

ECONOMIC NEWS

Employment Slides in Quebec and Edges Up in Ontario in November

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ November is showing signs of an abrupt cooling, with employment plunging 45,100 in Quebec. Both full-time and part-time work declined (by -32,700 and -12,400 respectively).
- ▶ Quebec's unemployment rate went from 5.0% in October to 5.6% in November, aligning with the Ontario rate, which went from 5.3% to 5.6% during the same period.
- ▶ Ontario employment expanded by 15,400 jobs, a gain that falls within the standard error calculated by Statistics Canada (+20,400).
- ▶ Ontario's employment gain comes mainly from full-time work.

COMMENTS

Quebec saw employment plunge in November. However, 44,900 jobs have been created over the last year, representing an average monthly increase of 3,742 jobs in a context of scarce labour, if not a labour shortage. November's results drag the average for the last six months down, however (-483).

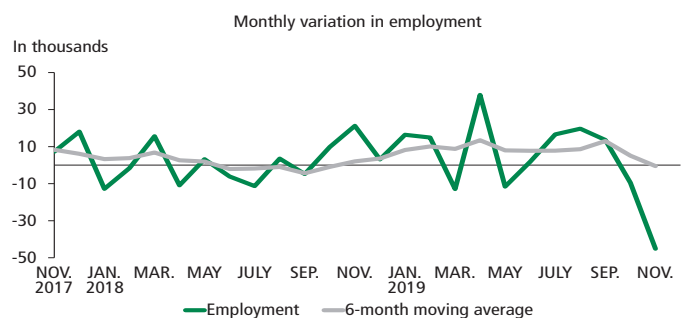
In Ontario, November's gains (+15,400) practically wiped out the previous month's losses (-16,200). In the last year, 234,000 jobs have been created, for an average monthly gain of 19,500, and an average monthly advance of 13,400 over the last six months.

IMPLICATIONS

November has tempered the employment surge seen in Quebec in recent months. The first negative result came in October: November's retreat supports the conclusion that Quebec's labour market is slowing. Ontario is doing better. Nonetheless, the pace has been slowing in the last six months. The labour market lull is

GRAPH 1

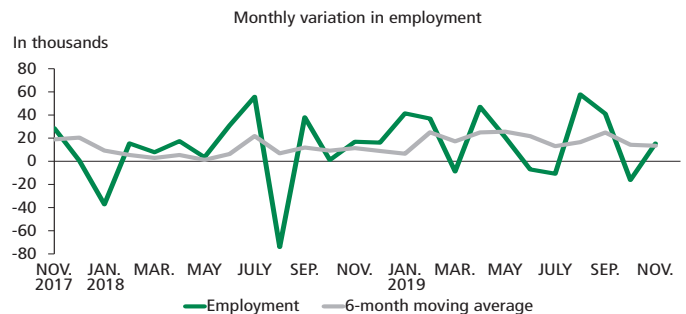
Quebec: Job creation is flagging after a year of major gains



Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

GRAPH 2

Ontario: The labour market is holding up but the pace is slowing



Sources: Statistics Canada and Desjardins, Economic Studies

not really surprising. November's momentum gained in Quebec could ebb in the coming months.

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