

## ECONOMIC NEWS

# Employment increases in Quebec and Ontario

## The labour market maintains its momentum in January

### HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ According to Statistics Canada, Quebec's labour market did not change much, adding 3,400 jobs in January. However, the uptrend that began in July 2016 continues.
- ▶ The unemployment rate fell 0.3 percentage points to 6.2%, where it was last November. The 11,200 people who left the labour force account for this retreat.
- ▶ In Ontario, January's gain (+28,800) is the sixth in a row, as well as the largest gain in this run.
- ▶ Ontario's unemployment rate stayed at 6.4% for a second straight month.

### COMMENTS

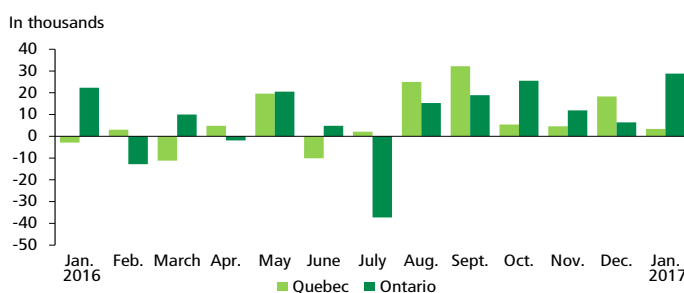
In Quebec, 2017 started with less excitement than in late December 2016 (+18,300). January's gains come primarily from part-time work (+9,000 jobs), to the detriment of full-time work (-5,600 jobs). The increase mainly occurred in business services (+11,900), in finance, insurance and real estate (+7,200). In Ontario, the great majority of jobs created were in part-time work (+23,500). The manufacturing workforce expanded (+14,000) in January; the sector was playing catch-up, as it has only added 5,700 jobs in the last year. Finance, insurance and real estate come out as winners at the start of this year (+8,200), as do healthcare and social assistance, which advanced by 7,500 jobs. Note that Quebec's employment rate has increased since January 2016, rising to 60.8%. The gap between the two provinces has narrowed in the last year.

### IMPLICATIONS

January's ongoing uptrend in employment is good news for Quebec and Ontario. At the same time, Quebec and Ontario

### GRAPH 1

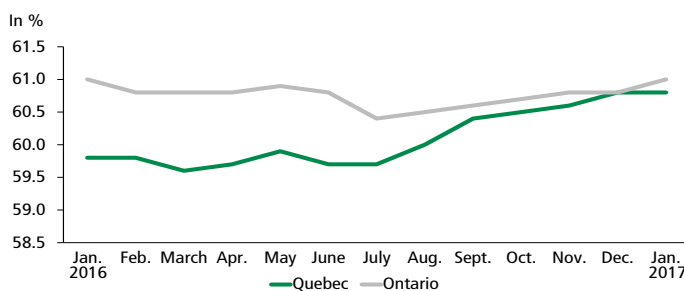
**Monthly change in employment: Quebec and Ontario maintain their momentum**



Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

### GRAPH 2

**The employment rate gap between Quebec and Ontario has narrowed in the last year**



Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

business confidence is above the national average. Businesses should benefit from a lively U.S. economy in the coming quarters.

**Joëlle Noreau**, Senior Economist

François Dupuis, Vice-President and Chief Economist

Hélène Bégin, Senior Economist • Benoit P. Durocher, Senior Economist • Francis Généreux, Senior Economist • Joëlle Noreau, Senior Economist

Desjardins, Economic Studies: 418-835-2450 or 1 866-835-8444, ext. 5562450 • [desjardins.economics@desjardins.com](mailto:desjardins.economics@desjardins.com) • [desjardins.com/economics](http://desjardins.com/economics)

NOTE TO READERS: The letters k, M and B are used in texts and tables to refer to thousands, millions and billions respectively.

