

MEETING QUEBEC'S ENERGY NEEDS (2022)

Montreal Economic Institute

Research Report
March 2022

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Ideas for a
More Prosperous
Society



SUMMARY

- As recent international events have brought to the fore the importance of rethinking global energy needs, **over half (52%)** of Quebecers believe that their province should develop its own oil resources instead of importing all the oil it consumes. This represents an **increase of 9 points** compared to last year - bouncing back after 2021's decrease. Indeed, **almost three quarters of Quebecers (73%)** agree that current taxes and duties on gasoline are already too high and should not be increased further.
- **Half of Quebecers (50%)** feel the actions taken by some environmental groups are preventing too many job-creation projects in Quebec from moving forward. This marks an increase of 9 points since August 2021. Furthermore, **One-third (33%) disagree** (a decrease of 11 points) and the remaining 18% say they don't know. **Just over half (55%) of Quebecers** think the Quebec government should promote competition in the production of green hydrogen. A similar proportion (**54%**) say Quebec should follow the example of the EU, designating natural gas as a green energy source. Slightly fewer (**47%**) feel job creation in their region is more important than the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions. Finally, **nearly 6 out of 10 Quebecers (57%)** agree with the idea that the government of Quebec should allow natural gas development projects to go ahead.
- **Slightly less than half (45%)** of Quebecers agree with the Quebec government's idea to prohibit all exploitation of the province's gas and oil potential - with 20% 'strongly agreeing'. In comparison, around one-third (36%) disagree. However, **half (51%)** of Quebecers agree that, if the government's idea is implemented, companies that hold licenses to tap into the province's oil and natural gas reserves should be compensated according to the fair market value of their license, while 28% disagree and 22% don't know.

Methodology



These are findings of an Ipsos poll conducted on behalf of the Montreal Economic Institute.



A sample of 1,007 Quebec residents aged 18 years and over was interviewed between 25 February and 2 March 2022.



Weighting according to age, gender and language was employed to ensure that the sample's composition reflects the overall population according to the latest census information.



The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the results are accurate to within **+/- 3.5 percentage points**, 19 times out of 20, of what the results would have been had all Quebec adults been polled.

Could Environmental Groups' Actions Hinder Job Creation?

Half of Quebecers (50%) feel the actions taken by some environmental groups are preventing too many job-creation projects in Quebec from moving forward. This marks an increase of 9 points since August 2021. One-third (33%) disagree (a decrease of 11 points). The remaining 18% say they don't know.

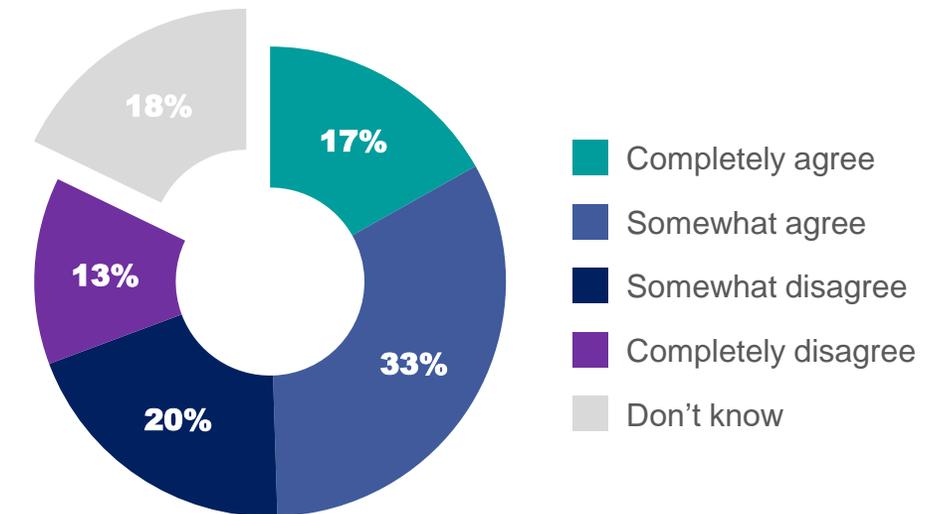
Men are more likely to say that they believe environmental groups are preventing too many job-creation projects from going forward and are more likely to say they 'completely agree' (21% v. 12% among women). Women are more likely to say they don't know.

