

ECONOMIC NEWS

Labour market: Few changes in March in Quebec and Ontario

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Quebec gained 2,400 new jobs in March. The rise in part-time positions (+20,200) offset the loss of full-time jobs (-17,800).
- ▶ The unemployment rate stayed at 6.4% for a second consecutive month.
- ▶ Ontario recorded a loss of 11,200 jobs in March. Gains in full-time work (+11,300) were not enough to offset part-time job losses (-22,500).
- ▶ The unemployment rate in Ontario edged up from 6.2% in February to 6.4% last month. Quebec and Ontario are therefore at the same level.

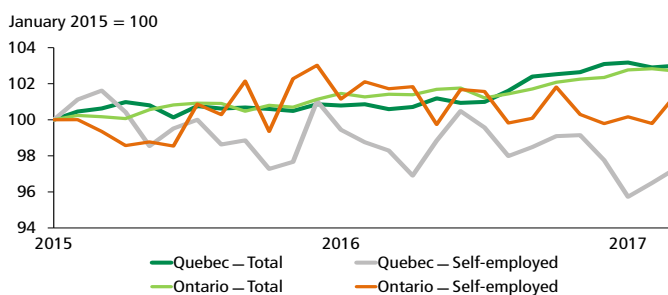
COMMENTS

In Quebec, the best jobs gains in March were made in culture, information and recreation (+7,700) and construction (+2,900). Job losses were recorded in health and social assistance (-8,000), and in educational services (-2,500). These losses are counter-intuitive, given the growing needs in the healthcare sector. A correction is very likely in the next few months. In Ontario, the strongest advances were in manufacturing (+13,000) and business services (+9,800). Educational services (-9,200) and other services (-8,400) both posted losses. The end of March sets the balance for the first quarter: Quebec suffered -5,300 job losses due to the 11,100 jobs lost in February. In Ontario, the balance is positive, with 22,200 new jobs due to the strong job gains in January (+28,800).

For the past two years, employment has been on an uptrend in both Quebec and Ontario while the unemployment rate has been falling. For its part, the number of self-employed workers has not risen in Quebec, and it has only ticked up in Ontario. The scarcity of labour, in both the private and public sectors, seems to be reflected in the self-employment slowdown.

GRAPH

For the past two years, self-employment has slowed compared with total employment



Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

IMPLICATIONS

The first quarter of 2017 has wrapped up on the employment front, with Quebec recording a negative performance and Ontario posting advances. The next few months should be fairly good, provided that Canada and the United States experience economic growth at a good clip. At the moment, the upcoming NAFTA negotiations do not seem to be disrupting transborder trade. However, we will have to keep a close watch for sanctions imposed on softwood lumber shipments, which could take effect as of the end of April.

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Labour market reference tables

TABLE 1
Variation by sector – March 2017

GAINING SECTORS	JOB CREATION SINCE		LOSING SECTORS	JOB CREATION SINCE	
	1 month	12 months		1 month	12 months
Canada					
Manufacturing	24,400	-200	Educational services	-14,900	9,100
Business services	18,200	8,900	Transportation and warehousing	-12,800	15,100
Wholesale and retail trade	16,900	50,800	Other services	-9,500	20,300
Information, culture and recreation	10,700	31,900	Health care and social assistance	-9,200	14,000
Quebec					
Information, culture and recreation	7,700	8,800	Health care and social assistance	-8,000	-26,500
Construction	2,900	9,100	Educational services	-2,500	14,800
Manufacturing	1,600	-4,900	Agriculture	-1,900	-3,100
Prof., scientific and technical services	1,100	2,200	Other services	-600	5,900
Ontario					
Manufacturing	13,000	12,600	Educational services	-9,200	-12,000
Business services	9,800	-2,900	Other services	-8,400	2,900
Construction	8,500	11,200	Information, culture and recreation	-7,300	4,700
Prof., scientific and technical services	4,100	6,700	Health care and social assistance	-5,400	32,900

Source: Statistics Canada's "Labour Force Survey"

