

PRESS RELEASE

IMMIGRATION AND THE LABOUR MARKET: THE SITUATION IS IMPROVING, BUT SOME CHALLENGES REMAIN

Montréal, September 18, 2018 –Immigration has become a hotly debated issue in the Quebec provincial election and is making headlines on a daily basis. The Institut du Québec (IdQ) released today the report, *Mise à jour et clarification des données sur l’immigration et le marché du travail : La situation s’améliore, mais certains défis persistent*, which analyses the most current data on the integration and retention of immigrants into Quebec’s labour market.

In 2016, the IdQ published a report describing the major challenges of integrating immigrants into Quebec’s economy. “Two years later, the data indicates that the situation has shifted, thanks largely to the tightening of the provincial labour market,” said Mia Homsy, Managing Director of the IdQ. “We, therefore, felt that an update was required to bring more clarity to the public debate.”

Here are the key points of this report:

- In 2017, Quebec welcomed 52,388 permanent immigrants, 76% of which settled in Montréal and 42% have some knowledge of French.
- After having fluctuated between 10% and 13% since 2007, the unemployment rate of immigrants aged 25 to 54 was 8.7% in 2017.
- Between January and August 2018, the unemployment rate of immigrants aged 25 to 54 dropped by more than 2 percentage points, down from 8.1% to 6%.
- In 2017, the unemployment rate of very recent immigrants (less than 5 years in the country) aged 25 to 54 was 14.1% in Quebec, while it was 9.3% in Ontario and 7.3% in British Columbia.
- The employment rate of immigrants aged 25 to 54 in Quebec has been rising since 2014 and has almost reached Ontario's rate.
- The immigrant retention rate, which measures the number of immigrants still living in Quebec a number of years after their arrival, now stands at 84.3% 5 years after their arrival and 81.8% 10 years after their arrival. Quebec ranks behind Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta in this area, but ahead of the Atlantic provinces, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan.
- The gap between Quebec and Ontario’s retention rates of immigrants 5 years after their arrival went down from 16% in 2002 (1997 cohort) to 6% since 2007 (cohorts of 2002 and after).

- If Quebec's retention rate 5 years after arrival (84.3%) had been similar to that of Ontario's (90.7%), approximately 2,500 more immigrants would have stayed in Quebec in 2015.

The IdQ hopes that this information will help clarify some of the issues surrounding the admission, integration and retention of immigrant into Quebec.

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About the Institut du Québec

The result of a partnership between the Conference Board of Canada and HEC Montréal, the Institut du Québec focuses its research and studies on the socio-economic issues facing Quebec. It aims to provide public authorities and the private sector with the necessary tools to make informed decisions, and thus contribute to building a more active, competitive and prosperous society.
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