban system. This plays into the urban system's development potential insofar as external markets offer more opportunities for growth than meeting local needs does. The two classifications (NAICS and NOC) make it possible to differentiate between production and occupation categories in terms of their capacity to support innovation and increase productivity.

These classifications have their limits, as some categories are too broad and preclude all the desired nuances. For example, the accommodation portion of the accommodation and food services category meets the needs of an external clientele, whereas the opposite is true for food services. Moreover, valid

<sup>1</sup> Benjamin HIGGINS, Fernand MARTIN et André RAYNAULD, [Les orientations du développement économique régional dans la province de Québec](#), Ottawa, Ministère de l'Expansion économique régionale, 1970, p. 58. (In French only)

**BOX 1**
**Urban System: Economic Definition**

From an economic perspective, cities generally stretch beyond municipal borders. Employee-employer and client-supplier relationships therefore connect a municipality's economic agents to the economic agents of neighbouring municipalities, villages and rural areas. For this reason, it seems logical to consider Montreal, Laval, Terrebonne and Longueuil or Quebec City and Lévis, or even Gatineau and Ottawa, as integrated urban economies. The economic vitality of Quebec's cities must therefore be viewed from the standpoint of urban systems potentially comprising more than one municipality.

The federal government's censuses present data in terms of CMAs and CAs, territorial delineations that correspond fairly well to the concept of an integrated urban system that overlaps the borders of individual municipalities.

Source: Desjardins, Economic Studies

comparisons of the value of production of various urban systems are not possible under the NAICS and NOC because productivity varies from industry to industry.

Nevertheless, the two job classification systems are of interest. Classification by sector (NAICS) isolates sectors most likely to act as economic drivers owing to their potential for innovation and export outside the urban system (box 3 on page 4). The NOC can provide useful indications as to the occupational skills on which urban systems can rely to improve their performance in terms of productivity, innovation and export (box 4 on page 4). In this study, priority is given to classification by industrial sector, where the linkage with economic structures is more direct and the classification is more precise. The data from the National Occupational Classification are used, where applicable, to corroborate the data from the North American Industry Classification System.

**Quebec's Major Urban Systems Compared with Canada's**

During the 2016 Census, Canada had 61 CMAs and CAs with more than 50,000 inhabitants. Quebec had ten (table 5 on page 9). This figure excludes the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA, which straddles Quebec and Ontario.

To these ten CMAs and CAs, we have added Joliette (population 49,439) and Victoriaville (population 49,151), as they are very close to the arbitrary threshold of 50,000 inhabitants used for the study. The analysis therefore covers 12 urban systems. Part 1 of this [Economic Viewpoint](#) addressed the situation of Ottawa-Gatineau.

However, the 50,000-resident threshold excludes major urban agglomerations like Rouyn-Noranda (population 43,334), Sorel-Tracy (population 41,629), Salaberry-de-Valleyfield (population 40,745), Val-d'Or (population 33,871), Alma (population 32,849), Saint Georges (population 32,513), Rivière-du-Loup (population 28,902), Sept Îles (population 28,534), Thetford Mines (population 28,448) and Baie Comeau (population 27,692).

Despite this limitation, the 12 main large urban systems and Quebec portion of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA represent no less than 76.1% of Quebec's population (table 1). This means that more than three quarters of Quebec's population lives in a major urban system as defined in this study. In that respect, Quebec falls halfway between British Columbia (80.0%) and the Prairies (70.0%). Nearly 86% of Ontario's population lives in a major urban system if the Ontario portion of the Ottawa-Gatineau CMA is included. By contrast, just half of the population of the Atlantic provinces lives in such heavily urbanized areas.

