



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Manitoba

February 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

Manitoba's labour market had a strong showing in February, posting its first month-over-month employment increase in four months. Driven by employment growth in the services-producing sector, the number of employed grew by 2,000 in February. Employment in Manitoba has been trending downwards since peaking in October 2015. February's gains did not recoup losses from 2015's fourth quarter and employment was down 4,300 compared to the same time last year.

Monthly gains were found mostly in part-time employment (+1,100), while the number of individuals employed full-time increased by 900. The number of people employed part-time is now up 6,200 (+5.3%) over the year. Conversely, 10,500 less individuals (-2.0%) are employed full-time over the year.

Employment growth was spread across the private and public sectors in February, expanding by 1,500 and 1,700 respectively. Meanwhile, fewer Manitobans were self-employed (-1,200). Though minimal, only public sector employment saw growth over the year (+100).

#### Unemployment

The number of unemployed persons in Manitoba decreased slightly in February (-300), and the province's unemployment rate dropped from 6.1% to 6.0%. Overall, the province retains the second lowest unemployment rate nationwide, sitting behind Saskatchewan (5.9%). Year-over-year, Manitoba's unemployment rate increased half a percentage point. Looking ahead, the Conference Board of Canada expects the province's unemployment rate to drop to 5.7% in 2016.<sup>1</sup>

Youth unemployment remained high this month, with the unemployment rate for those aged 15 to 24 averaging 12.2%, over double the rate of 4.9% for those aged 25 and older. Compared to this time last year, the youth unemployment rate is up 0.7 percentage points. Those aged 55 and older had the lowest unemployment rate (4.7%) among age groups in February 2016.

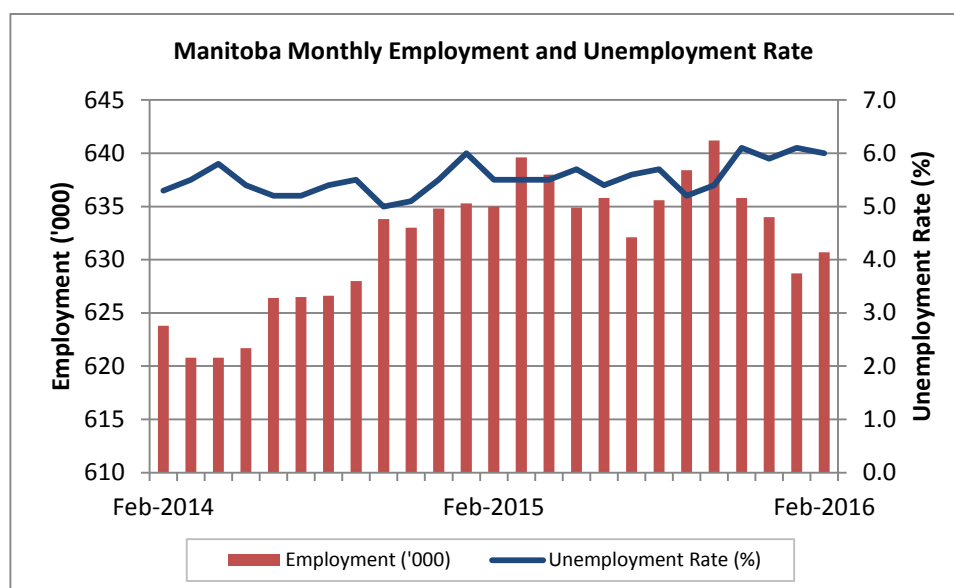
Looking at trends by gender, the unemployment rate remains the highest among young men at 13.3%, while unemployment among young women sits at 11.0%. For those aged 25 years and over, the unemployment rate for both genders is below the provincial average, 5.4% for men and 4.3% for women.

### Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	February 2016	January 2016	February 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	994.0	992.8	983.1	1.2	0.1	10.9	1.1
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	671.2	669.5	672.0	1.7	0.3	-0.8	-0.1
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	630.7	628.7	635.0	2.0	0.3	-4.3	-0.7
Full-Time ('000)	508.5	507.6	519.0	0.9	0.2	-10.5	-2.0
Part-Time ('000)	122.2	121.1	116.0	1.1	0.9	6.2	5.3
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	40.5	40.8	37.0	-0.3	-0.7	3.5	9.5
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	6.0	6.1	5.5	-0.1	-	0.5	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	67.5	67.4	68.4	0.1	-	-0.9	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	63.5	63.3	64.6	0.2	-	-1.1	-

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	February 2016 %	January 2016 %	February 2015 %	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
				(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	6.0	6.1	5.5	-0.1	0.5
<b>25 years and over</b>	4.9	4.8	4.3	0.1	0.6
Men - 25 years and over	5.4	4.9	4.3	0.5	1.1
Women - 25 years and over	4.3	4.7	4.4	-0.4	-0.1
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	12.2	12.9	11.5	-0.7	0.7
Men - 15 to 24 years	13.3	14.1	12.0	-0.8	1.3
Women - 15 to 24 years	11.0	11.6	11.0	-0.6	0.0

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

**EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY**

Manitoba's service-producing sector ended three consecutive months of losses in February and was responsible for the majority of employment growth in the province. Compared to the same time in 2015, the sector employs 6,800 fewer individuals.

The finance, insurance, real estate and leasing industry saw the most growth in February, up 1,200 people. Meanwhile, the wholesale and retail trade industry halted a downward trend and added 1,100 individuals this month. The trade industry is Manitoba's second largest employer. The industry is down 5,600 people compared to last February after being largely responsible for service-sector losses in the last quarter of 2015. In the near-term, Manitoba's enduring employment growth should lead to greater household spending, which may translate into more staff hired. Additionally, work has started on the 100-store Outlet Collection Winnipeg mall, which is expected to employ 1,300 once open in 2017.

The transportation and warehousing industry has not seen employment growth for nine months running – down 3,300 over the year. Nonetheless, shipping requirements of a strong provincial manufacturing sector should positively impact employment trends going forward. Meanwhile, accommodation and food services employment expanded in February (+800). In 2015, the Winnipeg region benefitted from hosting a number of high-profile sporting events. Going forward, the city will host an NHL Heritage Classic game in October 2016 and the Canada Summer Games in 2017.

Mixed results were found among the province's three public-sector industries in February: educational services shed 600 people, health care and social assistance added 400, and public administration remained unchanged. Only healthcare and social assistance employed more individuals on an annual basis.

Manitoba's goods-producing sector employed 800 fewer people than in the previous month. The sector's poor performance can largely be attributed to losses across all its industries, with the exception of utilities (+800). Despite the monthly loss, employment in goods-producing remains up over the year (+2,500).

Manufacturing employed 800 fewer people in February. 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 growth<sup>2</sup>. Employment in the industry has been mostly stable over the last year. Nonetheless, manufacturing employed 2,700 fewer individuals compared to February 2015, when employment was well above average levels.

Construction industry employment was slightly down over the month (-300) in February 2016. The outlook for construction employment in the near-term is positive. A BuildForce Canada forecast anticipates employment in the industry will expand and peak in 2016 and 2017, then taper off afterward.<sup>3</sup> Non-residential construction projects are expected to dominate hiring trends in the short-term. 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.

Finally, agriculture employed 400 fewer individuals compared to the previous month. However, farmers in most parts of the province can expect healthy receipts after enjoying a better 2015 growing season than their drought-stricken counter-parts in other western provinces. If successful, a pilot project lifting the moratorium on hog barns in the province could also lead to increased activity in the industry going forward.

### Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	February 2016	January 2016	February 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	630.7	628.7	635.0	2.0	0.3	-4.3	-0.7
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	149.6	150.4	147.1	-0.8	-0.5	2.5	1.7
Agriculture	23.0	23.4	22.8	-0.4	-1.7	0.2	0.9
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	6.2	6.3	6.4	-0.1	-1.6	-0.2	-3.1
Utilities	10.1	9.3	7.8	0.8	8.6	2.3	29.5
Construction	46.3	46.6	43.4	-0.3	-0.6	2.9	6.7
Manufacturing	64.0	64.8	66.7	-0.8	-1.2	-2.7	-4.0
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	481.1	478.2	487.9	2.9	0.6	-6.8	-1.4
Trade	89.0	87.9	94.6	1.1	1.3	-5.6	-5.9
Transportation and warehousing	35.3	35.8	38.6	-0.5	-1.4	-3.3	-8.5
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	32.5	31.3	33.5	1.2	3.8	-1.0	-3.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	26.5	25.8	24.9	0.7	2.7	1.6	6.4
Business, building and other support services	19.3	19.2	16.9	0.1	0.5	2.4	14.2
Educational services	50.5	51.1	52.0	-0.6	-1.2	-1.5	-2.9
Health care and social assistance	101.8	101.4	101.7	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.1
Information, culture and recreation	22.9	22.6	22.4	0.3	1.3	0.5	2.2
Accommodation and food services	40.7	39.9	40.0	0.8	2.0	0.7	1.8
Other services	29.4	30.0	29.0	-0.6	-2.0	0.4	1.4
Public administration	33.2	33.2	34.2	0.0	0.0	-1.0	-2.9

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 moderate annual employment growth occurring in some of the province's economic regions and modest to severe losses occurring in others.

Winnipeg saw employment rise 0.7% year-over-year thanks to gains across a number of the region's largest industries. Employment in construction jumped 18.4% or 3,500 jobs since February 2015. Going forward, jobs in construction should remain in high demand. Work is underway on the \$400-million True North Square multi-use complex and the city is undertaking a major sewer system upgrade. These developments plus other large infrastructure projects should keep construction employment in high demand. Other large contributors to employment growth in Winnipeg were the utilities and healthcare and social assistance industries, adding 2,900 and 2,200 respectively over the year. Nonetheless, Winnipeg's unemployment rate rose to 6.3% from 6.1% the previous year.

Employment grew in both the Southeast (+0.7%) and Interlake (+0.4%) regions. Southeast saw its unemployment rate (5.9%) increase nearly half a 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 drastically over the year.

In contrast, the South Central and North Central underwent the largest employment decrease (-7.2%) among Manitoba's regions this month. The region also saw an accompanying yearly unemployment rate increase during the same time; from 3.1% to 3.7%. In the Southwest region, employment dropped (-5.2%) while the unemployment rate jumped sharply since February 2015, rising from 3.7% to 6.1%. In both regions, a sudden drop in manufacturing employment was largely responsible for the losses. Finally, while the Parklands and Northern region saw a small decline in employment (-1.7%) compared to last year, the region's unemployment rate dropped considerably.

**Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region**

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	February 2016 ('000)	February 2015 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	February 2016 (%)	February 2015 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Manitoba</b>	624.5	629.2	-0.7	5.9	5.5	0.4
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Southeast	56.9	56.5	0.7	5.9	5.5	0.4
South Central and North Central	52.6	56.7	-7.2	3.7	3.1	0.6
Southwest	54.2	57.2	-5.2	6.1	3.7	2.4
Winnipeg	380.8	378.2	0.7	6.3	6.1	0.2
Interlake	45.1	44.9	0.4	6.2	4.9	1.3
Parklands and Northern	34.9	35.5	-1.7	4.6	6.3	-1.7

*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) Division, Service Canada, Manitoba

**For further information,** please contact the LMI team at: [NC-LMI-IMT-GD@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca](mailto:NC-LMI-IMT-GD@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca)

**For information on the Labour Force Survey,** please visit [Statistics Canada](http://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75-602-x/2015001/article/14461-eng.htm)

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada as represented by Employment and Social Development Canada, 2016, all rights reserved

---

<sup>1</sup> Conference Board of Canada, Provincial Outlook Executive Summary: Winter 2016

<sup>2</sup> RBC Economics, Provincial Outlook: December 2015  
<http://www.rbc.com/economics/economic-reports/pdf/provincial-forecasts/man.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> BuildForce Canada, Construction and Maintenance Looking Forward: Manitoba