IMPORTANT: This document is based on public information and may under no circumstances be used or construed as a commitment by Desjardins Group. While the information provided has been determined on the basis of data obtained from sources that are deemed to be reliable, Desjardins Group in no way warrants that the information is accurate or complete. The document is provided solely for information purposes and does not constitute an offer or solicitation for purchase or sale. Desjardins Group takes no responsibility for the consequences of any decision whatsoever made on the basis of the data contained herein and does not hereby undertake to provide any advice, notably in the area of investment services. The data on prices or margins are provided for information purposes and may be modified at any time, based on such factors as market conditions. The past performances and projections expressed herein are no guarantee of future performance. The opinions and forecasts contained herein are, unless otherwise indicated, those of the document's authors and do not represent the opinions of any other person or the official position of Desjardins Group. Copyright © 2017, Desjardins Group. All rights reserved.

# Labour market reference tables

**TABLE 1**  
Variation by sector – January 2017

GAINING SECTORS	JOB CREATION SINCE		LOSING SECTORS	JOB CREATION SINCE	
	1 month	12 months		1 month	12 months
<b>Canada</b>					
Finance, insurance, real estate	20,500	59,300	Information, culture and recreation	-12,500	21,200
Business services	16,400	3,900	Other services	-5,800	27,500
Transportation and warehousing	11,400	22,700	Utilities	-3,000	1,600
Health care and social assistance	7,900	16,600	Wholesale and retail trade	-2,700	25,900
<b>Quebec</b>					
Business services	11,900	700	Information, culture and recreation	-11,300	11,200
Finance, insurance, real estate	7,200	21,100	Manufacturing	-7,300	-11,200
Agriculture	4,400	-1,900	Educational services	-3,000	29,700
Construction	2,900	7,200	Utilities	-2,300	-3,200
<b>Ontario</b>					
Manufacturing	14,000	5,700	Prof., scientific and technical services	-6,900	4,200
Finance, insurance, real estate	8,200	17,400	Information, culture and recreation	-6,400	11,300
Health care and social assistance	7,500	30,300	Wholesale and retail trade	-5,500	-22,500
Public administration	7,100	22,500	Other services	-1,700	7,400

Source: Statistics Canada's "Labour Force Survey"

**TABLE 2**  
By sector

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA	NUMBER OF JOBS	JOB CREATION SINCE				
	January 2017	1 month	3 months	Dec. 2016	12 months	12 months (%)
<b>Total jobs</b>						
Canada	18,273,300	48,300	92,000	48,300	276,100	1.5
Quebec	4,202,600	3,400	26,300	3,400	97,100	2.4
Ontario	7,075,200	28,800	47,100	28,800	90,100	1.3
<b>Public sector employees</b>						
Canada	3,680,900	7,700	38,100	7,700	67,700	1.9
Quebec	925,200	3,700	18,400	3,700	45,500	5.2
Ontario	1,323,500	3,200	14,500	3,200	20,100	1.5
<b>Private sector employees</b>						
Canada	11,846,300	32,400	89,700	32,400	256,500	2.2
Quebec	2,739,300	11,100	26,800	11,100	72,500	2.7
Ontario	4,665,100	21,500	50,400	21,500	80,700	1.8
<b>Self-employed</b>						
Canada	2,746,200	8,200	-35,700	8,200	-48,000	-1.7
Quebec	538,100	-11,400	-18,900	-11,400	-20,900	-3.7
Ontario	1,086,600	4,100	-17,900	4,100	-10,700	-1.0

Source: Statistics Canada's "Labour Force Survey"

