

ECONOMIC NEWS

Quebec–Ontario: Job Creation Remains Strong

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Quebec and Ontario made a significant contribution to the country's job growth (+53,700) in September.
- ▶ The number of jobs in Quebec was up 13,600 in September. This is the fourth consecutive monthly gain, totalling 51,700 more workers.
- ▶ Ontario saw its number rise by 41,100 jobs last month after a gain of 57,800 in August.
- ▶ The September job growth in Quebec and Ontario comes from full-time positions.
- ▶ In Quebec, the unemployment rate reached 4.8% in September after hitting an all-time monthly low of 4.7% in August.
- ▶ Ontario's fell to 5.3% in September from 5.6% the previous month.

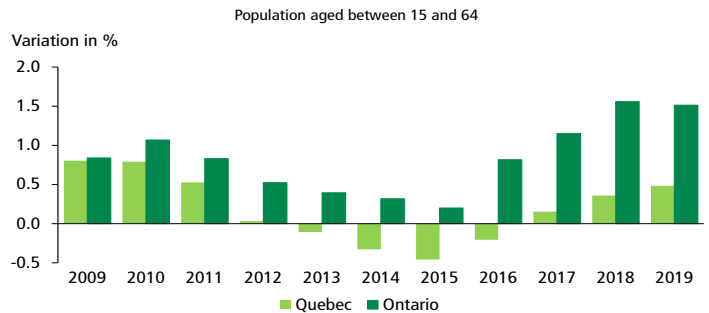
COMMENTS

The strong job creation in September in both provinces has blasted past expectations. Hires of new workers continue to be fierce against the backdrop of labour shortages in many sectors and regions of Quebec and Ontario. The population statistics update on July 1, 2019, is encouraging. The population aged 15 to 64 in Quebec has been inching up for the past three years after a period of decline. In Ontario, the pool of potential workers continues to expand at a good pace.

Despite the slight increase in Quebec's unemployment rate to 4.8% in September, the level is still close to the record monthly low of 4.7% reached in August. The unemployment rate has been below the 5% mark since June, a milestone for the province's economy. Ontario is also faring very well with an unemployment rate of 5.3%.

GRAPH

The pool of potential workers is expanding faster in Ontario than in Quebec



Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

IMPLICATIONS

According to the Statistics Canada survey, the labour market in Quebec and Ontario is doing just fine. Despite this positive picture, risks associated with global trade remain. The situation could deteriorate in the short term, depending on how the trade dispute between the China and the United States and also the Canada evolves. Quebec's and Ontario's international trade troubles could worsen. This would slow further economic growth and job creation in the coming quarters.

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