50%

Agree Aug 2021: 41%

33%

Disagree Aug 2021: 44%



Perceptions of actions taken by environmental groups and job-creating projects



56%

of men agree vs. 44% of women



61%

Of residents of the greater Quebec region agree vs. 48% for greater Montreal, and 48% for other regions

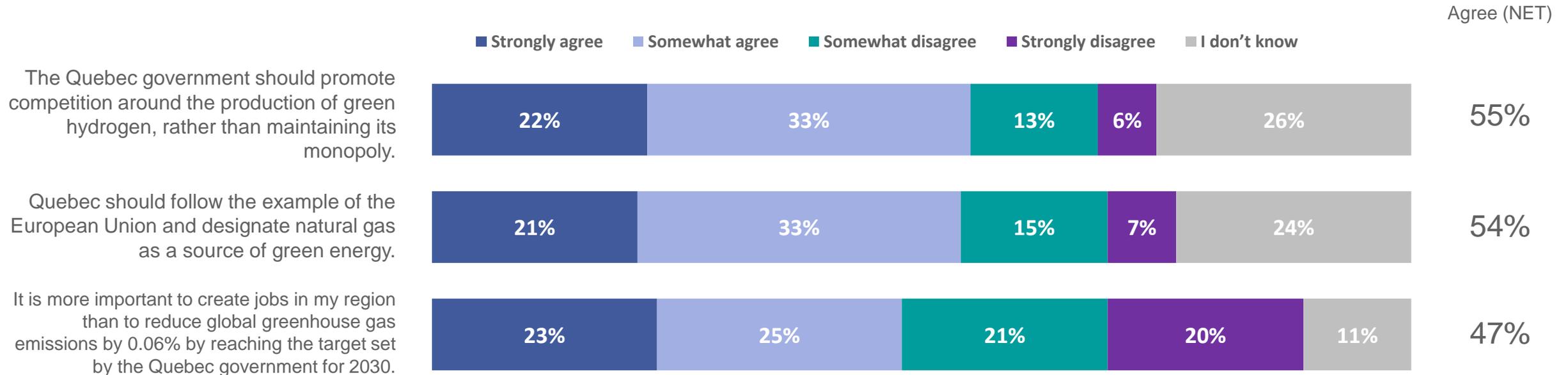


24%

of women say they don't know vs. 11% of men

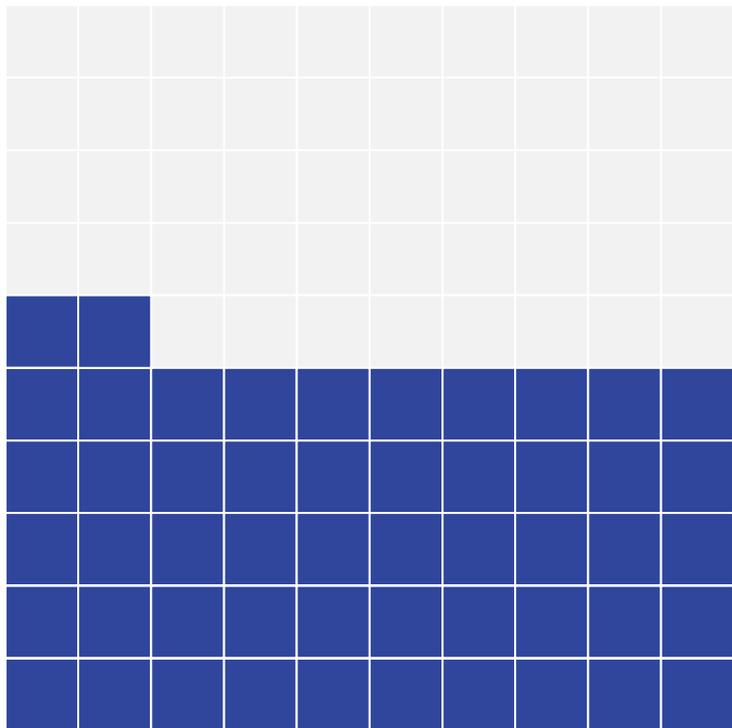
Attitudes Towards Green Energy Creation

Just over half (55%) of Quebecers think the Quebec government should promote competition in the production of green hydrogen. A similar proportion (54%) say Quebec should follow the example of the EU, designating natural gas as a green energy source. Slightly fewer (47%) feel job creation in their region is more important than the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions. A fifth (20%) ‘strongly disagree’ with this statement. **Men** tend to agree more with all three statements compared to **women** (+11; +8, +7 pts).



Continue to Import Oil or Develop Own Supply?

Attitudes on Quebec's Oil Supply



52%

Develop its own oil resources

2021: 43%
2020: 50%
2019: 45%

28%

Continue to import 100% of the oil it needs

