



Labour Market Bulletin

Manitoba

January 2016



This Labour Market Bulletin provides an analysis of Labour Force Survey results for the province of Manitoba, including the regions of Winnipeg, Northern Manitoba and Southern Manitoba.

OVERVIEW

Employment

Employment in Manitoba declined in January (-5,300), marking the third consecutive month of substantial losses. Since October 2015, the number of employed Manitobans has decreased by 1.9% (-12,500), the largest three-month reduction in nearly twenty-five years. Ongoing losses have left employment down on the year as well (-6,600).

Monthly losses were found entirely in part-time employment (-6,500). Meanwhile, the number of individuals employed full-time increased by 1,100. Over the year however, full-time employment is down -11,000 (-2.1%), while part-time employment is up by 4,500 (+3.9%).

Losses were seen in the public sector (-4,900) this month, while the number of individuals employed in the private sector increased (+2,100). Meanwhile, fewer Manitobans were self-employed in January (-2,500). Over the year, only private sector employment saw losses (-7,900).

Unemployment

The number of unemployed persons in Manitoba increased slightly in January (+500), and the province's unemployment rate climbed from 5.9% to 6.1%. Manitoba's labour force has shrunk over the last three months. As people have exited the labour force – down 8,000 since October 2015 – the unemployment rate has remained fairly steady, even though employment is down. Overall, the province retains the second lowest unemployment rate nationwide, sitting behind Saskatchewan (5.6%). Year-over-year, Manitoba's unemployment rate was virtually unchanged in January. Looking ahead, the Conference Board of Canada expects the province's unemployment rate to drop to 5.1% in 2016.¹

Youth unemployment remained high this month, with the unemployment rate for those aged 15 to 24 averaging 12.9%, more than double the rate of 4.8% for those aged 25 and older. Compared to this time last year, the

youth unemployment rate is up 1.2 percentage points. Those aged 55 and older had the lowest unemployment rate (4.5%) among age groups in January 2016.

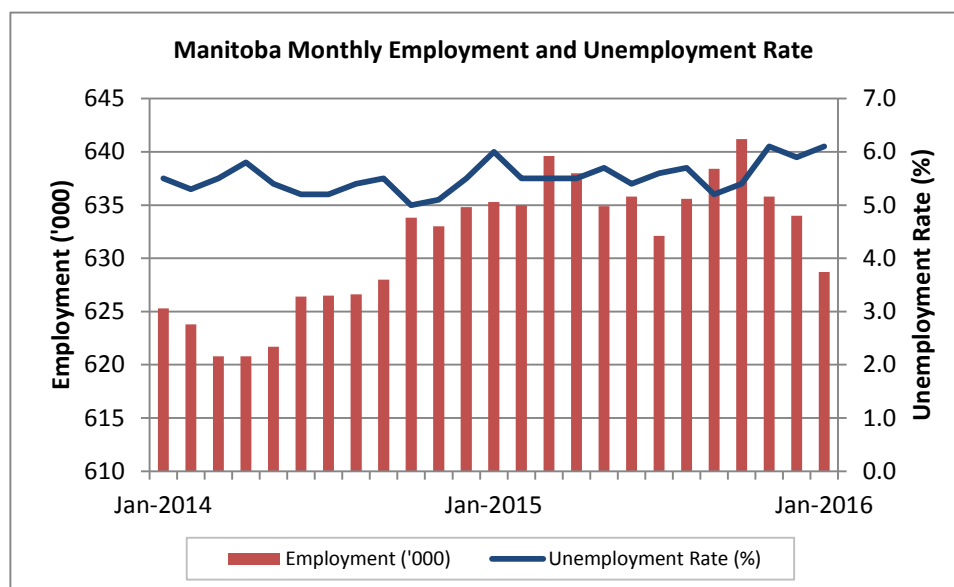
Looking at trends by gender, the unemployment rate remains the highest among young men at 14.1%, while unemployment among young women dropped from 13.2 to 11.6% over the month. For those aged 25 years and over, the unemployment rate for both genders is closer to that age group's average, 4.9% for males and 4.7% for females.

