

MONTHLY REPORT ON FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

December 17, 2021

AT AUGUST 31, 2021

Note to the reader

The *Monthly Report on Financial Transactions* provides an overview of the Québec government's monthly financial results. It is produced to increase the transparency of public finances and to provide regular monitoring of the achievement of the budgetary balance target for the fiscal year. The financial information presented in this report is unaudited and is based on the accounting policies used in the government's annual financial statements.⁽¹⁾

In March 2020, the World Health Organization declared a COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic and the measures implemented to deal with it are having significant impacts, in particular on the Québec government's financial situation.

The *Monthly Report on Financial Transactions at September 30, 2021* will be published on January 14, 2022.

Highlights for August 2021

At August 31, 2021, that is, for the first five months of 2021-2022, the budgetary balance within the meaning of the *Balanced Budget Act* showed a surplus of \$1.4 billion. This represents a \$5.9-billion increase in the budgetary balance compared to the same time last year, when Québec was dealing with the first waves of the COVID-19 pandemic.

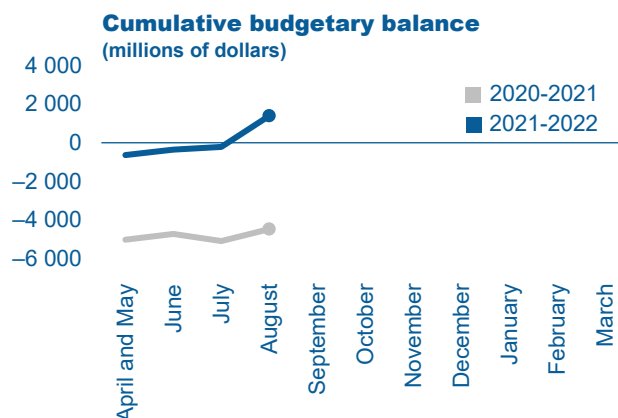
The result at August 31, 2021 is due to:

- revenue of \$53.8 billion;
- expenditure of \$51.0 billion;
- deposits of \$1.4 billion in the Generations Fund.

According to the data presented in the fall 2021 *Update on Québec's Economic and Financial Situation*, a budgetary deficit of \$6.8 billion is expected for the full year, before use of the stabilization reserve.

The decrease in the budgetary balance between August 31, 2021 and the end of the 2021-2022 fiscal year is due to:

- expenditures totalling \$6.4 billion related to several initiatives presented in the *Québec Budget Plan – March 2021* and the fall 2021 *Update on Québec's Economic and Financial Situation* that will be carried out in the coming months, particularly in health and education;
- economic activity in Québec, which will remain strong, but will evolve at a slower pace than at the beginning of the year.



SUMMARY OF CONSOLIDATED RESULTS

(unaudited data, millions of dollars)

	August			April to August			
	2020	2021	Change	2020-2021	2021-2022	Change	Change (%)
Own-source revenue	7 454	8 578	1 124	33 257	42 104	8 847	26.6
Federal transfers	1 923	2 464	541	10 777	11 700	923	8.6
Consolidated revenue	9 377	11 042	1 665	44 034	53 804	9 770	22.2
Portfolio expenditures ⁽²⁾	-8 135	-8 452	-317	-44 646	-47 348	-2 702	6.1
Debt service	-426	-716	-290	-2 808	-3 608	-800	28.5
Consolidated expenditure	-8 561	-9 168	-607	-47 454	-50 956	-3 502	7.4
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)⁽³⁾	816	1 874	1 058	-3 420	2 848	6 268	—
BALANCED BUDGET ACT							
Deposits of dedicated revenues in the Generations Fund	-196	-260	-64	-1 068	-1 448	-380	—
BUDGETARY BALANCE⁽⁴⁾	620	1 614	994	-4 488	1 400	5 888	—

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CONSOLIDATED REVENUE

Own-source revenue

At August 31, 2021, own-source revenue totalled \$42.1 billion. This represents an increase of \$8.8 billion (26.6%) compared to the same period last year.

- Strong economic activity since last March is having a positive effect on own-source revenue.