TABLE 2
By sector

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA	NUMBER OF JOBS	JOB CREATION SINCE				
	March 2017	1 month	3 months	Dec. 2016	12 months	12 months (%)
Total jobs						
Canada	18,308,000	19,400	83,000	83,000	276,400	1.5
Quebec	4,193,900	2,400	-5,300	-5,300	96,600	2.4
Ontario	7,068,600	-11,200	22,200	22,200	86,300	1.2
Public sector employees						
Canada	3,661,400	-12,700	-11,800	-11,800	67,100	1.9
Quebec	901,200	-5,600	-20,300	-20,300	25,500	2.9
Ontario	1,321,000	1,200	700	700	20,000	1.5
Private sector employees						
Canada	11,876,700	13,700	62,800	62,800	220,100	1.9
Quebec	2,746,000	3,700	17,800	17,800	76,900	2.9
Ontario	4,647,700	-29,700	4,100	4,100	69,900	1.5
Self-employed						
Canada	2,769,900	18,400	31,900	31,900	-10,800	-0.4
Quebec	546,700	4,300	-2,800	-2,800	-5,800	-1.0
Ontario	1,099,900	17,300	17,400	17,400	-3,600	-0.3

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.
Canada									
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
Feb. 2017	18,288,600	15,300	109,700	288,100	19,574,700	-23,000	65.8	61.4	6.6
March 2017	18,308,000	19,400	83,000	276,400	19,621,700	47,000	65.9	61.5	6.7
Quebec									
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
Feb. 2017	4,191,500	-11,100	10,600	83,000	4,478,200	-3,900	64.8	60.6	6.4
March 2017	4,193,900	2,400	-5,300	96,600	4,479,400	1,200	64.8	60.6	6.4
Ontario									
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
Feb. 2017	7,079,800	4,600	39,800	107,500	7,549,000	-10,900	65.0	61.0	6.2
March 2017	7,068,600	-11,200	22,200	86,300	7,551,200	2,200	64.9	60.8	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
Canada						
Average weekly wages (\$)	Jan.	1,114.99	1,112.49	1,089.66	1,086.97	1,065.21
Average hours worked in the manufacturing sector	Jan.	30.0	30.2	29.9	30.1	30.2
Quebec						
Average weekly wages (\$)	Jan.	1,036.30	1,039.79	1,015.09	1,019.33	981.69
Average hours worked in the manufacturing sector	Jan.	30.2	30.3	30.1	30.0	30.2
Ontario						
Average weekly wages (\$)	Jan.	1,136.19	1,143.50	1,124.17	1,111.24	1,091.57
Average hours worked in the manufacturing sector	Jan.	30.0	30.3	30.0	30.2	30.2

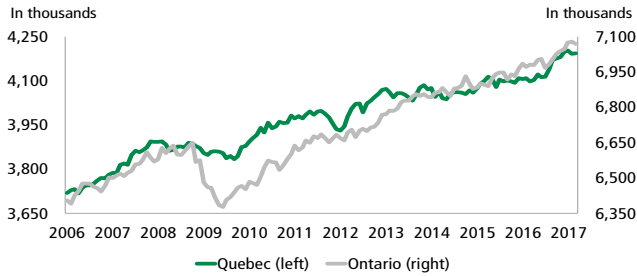
Source: Statistics Canada's "Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours"

TABLE 5
Annual data

	ANNUAL AVERAGES					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Canada						
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
Quebec						
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
Ontario						
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

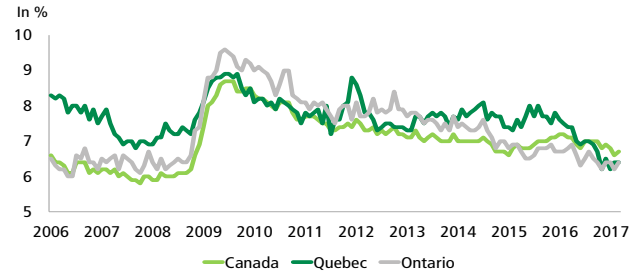
Source: Statistics Canada's "Labour Force Survey"