**TABLE 1**
**Major urban systems in Canada in 2016**

	POPULATION IN 2016		GROWTH 2016/2011
	Number	%	%
<b>Quebec</b>	<b>8,164,361</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3.3</b>
Major urban systems (including Gatineau)	5,877,128	76.1	4.1
<b>Ontario</b>	<b>13 448 494</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4.6</b>
Major urban systems (including Ottawa)	10,558,781	85.9	4.9
<b>Prairies</b>	<b>6,443,892</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>9.5</b>
Major urban systems	4,512,923	70.0	12.1
<b>British Columbia</b>	<b>4,648,055</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.6</b>
Major urban systems	3,718,973	80.0	6.4
<b>Atlantic provinces</b>	<b>2,333,122</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Major urban systems	1,150,164	49.3	2.6

Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

In Quebec, the number of urban systems with more than 50,000 inhabitants breaks down as follows: one centre with more than one million residents, four with 100,000 to one million, and seven with 50,000 to 100,000 (table 2 on page 3).

Table 2, on page 3, also shows that there are differences between Quebec and the other provinces in this regard. Elsewhere in Canada, about two thirds of the major urban systems are in population categories that are above 100,000 inhabitants. In Quebec, major urban systems with populations below 100,000 inhabitants predominate. Moreover, according to the more detailed data in appendix 1, Montreal accounts for half (50.2%) of Quebec's population, whereas the equivalent

**BOX 2**
**Job classification in the 2016 Census**
**By economic sector (NAICS)**

- ▶ Agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing
- ▶ Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction
- ▶ Utilities (gas, water, electricity)
- ▶ Construction
- ▶ Manufacturing
- ▶ Wholesaling
- ▶ Retailing
- ▶ Transportation and warehousing
- ▶ Information and cultural industries
- ▶ Finance and insurance
- ▶ Real estate and rental and leasing
- ▶ Professional, scientific and technical services
- ▶ Management of companies and enterprises
- ▶ Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services
- ▶ Educational services
- ▶ Healthcare and social assistance
- ▶ Arts, entertainment and recreation
- ▶ Accommodation and food services
- ▶ Other services (except public administration)
- ▶ Public administration

**By nature of job (NOC)**

- ▶ Management occupations
- ▶ Business, finance and administration occupations
- ▶ Natural and applied sciences and related occupations
- ▶ Health occupations
- ▶ Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services
- ▶ Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport
- ▶ Sales and service occupations
- ▶ Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations
- ▶ Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations
- ▶ Occupations in manufacturing and utilities

**TABLE 2**
**Distribution of major urban systems by number of inhabitants in 2016**

PROVINCES	POPULATION (MILLION)	>1 MILLION	>100 000 <1 MILLION	>50 000 <100 000	TOTAL*
Quebec	8.2	1	4	7	12
Ontario	13.4	1	15	7	23
Prairies	6.4	2	5	4	11
British Columbia	4.6	1	6	3	10
Atlantic	2.3	0	5	2	7

\* Excluding the Ottawa–Gatineau census metropolitan area because it straddles two provinces.  
Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

**BOX 3**
**Sectors most likely to act as economic drivers (NAICS)**

- ▶ Agriculture, forestry
- ▶ Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction
- ▶ Manufacturing
- ▶ Finance and insurance
- ▶ Professional, scientific and technical services
- ▶ Management of companies and enterprises

NAICS: North American Industry Classification System  
Source: Desjardins, Economic Studies

ratio for Toronto is only 44.1%. In the Prairies and Atlantic provinces, the share of the population living in the largest urban systems (Calgary and Halifax) is even smaller (21.6% and 17.3%). Only Vancouver (53.0%) has a larger concentration of the provincial population than Montreal, but this imbalance is offset by the large number (six) of urban systems with more than 100,000 inhabitants. Although the differences between the five provincial groups are small, Quebec has the greatest polarization between a very populous metropolis and urban systems that barely hit the 100,000 mark.

In short, two major conclusions can be drawn from the demographic data in the 2016 Census. On one hand, the number of urban systems with populations of 50,000 in Canada is largely proportional to the size of the provincial entities considered. On the other, Quebec's relative position has not improved from the observation made in the 1970 HMR report. In fact, in 2016, Quebec was still at a disadvantage compared with Ontario in terms of the number of urban systems that could act as growth and development hubs outside the Greater Montreal area. This disadvantage also exists in relation to the other Canadian provinces, and is especially evident for large urban systems with populations between 100,000 and 1 million.