Tax revenue increased by \$6.4 billion (23.8%) to \$33.3 billion, due to:

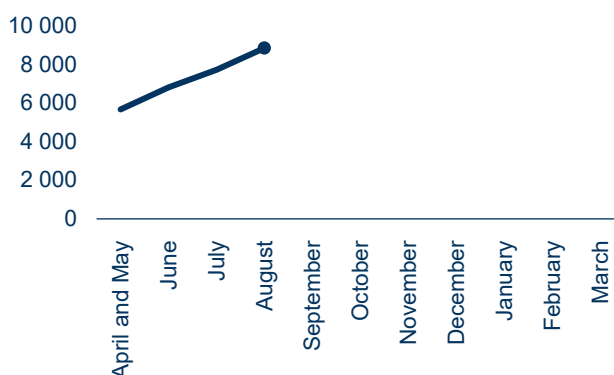
- a \$2.4-billion increase (18.7%) in **personal income tax**, owing in particular to the growth in wages and salaries, while a significant slowdown was observed in the same period in 2020;
- a \$574-million increase (23.7%) in **contributions for health services**, due to the growth in wages and salaries;
- a \$1.7-billion increase (63.8%) in revenue from **corporate taxes**, owing in particular to the growth in the net operating surplus of corporations and the effect of the business support measures announced since the beginning of the pandemic;
- a \$111-million decrease (20.1%) in the **school property tax**, due mainly to the reduction in school tax rates resulting from the introduction of a single rate since July 1, 2020;
- a \$1.9-billion increase (22.4%) in **consumption taxes**, owing to the rise in household consumption and residential investments.

Other own-source revenue increased by \$1.4 billion (25.2%) to \$6.7 billion, due to:

- an \$808-million increase (52.0%) in **duties and permits**, owing mainly to the increase in mining revenues resulting from sustained metal prices in markets since 2020 and to the increase in revenues collected under Québec's cap-and-trade system for greenhouse gas emission allowances;
- a \$546-million increase (14.3%) in **miscellaneous revenue**, owing in particular to higher revenues from the sale of goods and services due to the easing of lockdown measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic compared to the same period in 2020.

Revenue from government enterprises increased by \$1.1 billion (110.0%) to \$2.1 billion. This increase is mainly attributable to the impact of COVID-19 on the results of government enterprises in 2020-2021, particularly those of Loto-Québec and Hydro-Québec as well as favourable results in 2021-2022 for Investissement Québec.

Cumulative change in own-source revenue
(millions of dollars)



OWN-SOURCE REVENUE

(unaudited data, millions of dollars)

	August			April to August			
	2020	2021	Change	2020-2021	2021-2022	Change	Change (%)
Income and property taxes							
Personal income tax	2 486	2 769	283	12 926	15 340	2 414	18.7
Contributions for health services	542	573	31	2 427	3 001	574	23.7
Corporate taxes	627	794	167	2 591	4 245	1 654	63.8
School property tax	99	90	-9	551	440	-111	-20.1
Consumption taxes	2 107	2 099	-8	8 409	10 294	1 885	22.4
Tax revenue	5 861	6 325	464	26 904	33 320	6 416	23.8
Duties and permits	456	656	200	1 554	2 362	808	52.0
Miscellaneous revenue	807	873	66	3 820	4 366	546	14.3
Other own-source revenue	1 263	1 529	266	5 374	6 728	1 354	25.2
Total own-source revenue excluding revenue from government enterprises	7 124	7 854	730	32 278	40 048	7 770	24.1
Revenue from government enterprises	330	724	394	979	2 056	1 077	110.0
TOTAL	7 454	8 578	1 124	33 257	42 104	8 847	26.6

MONTHLY REPORT ON FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

Federal transfers

At August 31, 2021, federal transfers totalled \$11.7 billion. This represents an increase of \$923 million (8.6%) compared to the same period last year.

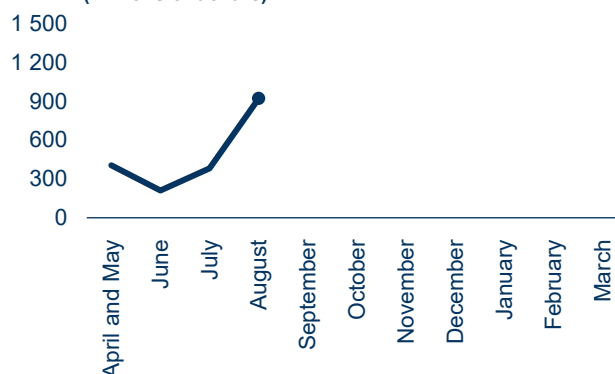
- This growth is mainly attributable to revenue from health transfers and other programs.

