



# Labour Market Bulletin

Manitoba

April 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

After two consecutive months of positive employment growth, Manitoba's labour market faltered in April. Employment fell by 3,000 as nearly all of the province's services-producing industries contracted. This decline leaves employment down compared to the same time last year (-4,800).

Monthly losses were entirely in part-time employment (-4,400). Meanwhile, the number of individuals employed full-time increased by 1,200. Over the year, both full-time and part-time employment declined, down 3,700 (-0.7%) and 1,200 (-1.0%) respectively.

The public-sector accounted for all employment losses this month, down 2,600, while private-sector employment was virtually unchanged. At the same time, the number of self-employed individuals in Manitoba fell by 500 compared to the previous month. On a year-over-year basis, only the public-sector avoided employment losses.

### Unemployment

The number of unemployed persons in Manitoba increased in April (+700) and the province's unemployment rate edged up to 6.1%. On a yearly basis, the province's unemployment rate increased over half a percentage point. Nonetheless, Manitoba currently claims the second lowest unemployment rate in Canada, behind only British Columbia. Looking ahead, the Conference Board of Canada expects the province's unemployment rate to drop to an average of 5.7% in 2016 and 5.4% next year.<sup>1</sup>

Youth unemployment remained high this month, with the unemployment rate for those aged 15 to 24 averaging 11.8%, over double the rate of 5.1% for those aged 25 and older. However, compared to this time last year, the

youth unemployment rate fell slightly, while the rate for those 25 years and older increased nearly a full percentage point. Those aged 55 and older had the lowest unemployment rate (4.4%) among age groups in April 2016.

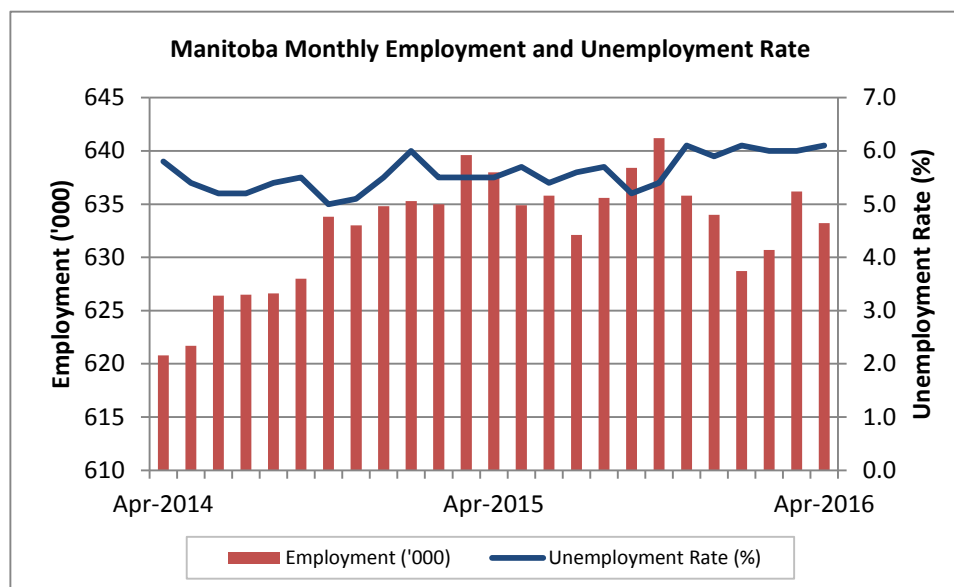
Looking at trends by gender and age, the unemployment rate remains the highest among young men (under 25 years of age) at 13.0%. Unemployment among young women also remains high (10.4%), even after falling 0.6 percentage points since March 2016.

### Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics

| Seasonally Adjusted<br>Monthly Data | April 2016 | March 2016 | April 2015 | Monthly Variation |      | Yearly Variation |      |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------|------|------------------|------|
|                                     |            |            |            | Number            | %    | Number           | %    |
| <b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>       | 996.3      | 995.2      | 985.0      | 1.1               | 0.1  | 11.3             | 1.1  |
| <b>Labour Force ('000)</b>          | 674.6      | 676.9      | 675.3      | -2.3              | -0.3 | -0.7             | -0.1 |
| <b>Employment ('000)</b>            | 633.2      | 636.2      | 638.0      | -3.0              | -0.5 | -4.8             | -0.8 |
| Full-Time ('000)                    | 516.2      | 515.0      | 519.9      | 1.2               | 0.2  | -3.7             | -0.7 |
| Part-Time ('000)                    | 116.9      | 121.3      | 118.1      | -4.4              | -3.6 | -1.2             | -1.0 |
| <b>Unemployment ('000)</b>          | 41.4       | 40.7       | 37.3       | 0.7               | 1.7  | 4.1              | 11.0 |
| <b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>        | 6.1        | 6.0        | 5.5        | 0.1               | -    | 0.6              | -    |
| <b>Participation Rate (%)</b>       | 67.7       | 68.0       | 68.6       | -0.3              | -    | -0.9             | -    |
| <b>Employment Rate (%)</b>          | 63.6       | 63.9       | 64.8       | -0.3              | -    | -1.2             | -    |