**Economic Structure of Quebec's Major Urban Systems**

The economic growth and size of major urban systems are important and interesting data, but their contribution to provinces' economic development cannot be evaluated based on these parameters alone. The economic structure of these systems reveals just as much, if not more. We wanted to see whether similarities or differences existed between agglomerations that were very different in terms of size or status in the province. Comparisons were therefore drawn by dividing the urban systems into four main categories: the metropolis, the capital, major urban centres and regional centres. These categories were created for work purposes and do not fall within any established

**BOX 4**
**Occupational skills on which urban systems can rely to improve their performance in terms of productivity, innovation and export (NOC)**

- ▶ Natural and applied sciences and related occupations
  - Science and engineering skills increase innovation potential and reflect the economy's development potential.
- ▶ Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations
  - Technical trades are required for construction, production and distribution and reflect the economy's growth potential.
- ▶ Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations
  - The natural endowment of the land can be leveraged by resource trades and occupations.

NOC: National Occupational Classification  
Source: Desjardins, Economic Studies

nomenclature. Initially, they were used to make comparisons with other urban systems in Canada, in Part 1 of this [Economic Viewpoint](#). Box 5, on page 5, provides a description of each category.

**What the Data Tell Us**

Tables 3 and 4, on page 6, provide a global analysis of Quebec's urban systems, presenting similarities and differences in how the labour force is distributed by sector and job type. In keeping with the typology set out above, data are compiled according to four urban groups, that is, Montreal (metropolis), Quebec City (capital), the major urban centres (Sherbrooke, Saguenay and Trois-Rivières) and the regional centres (Drummondville, Granby, St-Hyacinthe, Rimouski, Shawinigan, Joliette and Victoriaville). Table 5, on page 9, sets out the detailed population data for each of Quebec's 12 urban systems. It also provides the figures for Ottawa-Gatineau.

**Breakdown of Jobs by Sector**

Table 3, on page 6, shows how employment is distributed across the North American Industry Classification System's (NAICS's) 20 industrial sectors (SCIAN) in the groups of urban systems mentioned in the previous paragraph. There are many similarities and some noteworthy differences among the four urban groups. Aside from the major weight of public administration in Quebec City (12.1% of jobs), the biggest variations concern the manufacturing sector. Manufacturing employs a much larger

share of labour in the seven regional centres (15.6%) than in Montreal (9.8%), Quebec City (7.3%) and the three major urban centres (11.8%).

The regional centres also stand out for the proportion of people working in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, at 2.4% compared with 1.5% or fewer elsewhere. Conversely, the labour force in Montreal (8.7%) and Quebec City (7.2%) is more present in the professional, scientific and technical services sector than is the case with the major urban centres (5.4%) and regional centres (4.3%).

Montreal and Quebec City also have a larger proportion of jobs in the finance and insurance sector. In Quebec City, this sector employs twice as many people (5.7% of the labour force) than in Quebec's smaller urban systems. Note that Quebec City is home to eleven insurance company head offices. Lastly, Montreal stands out for its information and cultural industry sector which, at 3.3%, accounts for twice as many workers as Quebec's other large urban systems.

Table 6, on page 10, takes the analysis further and points out other features. Rimouski, for example, stands out for the weight of employment in the broad information and cultural industry group (4.8% of the labour force). That is much more than in all of Quebec's other major urban systems, including Montreal. This is no doubt partly because Rimouski acts as the leading service centre in the Bas Saint-Laurent and is therefore home to large regional branches of national institutions (university, CEGEP, government departments, media). The presence of a big cell phone company, part of the broad information information and culture group, has something to do with this finding. On

the other hand, Rimouski workers are much less present in manufacturing (5.1%) compared with the average for Quebec's other regional centres (17.4%).

Table 6, on page 10, also shows that 7.8% of Shawinigan's labour force is in the public administration sector, compared with an average of 3.9% for the other regional centres. Among other things, this is due to the presence of a Canada Revenue Agency tax centre in its territory. For its part, Saint-Hyacinthe stands out for the proportion of its workforce employed in the finance and insurance sector, 4.2% compared with an average of 2.5% for the other six regional centres. This is because a major insurance company is headquartered in Saint-Hyacinthe. Lastly, Sherbrooke stands out with 10.4% of its labour force in educational services, more than Montreal (7.5%), Quebec City (7.3%) and all of Quebec's other urban systems. This particular feature is probably due to the fact that two universities (Sherbrooke and Bishop's) are located there.