QUEBEC-ONTARIO
Level of employment



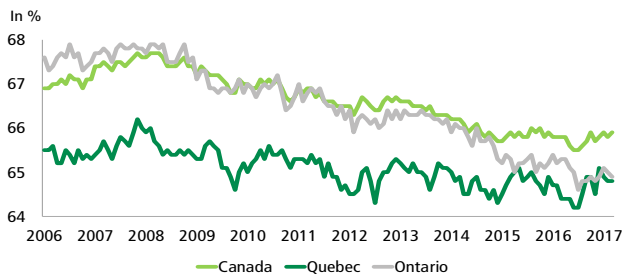
Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

CANADA-QUEBEC-ONTARIO
Unemployment Rate



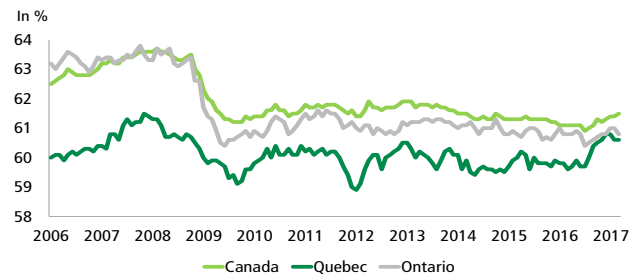
Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

CANADA-QUEBEC-ONTARIO
Participation Rate



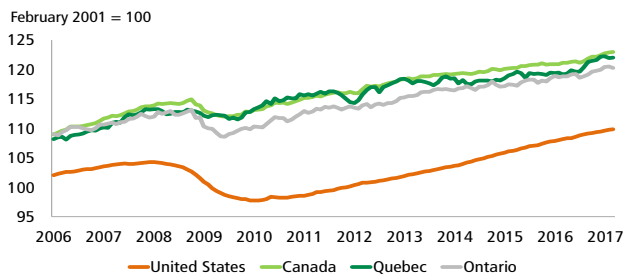
Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

CANADA-QUEBEC-ONTARIO
Employment Rate



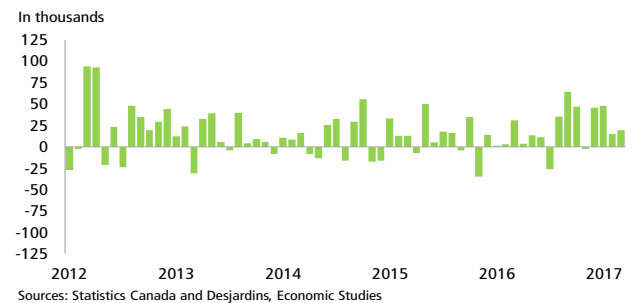
Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

UNITED STATES-CANADA-QUEBEC-ONTARIO
Employment Index



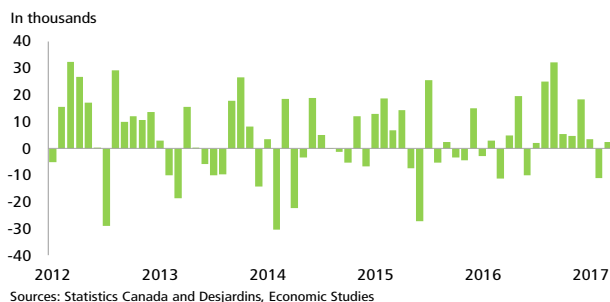
Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

CANADA
Evolution of employment



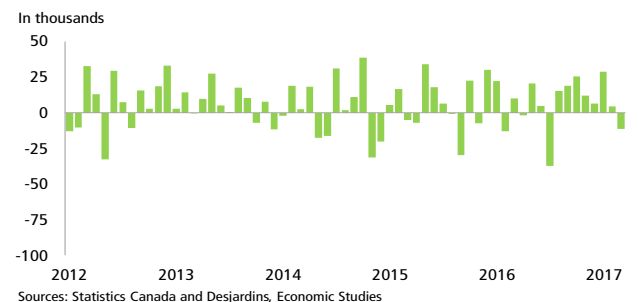
Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

