



Bearing the Brunt: Quebec Fact Sheet

Poverty

- Poverty rate 2007: 10.7%
- Child poverty rate 2007: 9.5%
- Second highest poverty rate and third highest child poverty rate in the country in 2007

Unemployment

- Quebec lost 62,100 jobs between October 2008 and October 2009 (1.6%)
- Unemployment increased from 7.2% in October 2008 to 8.5% in October 2009

Employment Insurance

- The Beneficiaries to Unemployed rate increased from 52.3% in October 2008 to 58.6% in October 2009

Last Resort Financial Assistance

- Quebec had the 3rd lowest increase in social assistance cases during the recession
- The Last Resort Financial Assistance caseload grew 2.7% between October 2008 and December 2009
- In December 2009, there were 335,070 cases of LRFA
- Unlike most provinces, who experienced their peak caseload in December 2009, Quebec's peak caseload came in March 2009, when there were 335,284 cases
- However, in January and February 2010, the LRFA caseload surpassed its March peak, reaching 339,083 cases in February 2010. This suggests that many people are exhausting EI benefits without finding new work
- Quebec has the highest number of welfare recipients in the country, surpassing neighbouring Ontario by nearly 100,000 cases
- The number of families receiving LRFA increased by 0.4% during the recession

Cost of living

- Food prices increased 5.2% in 2009 compared to core inflation of 0.6%
- Prices of fruit (5.9%) and vegetables (10.7%) increased more than 5%
- Average rent for a two-bedroom apartment increased 2.8% between October 2008 and October 2009
- 2 Quebec cities declined in affordability in 2009: Gatineau and Quebec
- But Quebec remains the most affordable province for rental housing – the lowest rent for a two-bedroom apartment in the country is in Saguenay (\$518) and four of the most affordable cities in the country are in QC: Gatineau, Montreal, Saguenay, and Sherbrooke

Bankruptcy

- The number of bankruptcies in Quebec increased by 26.9% between the third quarter of 2008 and the third quarter of 2009

Food bank use

- Food bank use increased 8% in 2009
- 137,464 people used a food bank in March 2009
- 78% of food banks saw an increase in demand
- The increase in need was greater than the increase in number of clients: Quebec food banks were only able to meet 1/3 of demand in 2009
- 34% of food bank clients in Quebec are children
- 11.5% of food bank clients report employment income
- 4% of clients are EI recipients