

## ECONOMIC NEWS

# Labour Market in May: Two Very Different Scenarios in Quebec and Ontario

### HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ The labour force survey reported a drop of 11,600 jobs in Quebec in May, on the heels of a dramatic increase of 37,900 jobs in April.
- ▶ The unemployment rate ticked up from a record 4.9% to 5.0% in May due to a smaller decline in the labour force (-10,800) than in employment.
- ▶ Ontario's figures were the polar opposite of Quebec's, with the number of new hires increasing by 20,900 and the unemployment rate dropping from 6.0% to 5.2% between April and May.
- ▶ The decrease in Ontario's unemployment rate, while notable (-0.8 points), was due to a significant reduction of the labour force, particularly in the number of unemployed.

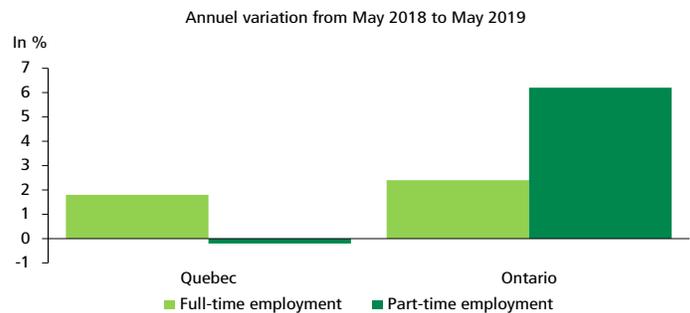
### COMMENTS

Quebec's lower employment numbers in May are not surprising. It's not unusual to see a dip in the number of jobs the month following a steep increase, as we witnessed in April. May's losses were primarily in business services (-13,200), public administrations (-10,200) and wholesale and retail trade (-9,500). The drops mainly stemmed from part-time positions. For the past year, full-time jobs have grown 1.8% while part-time jobs have dipped 0.2% (graph).

In Ontario, the increase of 20,900 jobs followed growth of 47,100 jobs the previous month. May's gains were mainly seen in healthcare and social assistance (+12,800), professional, scientific and technical services (+11,800) and other services (+11,000). The monthly growth was due to full-time jobs. For the past year, full-time jobs have risen 2.4% while part-time jobs have increased 6.2%.

### GRAPH

#### Growth in full-time employment in Ontario has outpaced that of Quebec for the past year



Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

### IMPLICATIONS

Quebec's setback in May is hardly a shock and is not an indicator that the tides have turned on the labour market. Meanwhile, Ontario's consecutive gains in April and May are a sign that its economy is remaining healthy.

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