**TABLE 3**  
**Recent trends**

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA	EMPLOYMENT Numbers	JOB CREATION SINCE			LABOUR FORCE		RATE (%)		
		1 month	3 months	12 months	Numbers	1 month*	Part.	Empl.	Unempl.
<b>Canada</b>									
Jan. 2016	17,997,200	1,200	-19,100	120,500	19,385,200	5,500	65.8	61.1	7.2
Feb. 2016	18,000,500	3,300	18,700	110,900	19,400,200	15,000	65.8	61.1	7.2
March 2016	18,031,600	31,100	35,600	129,000	19,411,600	11,400	65.8	61.1	7.1
April 2016	18,035,500	3,900	38,300	140,200	19,411,600	0	65.8	61.1	7.1
May 2016	18,048,900	13,400	48,400	103,300	19,394,100	-17,500	65.6	61.1	6.9
June 2016	18,060,200	11,300	28,600	109,300	19,384,300	-9,800	65.5	61.1	6.8
July 2016	18,034,300	-25,900	-1,200	65,300	19,382,400	-1,900	65.5	60.9	7.0
Aug. 2016	18,069,800	35,500	20,900	84,300	19,433,300	50,900	65.6	61.0	7.0
Sept. 2016	18,134,400	64,600	74,200	153,100	19,495,200	61,900	65.7	61.1	7.0
Oct. 2016	18,181,300	46,900	147,000	165,000	19,546,300	51,100	65.9	61.3	7.0
Nov. 2016	18,178,900	-2,400	109,100	197,100	19,505,100	-41,200	65.7	61.2	6.8
Dec. 2016	18,225,000	46,100	90,600	229,000	19,566,600	61,500	65.8	61.3	6.9
Jan. 2017	18,273,300	48,300	92,000	276,100	19,597,700	31,100	65.9	61.4	6.8
<b>Quebec</b>									
Jan. 2016	4,105,500	-2,900	7,700	32,100	4,442,300	-12,000	64.7	59.8	7.6
Feb. 2016	4,108,500	3,000	15,200	16,400	4,441,300	-1,000	64.7	59.8	7.5
March 2016	4,097,300	-11,200	-11,100	-1,600	4,426,000	-15,300	64.4	59.6	7.4
April 2016	4,102,100	4,800	-3,400	-11,200	4,431,800	5,800	64.4	59.7	7.4
May 2016	4,121,700	19,600	13,200	15,800	4,433,200	1,400	64.4	59.9	7.0
June 2016	4,111,600	-10,100	14,300	33,000	4,418,300	-14,900	64.2	59.7	6.9
July 2016	4,113,700	2,100	11,600	9,600	4,424,100	5,800	64.2	59.7	7.0
Aug. 2016	4,138,700	25,000	17,000	40,000	4,451,700	27,600	64.5	60.0	7.0
Sept. 2016	4,170,900	32,200	59,300	69,800	4,478,200	26,500	64.9	60.4	6.9
Oct. 2016	4,176,300	5,400	62,600	78,500	4,476,700	-1,500	64.9	60.5	6.7
Nov. 2016	4,180,900	4,600	42,200	87,600	4,456,600	-20,100	64.5	60.6	6.2
Dec. 2016	4,199,200	18,300	28,300	90,800	4,493,300	36,700	65.1	60.8	6.5
Jan. 2017	4,202,600	3,400	26,300	97,100	4,482,100	-11,200	64.9	60.8	6.2
<b>Ontario</b>									
Jan. 2016	6,985,100	22,300	45,200	100,400	7,488,700	26,600	65.4	61.0	6.7
Feb. 2016	6,972,300	-12,800	39,600	71,000	7,475,700	-13,000	65.2	60.8	6.7
March 2016	6,982,300	10,000	19,500	86,000	7,489,600	13,900	65.3	60.8	6.8
April 2016	6,980,400	-1,900	-4,700	91,000	7,500,300	10,700	65.3	60.8	6.9
May 2016	7,000,900	20,500	28,600	77,300	7,491,800	-8,500	65.1	60.9	6.6
June 2016	7,005,700	4,800	23,400	64,200	7,480,000	-11,800	65.0	60.8	6.3
July 2016	6,968,400	-37,300	-12,000	20,400	7,450,000	-30,000	64.6	60.4	6.5
Aug. 2016	6,983,700	15,300	-17,200	36,500	7,486,000	36,000	64.8	60.5	6.7
Sept. 2016	7,002,600	18,900	-3,100	85,100	7,492,500	6,500	64.8	60.6	6.5
Oct. 2016	7,028,100	25,500	59,700	88,200	7,509,200	16,700	64.9	60.7	6.4
Nov. 2016	7,040,000	11,900	56,300	107,300	7,508,000	-1,200	64.8	60.8	6.2
Dec. 2016	7,046,400	6,400	43,800	83,600	7,525,600	17,600	64.9	60.8	6.4
Jan. 2017	7,075,200	28,800	47,100	90,100	7,559,900	34,300	65.1	61.0	6.4