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  | April 2016<br>% | March 2016<br>% | April 2015<br>% | Monthly<br>Variation | Yearly<br>Variation |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------|
|                           |                 |                 |                 | (% points)           | (% points)          |
| <b>Total</b>              | 6.1             | 6.0             | 5.5             | 0.1                  | 0.6                 |
| <b>25 years and over</b>  | 5.1             | 4.8             | 4.3             | 0.3                  | 0.8                 |
| Men - 25 years and over   | 5.4             | 5.3             | 4.1             | 0.1                  | 1.3                 |
| Women - 25 years and over | 4.6             | 4.4             | 4.4             | 0.2                  | 0.2                 |
| <b>15 to 24 years</b>     | 11.8            | 12.2            | 11.9            | -0.4                 | -0.1                |
| Men - 15 to 24 years      | 13.0            | 13.6            | 13.1            | -0.6                 | -0.1                |
| Women - 15 to 24 years    | 10.4            | 11.0            | 10.8            | -0.6                 | -0.4                |

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

**EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY**

Employment in Manitoba's goods-producing sector was virtually unchanged in April, with just 200 more people employed than in the previous month. The sector's flat performance can largely be attributed to substantial losses in the province's manufacturing industry (-1,400), which offset gains in a number of other areas. The monthly loss also left manufacturing employment down over the year (-1,700). Nonetheless, prospects are bright for several key segments of Manitoba's manufacturing industry. Thanks in part to a recovery in the U.S. economy and a weak Canadian dollar, bus manufacturing and aerospace manufacturing are both likely to see large increases in export sales in the near-term. Motor vehicle exports from Manitoba are expected to expand by 22% in 2016, as New Flyer fills orders from a number of U.S. cities in the process of replacing aging bus fleets.<sup>2</sup> This increased activity should have a positive impact on employment in the industry.

Construction industry employment grew on a monthly (+700) and an annual (+2,400) basis in April. The outlook for construction employment in the near-term is positive, as core infrastructure investment remains a priority for the province. Looking ahead, employment in the industry will likely remain strong. The Conference Board of Canada predicts construction will be one of the fastest growing industries in the province with GDP increasing by 4.4% in 2016 and 9.3% in 2017.

Agricultural employment jumped sharply in April (+1,100). Farmers avoided major flooding this spring, and seeding operations are beginning to get underway in the province.

Finally, forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, and gas employed 200 more people in April. Although not as significant an employer in Manitoba as in other western provinces, the industry appears to be weathering the global downturn in commodity prices. The industry now employs 700 more individuals compared to the same time last year.

Turning to the services-producing sector, employment decreased in almost all industries, ending two months of overall growth in the sector. The only noteworthy improvement among service-industries was found in the trade industry, which employed 1,600 more people in April. Despite this large monthly increase, the industry now

employs fewer people than it did the same time last year (-3,400). The recent uptick in employment may show the industry responding to an increase in retail sales in the province. Between February 2015 and February 2016, retail sales expanded by 8.4% in Manitoba, more than any other Western province and well above the national rate (+5.6%) during the same period<sup>3</sup>.

No other service industry saw noteworthy monthly employment growth in April. Employment in accommodation and food services was virtually unchanged on a monthly basis, but is up 1,600 compared to April 2015. Similarly, employment was flat in the information, culture, and recreation industry month-over-month, but jumped 2,200 on an annual basis.

The transportation and warehousing industry shed 300 positions in April, marking the fifth consecutive month of losses. Over the year, industry employment is down -4,700 (-11.9%). Nonetheless, shipping requirements of a strong provincial manufacturing sector, as well as the launch of low-cost airline NewLeaf Travel in Winnipeg, should positively impact employment in transportation and warehousing going forward.

On monthly basis, employment is down in all three public-sector industries: educational services (-400), health care and social assistance (-2,200), and public administration (-300).

### Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

| Seasonally Adjusted<br>Data ('000)                   | April 2016 | March 2016 | April 2015 | Monthly Variation |      | Yearly Variation |       |
|--|------------|------------|------------|-------------------|------|------------------|-------|
|  |            |            |            | Number            | %    | Number           | %     |
| <b>Total employed, all industries</b>                | 633.2      | 636.2      | 638.0      | -3.0              | -0.5 | -4.8             | -0.8  |
| <b>Goods-producing sector</b>                        | 150.6      | 150.4      | 146.5      | 0.2               | 0.1  | 4.1              | 2.8   |
| Agriculture  | 24.0       | 22.9       | 22.8       | 1.1               | 4.8  | 1.2              | 5.3   |
| Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying,<br>oil and gas | 6.8        | 6.6        | 6.1        | 0.2               | 3.0  | 0.7              | 11.5  |
| Utilities  | 9.4        | 9.7        | 7.8        | -0.3              | -3.1 | 1.6              | 20.5  |
| Construction   | 47.8       | 47.1       | 45.4       | 0.7               | 1.5  | 2.4              | 5.3   |
| Manufacturing  | 62.6       | 64.0       | 64.3       | -1.4              | -2.2 | -1.7             | -2.6  |
| <b>Services-producing sector</b>                     | 482.5      | 485.8      | 491.5      | -3.3              | -0.7 | -9.0             | -1.8  |
| Trade  | 90.7       | 89.1       | 94.1       | 1.6               | 1.8  | -3.4             | -3.6  |
| Transportation and warehousing                       | 34.7       | 35.0       | 39.4       | -0.3              | -0.9 | -4.7             | -11.9 |
| Finance, insurance, real estate<br>and leasing       | 32.8       | 32.7       | 34.4       | 0.1               | 0.3  | -1.6             | -4.7  |
| Professional, scientific<br>and technical services   | 27.6       | 28.3       | 24.9       | -0.7              | -2.5 | 2.7              | 10.8  |
| Business, building<br>and other support services     | 17.7       | 18.1       | 19.2       | -0.4              | -2.2 | -1.5             | -7.8  |
| Educational services                                 | 51.1       | 51.7       | 51.5       | -0.6              | -1.2 | -0.4             | -0.8  |
| Health care and social assistance                    | 100.9      | 103.1      | 102.0      | -2.2              | -2.1 | -1.1             | -1.1  |
| Information, culture and recreation                  | 24.3       | 24.2       | 22.1       | 0.1               | 0.4  | 2.2              | 10.0  |
| Accommodation and food services                      | 41.4       | 41.3       | 40.2       | 0.1               | 0.2  | 1.2              | 3.0   |
| Other services                                       | 28.9       | 29.9       | 29.3       | -1.0              | -3.3 | -0.4             | -1.4  |
| Public administration                                | 32.2       | 32.5       | 34.4       | -0.3              | -0.9 | -2.2             | -6.4  |

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Southeast region employment was up 8.8% in April on an annual basis. The region's unemployment rate also dropped compared to last year and now sits one percentage point below the provincial average. One quarter of the region's employment growth can be attributed to the goods-producing sector, with manufacturing responsible for the majority of the sector's employment growth. The majority of Southeast region's employment growth was in the services-producing sector, with the largest gain in health care and social assistance.

Employment in the Interlake region remained relatively flat with a small increase of 0.2%. Despite this modest increase, the region's unemployment rate increased sharply, up 3.1 percentage points to 8.2% year-over-year. This now represents the highest unemployment rate among regions in the province. Although the total number of employed only shifted slightly, the distribution of employment by industry changed significantly. Employment increased by 21.0% in the goods-producing sector and fell by 8.0% in services-producing sector.

Employment declined in all other economic regions in April. Winnipeg saw the smallest decline in employment, down 0.6% year-over-year, due mostly to a sharp drop in the services-producing sector. Unemployment reached 6.4% in Winnipeg, surpassing the provincial rate. South and North Central regions combined to have the third largest employment decline (-2.7%), due mostly to a drop in manufacturing employment. Despite this, the combined region still has the lowest unemployment rate in the province at 3.8%, up only 0.6 percentage points since last April.

By far the largest percentage drop in employment was in the Southwest, where employment is down 7.2% compared to April 2015. All labour market indicators pointed to negative results for the region. Both full- and part-time employment is down year-over-year. Both the goods- and services-producing sectors saw declines with the steepest drop occurring in healthcare and social assistance. Not surprisingly, the region's unemployment rate jumped 3.5 percentage points to 6.9% during the past year.

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

| 3-Month Moving Averages<br>Seasonally Unadjusted Data | