

## ECONOMIC NEWS

# Employment Continues to Increase in Quebec and Ontario in September

### HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Quebec added 76,700 jobs in September. This increase is higher than August's (54,200).
- ▶ Full-time jobs accounted for 60% of the gains.
- ▶ The Quebec unemployment rate was 7.4%, a drop of 1.3 points compared with August.
- ▶ In Ontario, the number of jobs increased by 167,600, all full time.
- ▶ The unemployment rate dropped below the 10% mark to 9.5%, a monthly decrease of 1.1 points.

### COMMENTS

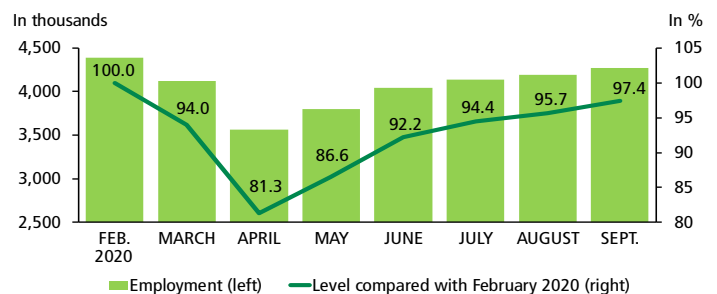
September's results in both provinces surpassed expectations. Accommodation and food services took advantage of the easing of lockdown measures (+57,000 in Ontario and +13,500 in Quebec). The return to school resulted in the hiring of staff (+29,100 in Ontario and +23,900 in Quebec), which freed parents to return to their jobs. Manufacturing added workers, especially in Ontario (+51,700). With last month's gains, Quebec is at 97.4% of the level of employment observed in February, while Ontario is at 95.8%.

### IMPLICATIONS

September's results are encouraging. The projections for October are difficult to assess due to the tightening of lockdown measures in Quebec, and changes to employment assistance programs, which could temporarily make the labour market harder to read. A temporary increase in unemployment is likely, in line with the jump in COVID-19 cases.

### GRAPH 1

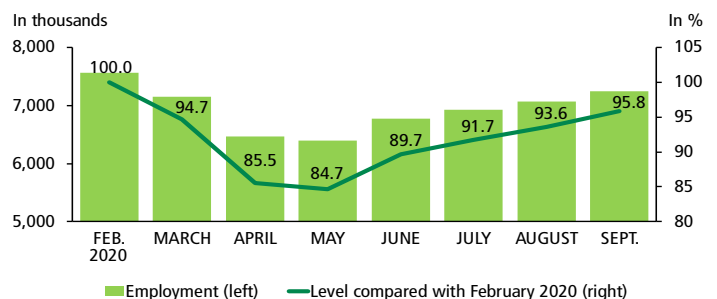
**Quebec: Return of employment to a pre-pandemic level was 97.4% in September**



Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

### GRAPH 2

**Ontario: Return of employment to a pre-pandemic level was 95.8% in September**



Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

Joëlle Noreau, Senior Economist

François Dupuis, Vice-President and Chief Economist • Mathieu D'Anjou, Deputy 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](https://desjardins.com/economics)

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