Part.: Participation; Empl.: Employment; Unempl.: Unemployment; \* Variation over a month.  
 Source: Statistics Canada's "Labour Force Survey"

**TABLE 4**  
**Other labour market indicators**

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA	LAST PUBLICATION		PREVIOUS DATA			
	Month	Level	-1 month	-3 months	-6 months	-12 months
<b>Canada</b>						
Average weekly wages (\$)	Nov.	1,098.83	1,088.69	1,094.09	1,082.16	1,084.46
Average hours worked in the manufacturing sector	Nov.	30.1	29.9	30.1	30.3	30.4
<b>Quebec</b>						
Average weekly wages (\$)	Nov.	1,025.85	1,014.54	1,021.44	999.36	990.16
Average hours worked in the manufacturing sector	Nov.	30.4	30.1	29.9	30.1	30.0
<b>Ontario</b>						
Average weekly wages (\$)	Nov.	1,131.85	1,120.05	1,118.71	1,114.65	1,120.87
Average hours worked in the manufacturing sector	Nov.	30.1	30.1	30.1	30.4	30.5

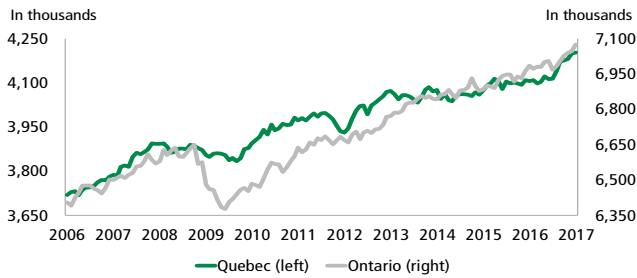
Source: Statistics Canada's "Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours"

**TABLE 5**  
**Annual data**

	ANNUAL AVERAGES					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>Canada</b>						
Total jobs	17,221,000	17,438,000	17,691,100	17,802,200	17,946,600	18,079,900
Job creation	256,700	217,000	253,100	111,100	144,400	133,300
Job growth (%)	1.5	1.3	1.5	0.6	0.8	0.7
Unemployment rate (%)	7.5	7.3	7.1	6.9	6.9	7.0
<b>Quebec</b>						
Total jobs	3,975,600	4,005,900	4,060,800	4,059,700	4,097,000	4,133,100
Job creation	37,700	30,300	54,900	-1,100	37,300	36,100
Job growth (%)	1.0	0.8	1.4	0.0	0.9	0.9
Unemployment rate (%)	7.9	7.7	7.6	7.7	7.6	7.1
<b>Ontario</b>						
Total jobs	6,658,400	6,702,600	6,823,400	6,877,900	6,923,200	6,999,600
Job creation	120,600	44,200	120,800	54,500	45,300	76,400
Job growth (%)	1.8	0.7	1.8	0.8	0.7	1.1
Unemployment rate (%)	7.9	7.9	7.6	7.3	6.8	6.5

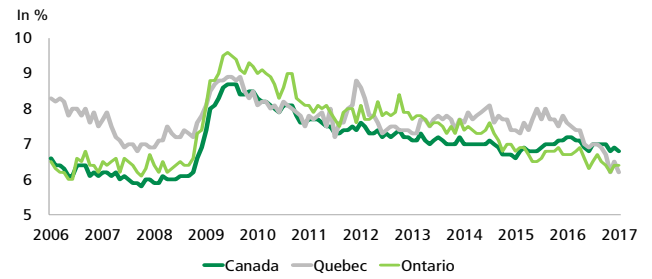
Source: Statistics Canada's "Labour Force Survey"