### Breakdown of Jobs by Type of Occupation

Table 4, on page 6, reveals few differences between the four urban system groups in the breakdown of jobs according to the nature of the work done. Sales and customer service jobs account for nearly the same proportion of the workforce everywhere, at just under one quarter.

The main differences occur in jobs pertaining to manufacturing and public utility services (telephone and mail services, electricity distribution, water treatment, waste transportation and removal, etc.), which are twice as big in the regional centres than in Montreal, at 8.0% and 4.0% of jobs respectively. The difference compared with Quebec City is even sharper (2.7%).

## BOX 5

### Four analysis categories for major urban centres

#### Metropolis

- ▶ In this study, the term "metropolis" refers to urban system that meets two criteria: the urban system must be the most populous in its province and it must be of a size, that is, over 1 million inhabitants, that gives it reach beyond its immediate region and even its province. It's Montreal.

#### Major urban centres

- ▶ In this study, "major urban centres" are urban systems that, despite the size of their population, that is, more than 100,000 inhabitants.

Except for metropolis and capital, these terms are arbitrary and are merely intended to provide a summary characterization of the four groups of major urban systems used in this analysis.

Source: Desjardins, Economic Studies

#### Capital

- ▶ Quebec City is subject to special analysis given the strong public administration presence.

#### Regional centres

- ▶ The term "regional centre" is used to refer to urban systems whose size, between 50,000 and 100,000 inhabitants, makes them a hub of economic growth and development in their respective regions.

**TABLE 3**  
**Industrial structure in Quebec's major urban centres in 2016**

IN % OF LABOUR FORCE	MONTREAL	QUEBEC	CENTRES	REGIONAL CENTRES
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	0.5	0.8	1.5	2.4
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.2
Utilities	0.7	0.4	1.0	0.6
Construction	5.1	5.3	6.3	6.2
Manufacturing	9.8	7.3	11.8	15.6
Wholesale trade	4.5	3.1	2.5	3.8
Retail trade	11.8	11.7	13.0	13.1
Transportation and warehousing	4.8	3.4	3.3	3.3
Information and cultural industries	3.3	1.7	1.7	1.6
Finance and insurance	4.7	5.7	2.6	2.7
Real estate and rental and leasing	1.8	1.5	1.1	1.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	8.7	7.2	5.4	4.3
Management of companies and enterprises	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	4.6	4.0	4.0	3.2
Educational services	7.5	7.3	8.8	7.2
Health care and social assistance	11.9	13.4	15.0	14.3
Arts, entertainment and recreation	2.2	1.8	1.6	1.6
Accommodation and food services	6.4	7.4	6.9	6.9
Other services (except public administration)	4.3	4.3	5.0	5.2
Public administration	4.5	12.1	5.8	4.4
Not applicable*	2.8	1.4	2.4	2.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

NOTE: The total may not add up to 100 due to rounding; \* "Not applicable" in the tables refers to cases where the individual counted had not yet entered the labour market.  
Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

**TABLE 4**  
**Nature of jobs in Quebec's major urban centres in 2016**

IN % OF LABOUR FORCE	MONTREAL	QUEBEC	CENTRES	REGIONAL CENTRES
Management occupations	10.4	9.1	8.3	8.4
Business, finance and administration occupations	17.2	17.9	14.0	13.6
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	7.7	9.0	6.2	4.9
Health occupations	6.6	8.1	8.6	8.1
Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services	11.8	13.2	12.9	11.4
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	4.0	3.1	2.3	2.0
Sales and service occupations	23.6	23.7	24.1	24.0
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	11.2	11.0	14.7	15.4
Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations	0.7	0.8	1.4	1.8
Occupations in manufacturing and utilities	4.0	2.7	5.2	8.0
Not applicable*	2.8	1.4	2.4	2.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

NOTE: The total may not add up to 100 due to rounding; \* "Not applicable" in the tables refers to cases where the individual counted had not yet entered the labour market.  
Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

There are also strong differences in jobs related to entertainment (arts, culture, sports and recreation); however, in that case, Montreal dominates, since these fields account for 4.0% of the labour force, twice that of the regional centres. This share is also larger than it is in Quebec City (3.1%) and the three major urban centres (2.3%). Lastly, Quebec City stands out for the importance of professional occupations involving the natural and applied sciences (9.0%).