2021: 31%
2020: 26%
2019: 26%

20%

Don't Know

2021: 27%
2020: 24%
2019: 28%

More than half Quebecers (52%) believe that their province should develop its own oil resources instead of importing all the oil it consumes. This represents an increase of 9 points compared to last year, bouncing back after 2021's decrease. Inversely, 28% think that the province should continue importing oil, a decrease of 3 points.

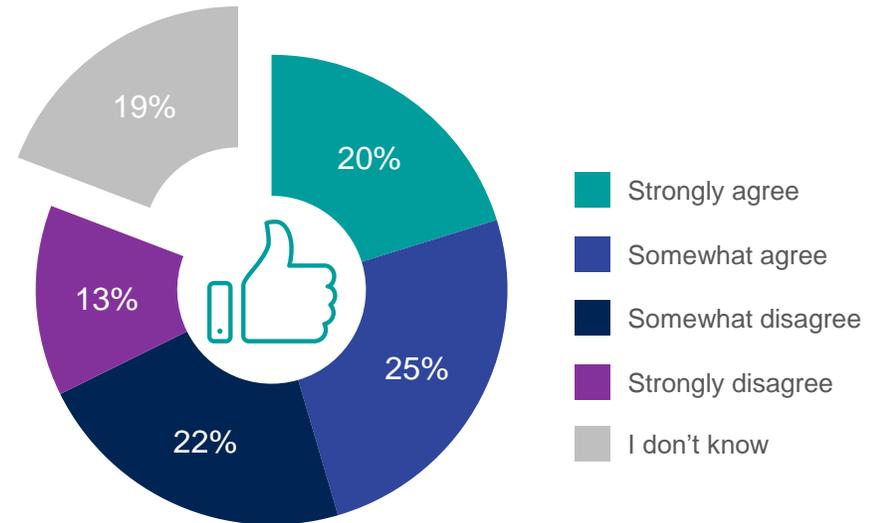
The remaining Quebec respondents say they **don't know the best way for the province to meet its energy needs** (20%, -7). Women are more likely to say they don't know (24%, -13).

Proposal to Prohibit the Exploration and Exploitation of Quebec's Oil and Gas Potential

Just under half (45%) of Quebecers agree with the Quebec government's idea to prohibit all exploitation of the province's gas and oil potential, with 20% 'strongly agreeing.' Around one-third (36%) disagree.

Men (50%) tend to agree more with this statement compared to women (41%), among whom 25% say they don't know.

Those in the greater Quebec region (56%) are significantly more likely to agree than those in other regions (greater Montreal 46%, other regions 42%).