Revenue from **health transfers** increased by \$549 million (19.3%) to \$3.4 billion, primarily due to:

- an additional health transfer that will total \$902 million as at March 31, 2022, of which \$376 million has been recorded as at August 31, 2021;
- an additional transfer under Canada's COVID-19 immunization plan that will total \$226 million as at March 31, 2022, of which \$94 million has been recorded as at August 31, 2021.

Revenue from **other programs** increased by \$421 million (24.1%) to \$2.2 billion, due in part to the signing of an asymmetrical agreement on childcare in August 2021. The agreement provides for a transfer that will total \$660 million as at March 31, 2022, of which \$275 million has been recorded as at August 31, 2021.

Cumulative change in federal transfers
(millions of dollars)



FEDERAL TRANSFERS

(unaudited data, millions of dollars)

	August			April to August			
	2020	2021	Change	2020-2021	2021-2022	Change	Change (%)
Equalization	1 104	1 093	-11	5 522	5 466	-56	-1.0
Health transfers	543	673	130	2 842	3 391	549	19.3
Transfers for post-secondary education and other social programs	115	133	18	668	677	9	1.3
Other programs	161	565	404	1 745	2 166	421	24.1
TOTAL	1 923	2 464	541	10 777	11 700	923	8.6

CONSOLIDATED EXPENDITURE

At August 31, 2021, consolidated expenditure totalled \$51.0 billion. This represents an increase of \$3.5 billion (7.4%) compared to the same period last year.

- This expenditure growth reflects in particular the significant resources of the **Santé et Services sociaux** portfolio mobilized in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Expenditure in the **Santé et Services sociaux** portfolio increased by \$1.9 billion (8.9%) to \$23.2 billion, mainly due to:

- a \$900-million increase in compensation paid by health and social services institutions, including incentive bonuses for full-time work and staffing requirements for the vaccination campaign in the context of the pandemic;
- a \$416-million increase in remuneration paid by the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec, due in particular to the resumption of certain non-emergency specialized medical interventions that were postponed in 2020-2021.

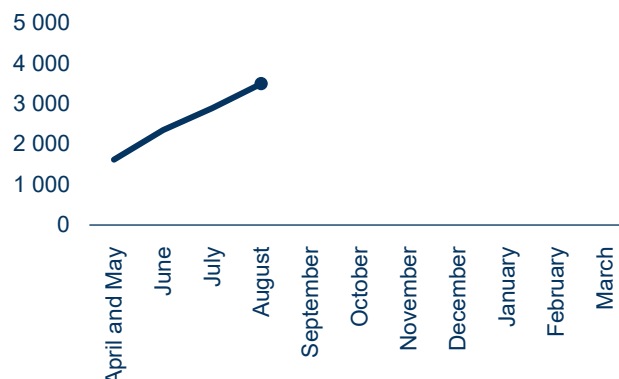
Expenditure in the **Éducation** portfolio increased by \$444 million (7.7%) to \$6.2 billion. This increase is explained in particular by the reopening of schools, which were temporarily closed in the spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Expenditure in the **Enseignement supérieur** portfolio increased by \$197 million (6.3%) to \$3.3 billion. This growth is due in part to the resumption of some activities that were limited in 2020-2021 in higher education institutions.

Expenditure in **other portfolios** increased by \$204 million (1.4%) to \$14.7 billion.

Debt service expenditure increased by \$800 million (28.5%) to \$3.6 billion. This increase is mainly due to the rise in interest rates.