**QUEBEC-ONTARIO**  
Level of employment



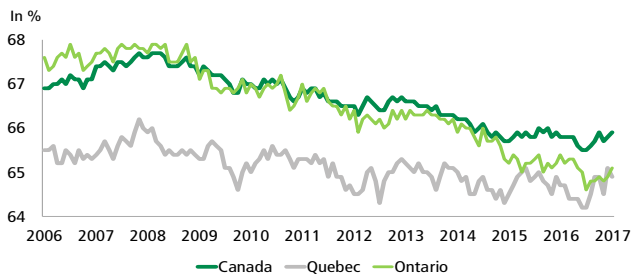
Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

**CANADA-QUEBEC-ONTARIO**  
Unemployment Rate



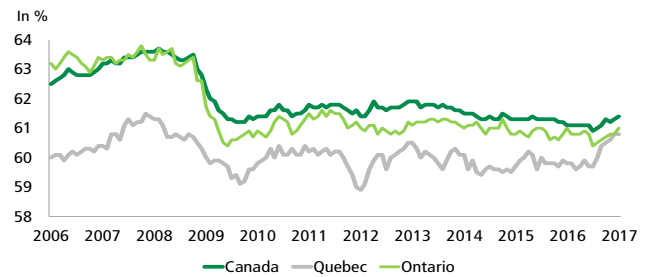
Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

**CANADA-QUEBEC-ONTARIO**  
Participation Rate



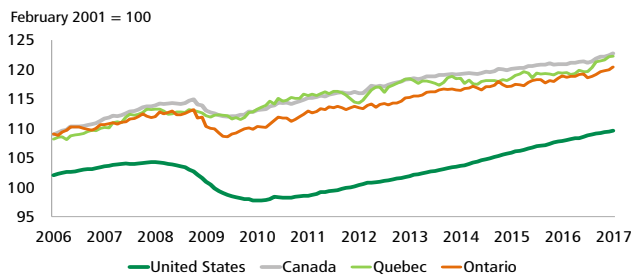
Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

**CANADA-QUEBEC-ONTARIO**  
Employment Rate



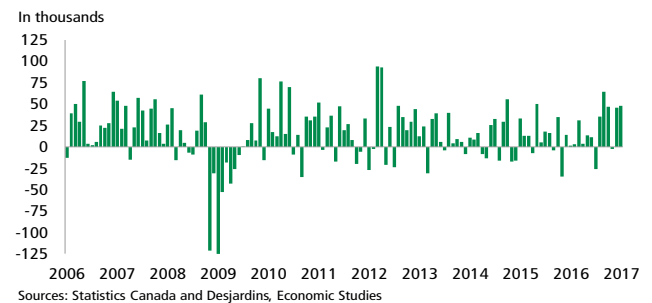
Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