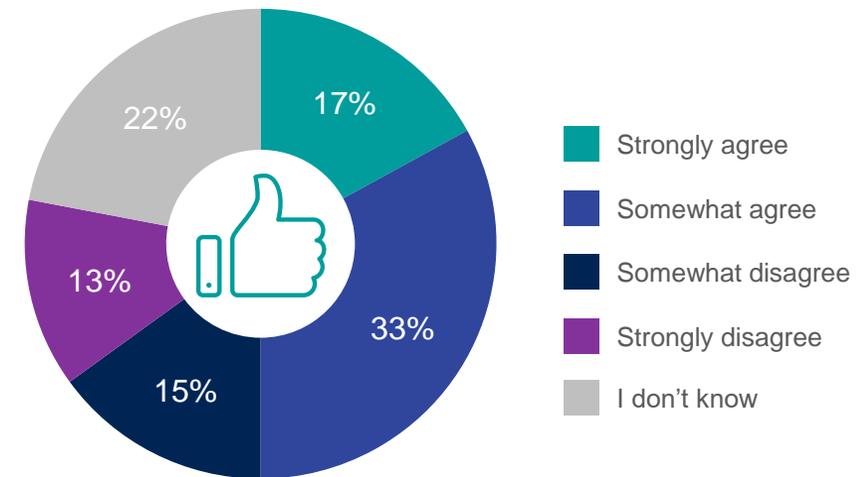
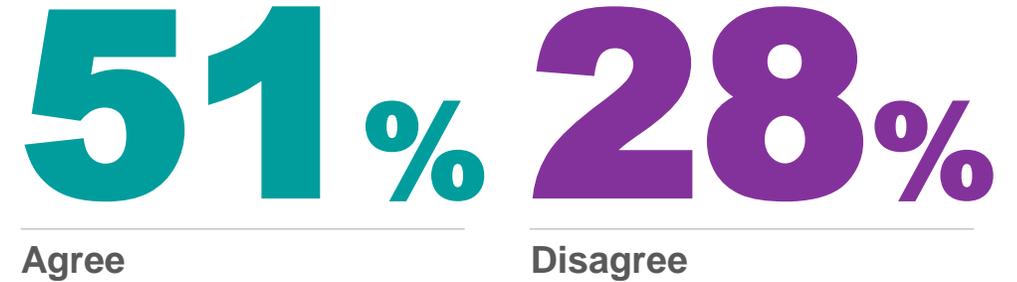


Quebec government's idea to prohibit all exploration and exploitation of the province's gas and oil potential

Compensation of Oil License Holders

Half (51%) of Quebecers agree that, if the government's idea is implemented, companies that hold licenses to tap into the province's oil and natural gas reserves should be compensated according to the market value of their license. Just over one-quarter (28%) disagree, while 22% say they don't know.

Men (54%) again tend to agree more ('strongly' and 'somewhat') with this statement compared to women (47%); this is also the case for those under 35 (56% vs. 53% 35-54 and 47% 55+).



Companies that hold licenses to tap into the province's oil and natural gas reserves should be compensated according to the fair market value of their license.

Taxes and Duties on Gasoline Too High?

Almost three quarters of Quebecers (73%) agree that current taxes and duties on gasoline are already too high and should not be increased further, with 51% 'strongly agreeing.' Just 15% disagree with this statement.

While still low, **men** are significantly more likely to disagree (20%) than **women** (11%), which is also the case for those under 35 (20% vs. 15% 35-54 and 12% 55+). By contrast, **those 55+ are more likely to agree** (79% vs. 70% 35-54 and 68% 18-34).