Cumulative change in consolidated expenditure
(millions of dollars)



CONSOLIDATED EXPENDITURES BY PORTFOLIO⁽⁵⁾

(unaudited data, millions of dollars)

	August			April to August			
	2020 ⁽⁶⁾	2021	Change	2020-2021 ⁽⁶⁾	2021-2022	Change	Change (%)
Santé et Services sociaux	4 256	4 421	165	21 270	23 167	1 897	8.9
Éducation	803	859	56	5 744	6 188	444	7.7
Enseignement supérieur	567	648	81	3 114	3 311	197	6.3
Other portfolios ⁽⁷⁾	2 458	2 549	91	14 493	14 697	204	1.4
Change in the application of the accounting standard respecting transfer payments ⁽⁸⁾	51	-25	-76	25	-15	-40	-160.0
Portfolio expenditures	8 135	8 452	317	44 646	47 348	2 702	6.1
Debt service	426	716	290	2 808	3 608	800	28.5
TOTAL	8 561	9 168	607	47 454	50 956	3 502	7.4

NET FINANCIAL SURPLUSES OR REQUIREMENTS

Composition of net financial surpluses or requirements

The government's revenue and expenditure are established on an accrual basis of accounting. Revenue is recognized when earned and expenditure when incurred, regardless of when receipts and disbursements occur.

Net financial surpluses (requirements), on the other hand, consist of the difference between receipts and disbursements resulting from government activities. To meet its net financial requirements, the government uses a variety of financing sources, including cash and borrowings.

The various items for net financial requirements represent net receipts and disbursements generated by the government's loans, interests in its enterprises, fixed assets and other investments, as well as by retirement plans and other employee future benefits, and by other accounts. This last item includes the payment of accounts payable and the collection of accounts receivable. Deposits in the Generations Fund also result in financial requirements.

Beginning with the *Monthly Report on Financial Transactions at December 31, 2020*, the presentation of net financial surpluses (requirements) has been modified to make it comparable to the presentation used in the *Québec Budget Plan – March 2021*. Thus, the heading "Investments, loans and advances" now includes the change in short-term investments, and the heading "Retirement plans and other employee future benefits" now takes into account the reinvestment of investment income from the Retirement Plans Sinking Fund and specific funds. A new heading, "Deposits in the Generations Fund," includes the financial requirements generated by the revenues dedicated to the Generations Fund.

For the period April to August 2021, net financial requirements amount to \$9.5 billion and are due to:

- the \$2.8-billion surplus resulting from the difference between government revenue and expenditure;
- the \$8.7-billion financial requirements for investments, loans and advances, due primarily to an increase in short-term investments of \$6.7 billion as part of overall cash management, as well as the growth in the consolidation value of government enterprises;⁽⁹⁾
- the \$1.1-billion financial requirements related to government capital investments, mainly due to investments of \$3.0 billion, offset by amortization expenses of \$1.8 billion;⁽⁹⁾
- the \$1.2-billion financial requirements related to retirement plans and other employee future benefits liabilities, resulting from the payment of government employee benefits of \$2.7 billion, partially offset by the net cost of plans of \$1.4 billion;⁽⁹⁾
- the \$71-million surplus for other accounts;⁽¹⁰⁾
- the \$1.4-billion financial requirements generated by the deposits in the Generations Fund.

NET FINANCIAL SURPLUSES OR REQUIREMENTS

(unaudited data, millions of dollars)

	April to August	
	2020-2021	2021-2022
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)⁽³⁾	-3 420	2 848
Non-budgetary transactions		
Investments, loans and advances	-9 707	-8 670
Capital investments	-937	-1 110
Retirement plans and other employee future benefits	-1 064	-1 227
Other accounts ⁽¹⁰⁾	-4 500	71
Deposits in the Generations Fund	-1 068	-1 448
Total non-budgetary transactions	-17 276	-12 384
NET FINANCIAL SURPLUSES (REQUIREMENTS)	-20 696	-9 536

➤ CHANGE IN THE BUDGETARY BALANCE IN 2021-2022

Results at August 31, 2021, that is, for the first five months of the fiscal year, showed a budgetary surplus of \$1.4 billion.

According to the data presented in the fall 2021 *Update on Québec's Economic and Financial Situation*, a budgetary deficit of \$6.8 billion is expected for 2021-2022, before use of the stabilization reserve.

For the last seven months of the fiscal year, that is, from September 2021 to March 2022, the budgetary deficit will come from:

- results excluding initiatives, which will increase the deficit by \$1.9 billion;
 - A significant portion of the anticipated annual expenditures will be made in the last seven months.
 - Moreover, revenue growth is expected to decrease by year-end.
- initiatives presented in the *Québec Budget Plan – March 2021*, of which a balance of \$2.6 billion has yet to be recorded;
- new initiatives presented in the fall 2021 *Update on Québec's Economic and Financial Situation*, of which a balance of \$3.8 billion has yet to be recorded.

The use of the stabilization reserve will reduce the budgetary deficit to \$5.6 billion.

CHANGE IN THE BUDGETARY BALANCE IN 2021-2022

(millions of dollars)

	2021-2022
BUDGETARY BALANCE⁽⁴⁾ – MONTHLY REPORT ON FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS AT AUGUST 31, 2021	1 400
UPCOMING RESULTS FROM SEPTEMBER 2021 TO MARCH 2022	
Results excluding initiatives	
– Consolidated revenue	77 236
– Consolidated expenditure	–77 266
– Deposits of dedicated revenues in the Generations Fund	–1 840
Subtotal	–1 870
Balance of initiatives in the March 2021 budget to be recorded	–2 588
Balance of initiatives in the November 2021 update to be recorded	–3 789
TOTAL UPCOMING RESULTS	–8 247
PROJECTED BUDGETARY BALANCE BEFORE USE OF THE STABILIZATION RESERVE	–6 847
Use of the stabilization reserve	1 221
PROJECTED BUDGETARY BALANCE⁽⁴⁾ – NOVEMBER 2021 UPDATE	–5 626

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APPENDIX 1: BUDGET FORECASTS – CHANGE SINCE THE MARCH 2021 BUDGET

BUDGET FORECASTS FOR 2021-2022

(millions of dollars)

	March 2021 budget	Adjustments	Fall 2021 update ⁽¹¹⁾	Change (%) ⁽¹²⁾
CONSOLIDATED REVENUE				
Income and property taxes				
Personal income tax	35 921	1 711	37 632	7.5
Contributions for health services	6 796	393	7 189	12.4
Corporate taxes	8 013	1 764	9 777	9.2
School property tax	1 113	-26	1 087	-6.0
Consumption taxes	23 325	950	24 275	13.6
Tax revenue	75 168	4 792	79 960	9.7
Duties and permits	4 853	325	5 178	12.2
Miscellaneous revenue	10 989	-8	10 981	11.1
Other own-source revenue	15 842	317	16 159	11.5
Total own-source revenue excluding revenue from government enterprises	91 010	5 109	96 119	10.0
Revenue from government enterprises	4 658	831	5 489	22.2
Total own-source revenue	95 668	5 940	101 608	10.6
Federal transfers	26 899	2 565	29 464	-4.1
Total consolidated revenue	122 567	8 505	131 072	6.9
CONSOLIDATED EXPENDITURE				
Santé et Services sociaux	-52 358	-3 732	-56 090	2.5
Éducation	-18 312	202	-18 110	6.9
Enseignement supérieur	-9 491	27	-9 464	14.5
Other portfolios ⁽⁷⁾	-40 981	-1 071	-42 052	8.6
Change in the application of the accounting standard respecting transfer payments	-732	382	-350	—
Portfolio expenditures	-121 874	-4 192	-126 066	5.8
Debt service	-8 613	48	-8 565	11.4
Total consolidated expenditure	-130 487	-4 144	-134 631	6.2
Provision for economic risks and other support and recovery measures	-1 250	1 250	—	—
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)⁽³⁾	-9 170	5 611	-3 559	—
BALANCED BUDGET ACT				
Deposits of dedicated revenues in the Generations Fund	-3 080	-208	-3 288	—
BUDGETARY BALANCE BEFORE USE OF THE STABILIZATION RESERVE	-12 250	5 403	-6 847	—
Use of the stabilization reserve	—	1 221	1 221	—
BUDGETARY BALANCE⁽⁴⁾	-12 250	6 624	-5 626	—

APPENDIX 2: EXPENDITURES BY MISSION

Government expenditures are broken down into five public service missions. This breakdown of the government's expenditures into its main areas of activity is a stable indicator over time because it is usually not influenced by Cabinet shuffles. Moreover, since this breakdown is also used in public accounts, its presentation in the *Monthly Report on Financial Transactions* allows for a better monitoring of actual results over the course of the year.