Table 4's aggregates hide a substantial difference between the seven regional centres. Table 7, on page 12, provides the data by urban system, with more detail. The proportion of professional occupations specific to manufacturing and utilities is only 2.3% in Rimouski, but above 9% in Granby (10.8%), Saint-Hyacinthe (10.5%) and Drummondville (9.3%). The disparity corroborates Rimouski's distinct sector profile, highlighted in table 3.

### What Can We Conclude From These Observations?

In light of the data presented in Part 1 of this [Economic Viewpoint](#), as well as in Part 2, Quebec's 12 major urban systems do not show differences that would allow Quebec's economy to grow and develop faster than the rest of Canada.

The analysis also made it possible to count how many major urban systems Quebec has, understand their economic fabric better, and compare them. This quick overview reveals some information. Firstly, there are many similarities between Quebec's four categories of large urban system. Most sectors and professional occupation types are represented in similar proportions. This is the case for jobs associated with trade and several other public services, such as health care and education.

However, significant differences among the four groups can be noted between Quebec City and Montreal, on one hand, and the other major urban systems, on the other. Unsurprisingly, the agriculture and forestry sector and manufacturing sector have a greater weight in the economic structure of the regional centres and major urban centres, whereas finance and insurance, and the information and cultural industry are more present in Montreal and Quebec City.

Specific features can also be found in terms of the regional centres and urban centres, taken individually. Here, the presence of public institutions and major private employers seems to mark their economic fabric.

Note that, as in the rest of Canada, about half of the economic activity in Quebec's urban systems is focused on meeting local needs. These activities (like retailing, transportation, information, real estate, health care and social assistance, education, accommodation and food services) have lower potential for innovation, productivity gains, and sales abroad. While we often think the digital revolution will have a bigger impact on communications and goods manufacturing, we can't forget it

will also affect delivery of local services. Similarly, the effects of demographic change will go beyond the problems with recruiting labour. Lastly, the fallout from COVID-19 will also modify the approaches used in urban systems, regardless of size. Human, financial and technical resources will have to be mobilized in order to adapt.

As the analysis of urban systems demonstrated in Part 1 of this [Economic Viewpoint](#), the 2016 Census data show that some activity sectors and professional categories may have a comparative advantage. This trump card makes it possible to act as a sectoral centre of excellence. In Quebec, manufacturing has a heavy weight compared with the other provinces in Canada. This activity can act as a driver for an urban system. Moreover, manufacturing jobs generally pay above the average for salaried jobs in Quebec. Because of that, they are attractive to workers. This sector features about twenty categories, which are subdivided into other groups. The benefit of such diversity is that it distributes the risk associated with economic downturns.

However, manufacturing has its pitfalls. One threat comes from global competition from low-wage countries. Because the various global supply chains are interwoven, the technologies used must be compatible with those of all other partners to stay in the game. Manufacturing businesses must also be on top of what their customers want, whether they are industrial or commercial.

With respect to the other sectors that are most likely to stimulate economic development, Quebec's major urban systems are around the average for Canada, except in terms of management of companies and enterprises, where Montreal is behind Toronto and Calgary, and in finance and insurance, where, among the metropolises, Montreal ranks a distant second behind Toronto.

According to 2016 Census data, in Quebec, the relative importance of urban systems with over 100,000 inhabitants is lower than elsewhere. This gives Montreal a weight in Quebec that, in the rest of Canada, is only paralleled by Vancouver, for British Columbia.

Moreover, the more populous the urban system, the more it can be expected to have specialized services. The data show that professional, scientific and technical services tend to grow in proportion to the size of the urban system. Quebec's urban systems are a good illustration of this.

Finally, Quebec does have few urban systems with more than 100,000 inhabitants. However, they stand out for their large manufacturing sectors. Manufacturing's strong presence is an asset in terms of potential gains in productivity, exporting and innovation, although it also represents a challenge in a highly competitive global environment.