QUEBEC
Evolution of employment



Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

ONTARIO
Evolution of employment



Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

TABLE 6
By province – March 2017

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA	ACTUAL	PREVIOUS MONTHS			MONTHLY AVERAGES			EMPLOYMENT
		Feb. 2017	Jan. 2017	Dec. 2016	3 months	6 months	12 months	Since 1 year
Canada								
Total jobs	18,308,000	18,288,600	18,273,300	18,225,000	18,289,967	18,242,517	18,153,183	18,031,600
Job creation	19,400	15,300	48,300	46,100	27,667	28,933	23,033	276,400
Unempl. rate (%)	6.7	6.6	6.8	6.9	6.7	6.8	6.9	1.5*
Newfoundland								
Total jobs	225,500	225,500	229,300	227,100	226,767	227,400	231,375	231,500
Job creation	0	-3,800	2,200	-900	-533	-1,417	-500	-6,000
Unempl. rate (%)	14.9	14.2	13.8	15.1	14.3	14.7	13.6	-2.6*
Prince Edward Island								
Total jobs	72,700	73,000	72,700	72,100	72,800	72,233	71,792	71,000
Job creation	-300	300	600	600	200	200	142	1,700
Unempl. rate (%)	10.1	10.0	9.8	10.5	10.0	10.4	10.7	2.4*
Nova Scotia								
Total jobs	450,500	445,900	452,700	448,500	449,700	448,517	447,208	447,700
Job creation	4,600	-6,800	4,200	400	667	1,117	233	2,800
Unempl. rate (%)	8.6	8.1	7.7	8.3	8.1	8.1	8.2	0.6*
New Brunswick								
Total jobs	353,600	351,900	351,900	354,900	352,467	353,483	352,825	345,600
Job creation	1,700	0	-3,000	500	-433	-417	667	8,000
Unempl. rate (%)	8.4	8.9	8.9	9.3	8.7	9.0	9.3	2.3*
Quebec								
Total jobs	4,193,900	4,191,500	4,202,600	4,199,200	4,196,000	4,190,733	4,158,592	4,097,300
Job creation	2,400	-11,100	3,400	18,300	-1,767	3,833	8,050	96,600
Unempl. rate (%)	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.5	6.3	6.4	6.7	2.4*
Ontario								
Total jobs	7,068,600	7,079,800	7,075,200	7,046,400	7,074,533	7,056,350	7,023,317	6,982,300
Job creation	-11,200	4,600	28,800	6,400	7,400	11,000	7,192	86,300
Unempl. rate (%)	6.4	6.2	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.5	1.2*
Manitoba								
Total jobs	640,500	637,700	634,300	633,000	637,500	635,150	634,758	635,900
Job creation	2,800	3,400	1,300	1,100	2,500	1,383	383	4,600
Unempl. rate (%)	5.5	5.8	6.1	6.3	5.8	6.1	6.1	0.7*
Saskatchewan								
Total jobs	570,400	575,500	567,500	568,200	571,133	569,483	569,217	568,200
Job creation	-5,100	8,000	-700	-800	733	150	183	2,200
Unempl. rate (%)	6.0	6.0	6.4	6.6	6.1	6.5	6.4	0.4*
Alberta								
Total jobs	2,289,300	2,268,900	2,267,600	2,267,400	2,275,267	2,271,500	2,264,100	2,290,900
Job creation	20,400	1,300	200	5,700	7,300	3,983	-133	-1,600
Unempl. rate (%)	8.4	8.3	8.8	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.4	-0.1*
British Columbia								
Total jobs	2,443,000	2,438,800	2,419,400	2,408,200	2,433,733	2,417,633	2,399,975	2,361,100
Job creation	4,200	19,400	11,200	14,800	11,600	9,133	6,825	81,900
Unempl. rate (%)	5.4	5.1	5.6	5.8	5.4	5.7	5.7	3.5*

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

Source: Statistics Canada's "Labour Force Survey"