The public service missions are:

- **Health and Social Services**, which consists primarily of the activities of the health and social services network and the programs administered by the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec;
- **Education and Culture**, which consists primarily of the activities of the education networks, student financial assistance, programs in the culture sector and immigration-related programs;
- **Economy and Environment**, which primarily includes programs related to economic development, employment assistance measures, international relations, the environment and infrastructure support;
- **Support for Individuals and Families**, which includes, in particular, last-resort financial assistance, assistance measures for families and seniors, and certain legal aid measures;
- **Administration and Justice**, which consists mainly of the activities of legislature, central bodies and public security, as well as administrative programs.

CONSOLIDATED EXPENDITURES BY MISSION EXCLUDING DEBT SERVICE

(unaudited data, millions of dollars)

	August		April to August	
	2020 ⁽⁶⁾	2021	2020-2021 ⁽⁶⁾	2021-2022
Health and Social Services	4 161	4 350	20 750	22 671
Education and Culture	1 430	1 621	9 292	9 982
Economy and Environment	1 106	1 129	6 033	6 332
Support for Individuals and Families	725	779	4 985	4 927
Administration and Justice	662	598	3 561	3 451
Change in the application of the accounting standard respecting transfer payments ⁽⁸⁾	51	-25	25	-15
TOTAL	8 135	8 452	44 646	47 348

Consolidated financial information

Consolidated results include the results of all entities that are part of the government's reporting entity, i.e. that are under its control. To determine consolidated results, the government eliminates transactions carried out between entities in the reporting entity. Additional information on the government's financial organization and the funding of public services can be found on pages 13 to 18 of the document titled "[Budgetary Process and Documents: Public Financial Accountability](#)" (in French only).

Change in the application of the accounting standard respecting transfer payments

The Québec government contributes to the funding of public infrastructure owned by third parties. In most cases, funding is provided through annual transfers paid according to a schedule that corresponds to the rate of repayment of the loans contracted by the recipients to carry out the projects.

For these infrastructure projects, the government changed the application of PS 3410, Transfer payments, to account for transfer expenditures based on the period of completion of eligible work by transfer recipients. Previously, transfer expenditures were recorded at the rate of disbursements authorized by Parliament and the balance of funded work was reported in contractual obligations. This change results in more timely recognition of transfer expenditures in the government's consolidated financial statements.

In this monthly report, the estimated impact of this change has been accounted for retroactively and is presented in the consolidated expenditures in the line "Change in the application of the accounting standard respecting transfer payments." *Public Accounts 2020-2021* present the final impact of the application of the accounting standard, including on the government's accumulated deficit as at March 31, 2021.

Notes

- (1) A summary of the government's accounting policies can be found on pages 74 to 77 of Volume 1 of the [Public Accounts 2020-2021](#).
- (2) Portfolio expenditures include the impact of the change in the application of the accounting standard respecting transfer payments.
- (3) Balance as defined in the Public Accounts.
- (4) Budgetary balance within the meaning of the *Balanced Budget Act*.
- (5) Consolidated expenditures by mission are presented in Appendix 2.
- (6) Certain expenditures were reclassified between portfolios and between missions to take into account the transition to the 2021-2022 budgetary structure.
- (7) Other portfolios include inter-portfolio eliminations resulting from the elimination of reciprocal transactions between entities in different portfolios.
- (8) The change in the application of the accounting standard respecting transfer payments modifies cumulative expenditure at August 31, 2020 and 2021. Expenditures that were previously recorded in the first months of the fiscal year are now recorded based on the estimated progress of the work performed by the recipients.
- (9) These items, which are included in the government's budgetary surplus (deficit), are eliminated in non-budgetary transactions because they have no effect on cash flow.
- (10) The financial surpluses or requirements pertaining to other accounts can vary significantly from one month to the next, in particular according to the time when the government collects or disburses funds related to its activities. For example, when the last day of the month is not a business day, QST remittances are collected at the beginning of the following month, such that the equivalent of two months' remittances can be collected in a given month.
- (11) The presentation of the budgetary information in this monthly report is consistent with that of the financial framework as published in the fall 2021 [Update on Québec's Economic and Financial Situation](#).
- (12) This is the annual change compared to results in 2020-2021.

For more information, contact the Direction des communications of the Ministère des Finances at 418-528-7382.

The report is also available on the Ministère des Finances website: www.finances.gouv.qc.ca.