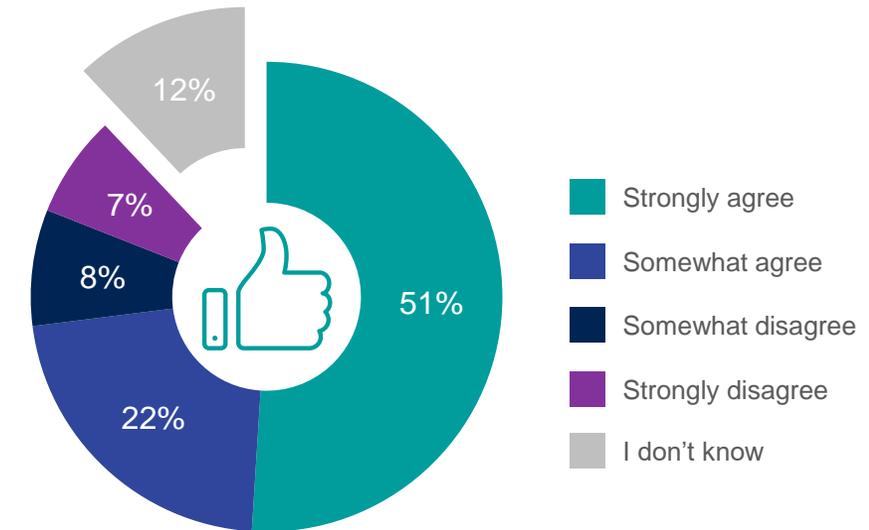
Those in the **greater Montreal region** are more likely to 'strongly disagree' (9% vs. 6% greater Quebec region and 5% other regions).

73%

Agree

15%

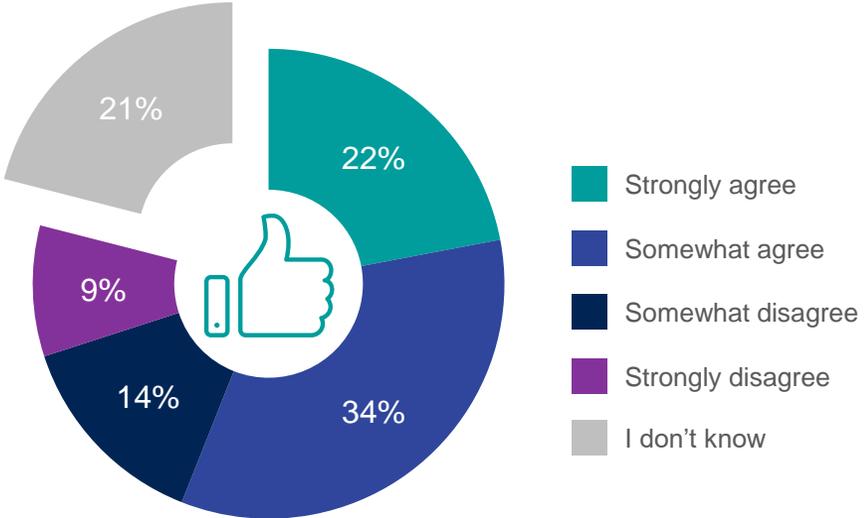
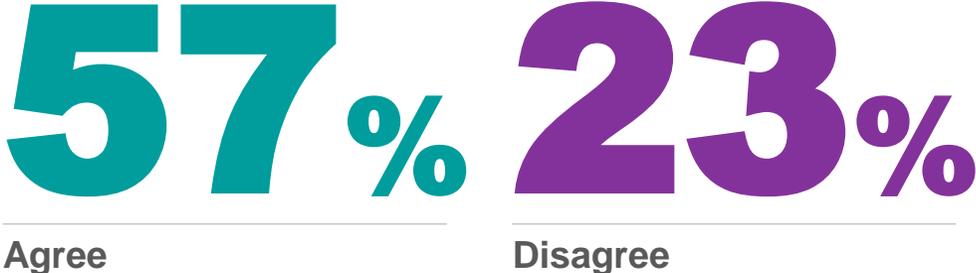
Disagree



This percentage is already too high and should not be increased any further.

Authorization of Natural Gas Projects

Nearly 6 out of 10 Quebecers (57%) agree with the idea that the Quebec government should allow natural gas development projects to go ahead insofar as these projects do not emit greenhouse gases during their production phase, even if the subsequent use of the natural gas generates GHG emissions. This includes 22% who 'strongly agree' and 34% who 'somewhat agree' with the statement. Around one-quarter (23%) disagree, while one in five (21%) don't know. **Men** (60%) are more likely to agree than **women** (53%).



The Quebec government should allow local natural gas development projects to go ahead

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