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	January 2016	December 2015	January 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	992.8	991.9	982.5	0.9	0.1	10.3	1.0
Labour Force ('000)	669.5	674.2	675.7	-4.7	-0.7	-6.2	-0.9
Employment ('000)	628.7	634.0	635.3	-5.3	-0.8	-6.6	-1.0
Full-Time ('000)	507.6	506.5	518.7	1.1	0.2	-11.1	-2.1
Part-Time ('000)	121.1	127.6	116.6	-6.5	-5.1	4.5	3.9
Unemployment ('000)	40.8	40.1	40.3	0.7	1.7	0.5	1.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.1	5.9	6.0	0.2	-	0.1	-
Participation Rate (%)	67.4	68.0	68.8	-0.6	-	-1.4	-
Employment Rate (%)	63.3	63.9	64.7	-0.6	-	-1.4	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0087



Manitoba Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	January 2016	December 2015	January 2015	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	%	%	%	(% points)	(% points)
Total	6.1	5.9	6.0	0.2	0.1
25 years and over	4.8	4.7	4.8	0.1	0.0
Men - 25 years and over	4.9	4.6	4.6	0.3	0.3
Women - 25 years and over	4.7	4.8	5.0	-0.1	-0.3
15 to 24 years	12.9	12.7	11.7	0.2	1.2
Men - 15 to 24 years	14.1	12.2	12.5	1.9	1.6
Women - 15 to 24 years	11.6	13.2	10.9	-1.6	0.7

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0087

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Manitoba's goods-producing sector remained virtually unchanged in January, with just 400 more people employed than in the previous month. The sector's flat performance can largely be attributed to substantial losses in the province's agriculture industry (-1,200), which offset gains in a number of other areas. Despite the monthly loss, employment in the industry remains slightly up over the year (+100). Farmers in most parts of the province can expect healthy receipts after enjoying a better growing season than producers in other western provinces.

Manufacturing saw growth in January, with 400 more employed. A lower Canadian dollar and recovering US economy were expected to boost demand from key manufacturing sectors. However, areas of pronounced weakness within the industry - likely reflecting a spillover from the downturn in Alberta and Saskatchewan's energy sectors – are inhibiting overall growth². Manufacturing employed 800 fewer individuals over the year in January 2016.

Construction industry employment was up over the month (+400) and the year (+1,000) in January 2016. The outlook for construction employment in the near-term is positive, as core infrastructure investment remains a priority for the province. The Manitoba government recently extended its infrastructure plan by three years and increased total funding to \$10-billion throughout the province. Originally, \$5.5-billion was to be invested over five years.

Turning to service-industries, employment decreased for the third consecutive month in January (-5,800), with losses occurring in most areas. Compared to the same time in 2015, the sector employs 8,500 fewer individuals. The trade industry shed 1,400 individuals this month and experienced the largest year-over-year employment loss among all Manitoba's industries, dropping 6,900 individuals since last January. Nonetheless, a number of retail developments should help trade employment return to positive growth in the long-term. Work has started on the 100-store Outlet Collection Winnipeg mall which is expected to employ 1,300 once open in 2017. Supermarket chain, Save-on-Foods, also intends to open over a dozen new stores in Manitoba in the next three to five years. Each location is expected to create 150 new retail positions.

The transportation and warehousing industry has not seen employment growth for eight months running – down 2,500 over the year. Nonetheless, shipping requirements of a strong provincial manufacturing sector and the introduction of low-cost airline NewLeaf Travel to Winnipeg should positively impact employment trends

going forward. Meanwhile, accommodation and food services employment dropped sharply (-1,500) compared to December 2015. The industry has shed the employment gains it experienced over the summer and is down 300 since last January.

Sizeable losses also occurred in all three public-sector industries: educational services (-1,200), health care and social assistance (-700), and public administration (-600). All three employed fewer individuals on an annual basis.

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	January 2016	December 2015	January 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	628.7	634.0	635.3	-5.3	-0.8	-6.6	-1.0
Goods-producing sector	150.4	150.0	148.7	0.4	0.3	1.7	1.1
Agriculture	23.4	24.6	23.3	-1.2	-4.9	0.1	0.4
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	6.3	6.2	6.5	0.1	1.6	-0.2	-3.1
Utilities	9.3	8.7	7.7	0.6	6.9	1.6	20.8
Construction	46.6	46.2	45.6	0.4	0.9	1.0	2.2
Manufacturing	64.8	64.4	65.6	0.4	0.6	-0.8	-1.2
Services-producing sector	478.2	484.0	486.7	-5.8	-1.2	-8.5	-1.7
Trade	87.9	89.3	94.8	-1.4	-1.6	-6.9	-7.3
Transportation and warehousing	35.8	36.6	38.3	-0.8	-2.2	-2.5	-6.5
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	31.3	32.0	34.1	-0.7	-2.2	-2.8	-8.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	25.8	25.7	22.8	0.1	0.4	3.0	13.2
Business, building and other support services	19.2	19.7	16.8	-0.5	-2.5	2.4	14.3
Educational services	51.1	52.3	51.8	-1.2	-2.3	-0.7	-1.4
Health care and social assistance	101.4	102.1	101.8	-0.7	-0.7	-0.4	-0.4
Information, culture and recreation	22.6	22.4	22.6	0.2	0.9	0.0	0.0
Accommodation and food services	39.9	41.4	40.2	-1.5	-3.6	-0.3	-0.7
Other services	30.0	28.8	29.3	1.2	4.2	0.7	2.4
Public administration	33.2	33.8	34.1	-0.6	-1.8	-0.9	-2.6