**UNITED STATES-CANADA-QUEBEC-ONTARIO**  
Employment Index

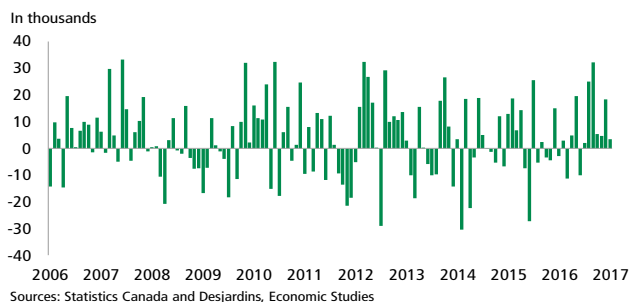


Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

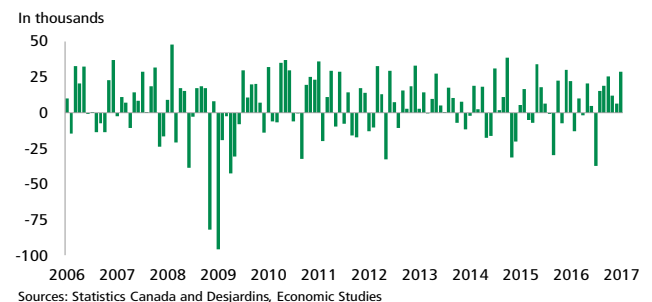
**CANADA**  
Evolution of employment



**QUEBEC**  
Evolution of employment



**ONTARIO**  
Evolution of employment



**TABLE 6**  
**By province – January 2017**

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA	ACTUAL	PREVIOUS MONTHS			MONTHLY AVERAGES			EMPLOYMENT Since 1 year
		Dec. 2016	Nov. 2016	Oct. 2016	3 months	6 months	12 months	
<b>Canada</b>								
Total jobs	18,273,300	18,225,000	18,178,900	18,181,300	18,225,733	18,177,117	18,106,142	17,997,200
Job creation	48,300	46,100	-2,400	46,900	30,667	39,833	23,008	276,100
Unempl. rate (%)	6.8	6.9	6.8	7.0	6.8	6.9	7.0	1.5*
<b>Newfoundland</b>								
Total jobs	229,300	227,100	228,000	229,000	228,133	230,417	232,408	231,500
Job creation	2,200	-900	-1,000	-5,000	100	-367	-183	-2,200
Unempl. rate (%)	13.8	15.1	14.7	15.2	14.5	14.2	13.4	-1.0*
<b>Prince Edward Island</b>								
Total jobs	72,700	72,100	71,500	71,400	72,100	71,750	71,533	72,200
Job creation	600	600	100	-100	433	217	42	500
Unempl. rate (%)	9.8	10.5	10.6	11.5	10.3	10.9	10.8	0.7*
<b>Nova Scotia</b>								
Total jobs	452,700	448,500	448,100	445,400	449,767	447,267	446,833	442,900
Job creation	4,200	400	2,700	1,600	2,433	1,217	817	9,800
Unempl. rate (%)	7.7	8.3	8.0	7.7	8.0	8.1	8.3	2.2*
<b>New Brunswick</b>								
Total jobs	351,900	354,900	354,400	354,200	353,733	354,017	351,667	351,300
Job creation	-3,000	500	200	-1,900	-767	-500	50	600
Unempl. rate (%)	8.9	9.3	8.8	9.8	9.0	9.2	9.5	0.2*
<b>Quebec</b>								
Total jobs	4,202,600	4,199,200	4,180,900	4,176,300	4,194,233	4,178,100	4,143,625	4,105,500
Job creation	3,400	18,300	4,600	5,400	8,767	14,817	8,092	97,100
Unempl. rate (%)	6.2	6.5	6.2	6.7	6.3	6.6	6.9	2.4*
<b>Ontario</b>								
Total jobs	7,075,200	7,046,400	7,040,000	7,028,100	7,053,867	7,029,333	7,007,167	6,985,100
Job creation	28,800	6,400	11,900	25,500	15,700	17,800	7,508	90,100
Unempl. rate (%)	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.4	6.3	6.4	6.5	1.3*
<b>Manitoba</b>								
Total jobs	634,300	633,000	631,900	633,500	633,067	633,083	633,825	628,600
Job creation	1,300	1,100	-1,600	1,300	267	-233	475	5,700
Unempl. rate (%)	6.1	6.3	6.1	6.5	6.2	6.2	6.2	0.9*
<b>Saskatchewan</b>								
Total jobs	567,500	568,200	569,000	566,300	568,233	568,267	568,300	572,300
Job creation	-700	-800	2,700	-3,200	400	-317	-400	-4,800
Unempl. rate (%)	6.4	6.6	6.8	7.0	6.6	6.7	6.4	-0.8*
<b>Alberta</b>								
Total jobs	2,267,600	2,267,400	2,261,700	2,274,100	2,265,567	2,264,867	2,264,675	2,270,700
Job creation	200	5,700	-12,400	8,700	-2,167	2,983	-258	-3,100
Unempl. rate (%)	8.8	8.5	9.0	8.6	8.8	8.7	8.3	-0.1*
<b>British Columbia</b>								
Total jobs	2,419,400	2,408,200	2,393,400	2,403,000	2,407,000	2,399,983	2,386,075	2,337,100
Job creation	11,200	14,800	-9,600	14,800	5,467	4,200	6,858	82,300
Unempl. rate (%)	5.6	5.8	6.1	6.1	5.8	5.8	5.9	3.5*

Unempl.: Unemployment; \* Variation in employment over a year.

Source: Statistics Canada's "Labour Force Survey"