# Appendix I

## Major Urban Systems in Quebec

**TABLE 5**  
Major urban systems in Quebec in 2016

	TOTAL POPULATION 2016		GROWTH 2016/2011
	Number	%	%
<b>Quebec</b>	<b>8,164,361</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3.3</b>
CMA and CA (excluding Gatineau)	5,877,258	72.0	4.1
Montreal	4,098,927	50.2	4.2
Quebec	800,296	9.8	4.3
Sherbrooke	212,105	2.6	4.9
Saguenay	160,980	2.0	1.5
Trois-Rivières	156,042	1.9	2.8
Drummondville	96,118	1.2	5.4
Granby	85,056	1.0	5.2
St-Hyacinthe	59,614	0.7	5.0
Rimouski	55,349	0.7	3.0
Shawinigan	54,181	0.7	-0.6
Joliette	49,439	0.6	5.3
Victoriaville	49,151	0.6	6.0
<b>Ottawa–Gatineau</b>	<b>1,323,783</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>5.5</b>
Gatineau	332,057	4.1	4.4
Ottawa	991,726	7.4	5.9

CMA: Census metropolitan area; CA: Census agglomeration; n/a: not available  
Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies



## Appendix 2

### Labor Force Distribution in Metropolis, Capital, Major Urban Centres and Regional Centres

**TABLE 6**
**Distribution of labour force aged 15 and over by economic sector classification in 2016**

IN % OF LABOUR FORCE	METROPOLIS, CAPITAL AND MAJOR URBAN CENTRES				
	Montreal	Quebec	Sherbrooke	Saguenay	Trois-Rivières
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	0.5	0.8	1.5	1.5	1.6
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	0.1	0.2	0.1	1.1	0.2
Utilities	0.7	0.4	0.3	1.2	1.5
Construction	5.1	5.3	5.8	7.3	5.7
Manufacturing	9.8	7.3	13.4	10.4	11.7
Wholesale trade	4.5	3.1	2.4	2.6	2.6
Retail trade	11.8	11.7	12.4	13.6	12.9
Transportation and warehousing	4.8	3.4	2.5	3.4	3.9
Information and cultural industries	3.3	1.7	1.5	1.6	2.0
Finance and insurance	4.7	5.7	2.5	2.2	3.0
Real estate and rental and leasing	1.8	1.5	1.2	1.1	1.1
Professional, scientific and technical services	8.7	7.2	5.7	5.6	4.8
Management of companies and enterprises	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	4.6	4.0	3.9	4.1	3.9
Educational services	7.5	7.3	10.4	7.8	8.1
Health care and social assistance	11.9	13.4	15.7	14.1	15.3
Arts, entertainment and recreation	2.2	1.8	1.7	1.4	1.7
Accommodation and food services	6.4	7.4	7.1	6.3	7.2
Other services (except public administration)	4.3	4.3	4.8	5.5	4.7
Public administration	4.5	12.1	4.7	7.0	5.6
Not applicable*	2.8	1.4	2.3	2.2	2.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.2</b>

NOTE: The total may not add up to 100 due to rounding; \* "Not applicable" in the tables refers to cases where the individual counted had not yet entered the labour market.

Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

## Appendix 2 (cont.)

### Labor Force Distribution in Metropolis, Capital, Major Urban Centres and Regional Centres

**TABLE 6 (CONT.)**
**Distribution of labour force aged 15 and over by economic sector classification in 2016**

IN % OF LABOUR FORCE	REGIONAL CENTRES						
	Drummondville	Granby	St-Hyacinthe	Rimouski	Shawinigan	Joliette	Victoriaville
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	3.0	2.5	3.4	2.6	1.3	1.1	2.6
Utilities	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.3
Construction	0.4	0.4	0.5	1.2	0.9	0.5	0.5
Manufacturing	6.7	5.6	6.0	5.5	6.7	6.8	6.2
Wholesale trade	20.5	22.2	17.8	5.1	14.3	11.2	18.1
Retail trade	4.8	4.8	4.5	2.4	1.9	3.7	4.2
Transportation and warehousing	12.7	12.5	11.9	14.0	12.9	13.9	13.8
Information and cultural industries	4.6	2.7	3.7	2.7	3.3	3.5	2.6
Finance and insurance	0.8	1.2	1.0	4.8	1.0	1.5	0.9
Real estate and rental and leasing	2.4	2.8	4.2	2.7	2.1	2.5	2.5
Professional, scientific and technical services	0.8	1.1	1.0	1.4	0.9	1.0	0.8
Management of companies and Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	4.1	4.8	4.4	4.9	3.7	4.1	4.0
Educational services	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
Health care and social assistance	2.8	3.1	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.4
Arts, entertainment and recreation	6.3	6.1	6.4	9.5	6.3	8.1	7.6
Accommodation and food services	11.2	12.0	12.7	16.5	15.7	17.8	14.1
Other services (except public administration)	1.3	2.1	1.3	1.7	1.9	1.5	1.2
Public administration	7.0	6.4	6.3	6.9	7.4	6.7	7.6
Not applicable*	4.5	4.7	5.7	5.6	5.2	5.2	5.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>2.9</b>
	<b>2.3</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>1.7</b>
	<b>99.8</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>99.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.1</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>100.3</b>

NOTE: The total may not add up to 100 due to rounding; \* "Not applicable" in the tables refers to cases where the individual counted had not yet entered the labour market.  
Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

## Appendix 2 (cont.)

### Labor Force Distribution in Metropolis, Capital, Major Urban Centres and Regional Centres

**TABLE 7**  
**Distribution of labour force aged 15 and over in 2016 according to the National Occupational Classification**

IN % OF LABOUR FORCE	METROPOLIS, CAPITAL AND MAJOR URBAN CENTRES				
	Montreal	Quebec	Sherbrooke	Saguenay	Trois-Rivières
Management occupations	10.4	9.1	8.6	7.9	8.3
Business, finance and administration occupations	17.2	17.9	13.7	13.8	14.6
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	7.7	9.0	6.2	7.0	5.4
Health occupations	6.6	8.1	9.2	7.9	8.7
Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services	11.8	13.2	13.9	12.4	12.3
Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	4.0	3.1	2.6	2.0	2.3
Sales and service occupations	23.6	23.7	23.5	24.0	24.7
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	11.2	11.0	12.8	16.8	14.6
Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations	0.7	0.8	1.4	1.6	1.2
Occupations in manufacturing and utilities	4.0	2.7	5.9	4.4	5.3
Not applicable*	2.8	1.4	2.3	2.2	2.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

NOTE: The total may not add up to 100 due to rounding; \* "Not applicable" in the tables refers to cases where the individual counted had not yet entered the labour market.  
 Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

**TABLE 7 (CONT.)**  
**Distribution of labour force aged 15 and over in 2016 according to the National Occupational Classification**

IN % OF LABOUR FORCE	REGIONAL CENTRES						
	Drummondville	Granby	St-Hyacinthe	Rimouski	Shawinigan	Joliette	Victoriaville
Management occupations	8.8	9.4	8.2	8.9	7.6	7.6	8.2
Business, finance and administration occupations	12.8	13.3	13.7	15.5	13.9	12.0	13.7
Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	4.7	5.8	4.7	6.6	4.2	3.9	4.5
Health occupations	6.4	6.9	8.1	9.0	8.8	9.8	7.7
Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services	10.5	9.6	9.4	14.1	11.1	13.7	11.5
Occupations in art, culture, recreation	2.0	2.1	1.8	2.4	1.7	1.9	1.8
Sales and service occupations	22.8	23.5	23.8	24.7	23.2	24.7	25.6
Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	18.4	14.9	15.6	12.6	16.8	15.2	14.6
Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations	2.1	1.8	2.2	2.0	1.5	1.3	1.9
Occupations in manufacturing and utilities	9.3	10.8	10.5	2.3	8.0	6.2	8.7
Not applicable*	2.3	1.8	2.0	2.0	3.2	3.6	1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.1</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>99.9</b>

NOTE: The total may not add up to 100 due to rounding; \* "Not applicable" in the tables refers to cases where the individual counted had not yet entered the labour market.  
 Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies