

THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY – ECONOMIC ACTIVITY WILL REMAIN HIGH IN 2023 DESPITE A SLOWDOWN

Montréal, Thursday, December 8, 2022 – Activity in the construction industry will have reached a historic peak in 2022, with 210 million hours worked, a 7% increase over 2021. Although a slowdown is expected in 2023, activity will remain high, with a forecast total of 202 million hours worked. This 4% variation is explained mainly by the economic conjuncture and the completion of major construction sites.

This information is contained in [Perspectives 2023](#), a document published today by the [Commission de la construction du Québec](#) (CCQ).

Regional data are shown at the bottom of this press release.

Economic activity by sector

The **Civil Engineering and Roadwork sector** will continue to be strong in 2023 in terms of roadwork and infrastructure, despite a slowdown of about 5%. This variation is due notably to the completion of major sites, including Hydro-Québec's La Romaine project.

The announcement of major projects in the **Industrial sector**, including a new Kruger Products pulp-and-paper plant and work aimed at decarbonizing Rio Tinto's activities in Sorel-Tracy, will keep the sector in a stable situation despite a drop in investments due to the economic slowdown.

After a record year, the **Institutional and commercial sector** will see a fallback in activity. The gradual rise in interest rates, initiated in March 2022, is the main reason for this. Overall, the expected contraction will be 3%, with a forecast 114.5 million hours worked.

A similar situation will prevail in the **Residential sector**, which will be the most affected in 2023, with a drop of 7% compared to the previous year. However, this may be a short-term setback, as there are still very high needs in terms of housing. Over the short term, the Residential sector will drop to 39 million hours worked in 2023, but a strong comeback is to be anticipated once interest rates stabilize.

Regional activity		
Variation in number of hours worked		
Region	2022 Estimate	2023 Forecast
Bas-Saint-Laurent–Gaspésie	13%	6%
Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean	13%	-5%
Québec City	10%	-5%
Mauricie–Bois-Francs	10%	2%
Estrie	12%	0%
Greater Montréal	5%	-3%
Outaouais	1%	-3%
Abitibi-Témiscamingue	15%	-1%
Baie-James	25%	7%
Côte-Nord	6%	-26%
Québec, total	7%	-4%

A list of the main projects is also available in the publication.

About the Commission de la construction du Québec

The Commission de la construction du Québec, created in 1987, is responsible for application of the *Act Respecting Labour Relations, Vocational Training and Workforce Management in the Construction Industry* (Act R-20), which governs the industry. It offers numerous services to the clientele that it serves, including all aspects of vocational training, management of the workforce, and application of the construction industry's collective agreements.

For more information, visit ccq.org.

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