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0088

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Mixed labour market results were observed across Manitoba, with strong annual employment growth occurring in some of the province's economic regions and moderate to severe losses occurring in others.

Winnipeg saw employment rise 1.0% year-over-year thanks to gains across a number of the region's largest industries. Employment in construction jumped 13.5% or 3,500 jobs since January 2015. Going forward, jobs in construction should remain in high demand. Ground is set to be broken on the \$400-million True North Square multi-use complex and the 45-story SkyCity Centre is moving forward through the development phase. These developments plus other large infrastructure projects should keep construction employment in high demand.

Other large contributors to employment growth in Winnipeg were the healthcare and social assistance and utilities industries, adding 3,700 and 2,400 respectively over the year. Nonetheless, Winnipeg's unemployment rate rose to 6.2% from 5.9% the previous year.

Employment grew both in Parklands and Northern (+1.4%) and in Interlake (+1.3%) regions. Parklands and Northern saw its unemployment rate (4.6%) decrease nearly a full percentage point during this time. Job growth in Interlake was not sufficient to keep up with the number of individuals seeking work, and the region's unemployment rate rose over the year. Transportation options to the Parklands & North region were uncertain after the Port of Churchill and accompanying Hudson Bay rail line were put up for sale. The track provides a vital link to northern communities and ships an annual average of 550,000 tonnes of grain each year. A consortium of northern Manitoba First Nations led by Mathias Colomb Cree Nation has offered to purchase the port, a move that should ensure the line remains in use going forward.³

In contrast, the South Central and North Central underwent the largest employment decrease (-7.3%) among Manitoba's regions this month. The region also saw an accompanying yearly unemployment rate increase during the same time; from 3.0% to 3.6%. In the Southwest region, employment dropped 3.7% while the unemployment rate nearly doubled since January 2015, rising from 3.4% to 6.3%. Finally, while Southeast saw virtually no change in employment compared to last year, the region's unemployment rate rose slightly.

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	January 2016 ('000)	January 2015 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	January 2016 (%)	January 2015 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Manitoba	629.0	630.8	-0.3	5.7	5.2	0.5
Economic Regions						
Southeast	57.1	57.3	-0.3	5.6	5.3	0.3
South Central and North Central	53.2	57.4	-7.3	3.6	3.0	0.6
Southwest	55.4	57.5	-3.7	6.3	3.4	2.9
Winnipeg	380.7	377.1	1.0	6.2	5.9	0.3
Interlake	47.0	46.4	1.3	4.9	4.3	0.6
Parklands and Northern	35.6	35.1	1.4	4.6	5.4	-0.8

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0122

Note: In preparing this document, the authors have taken care to provide clients with labour market information that is timely and accurate at the time of publication. Since labour market conditions are dynamic, some of the information presented here may have changed since this document was published. Users are encouraged to also refer to other sources for additional information on the local economy and labour market. Information contained in this document does not necessarily reflect official policies of Employment and Social Development Canada.

Prepared by: Labour Market Information (LMI) Directorate, Service Canada, Manitoba

For further information, please contact the LMI team at: NC-LMI-IMT-GD@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca

For information on the Labour Force Survey, please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: www.statcan.gc.ca

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¹ Conference Board of Canada, Provincial Outlook Economic Forecast: Summer 2015

² RBC Economics, Provincial Outlook: December 2015

Retrieved from: <http://www.rbc.com/economics/economic-reports/pdf/provincial-forecasts/man.pdf>

³ January 8, 2016, Mathias Colomb Cree Nation makes offer to buy Port of Churchill. CBC News.

Retrieved from: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/mathias-colomb-omnitrax-port-churchill-1.3396389>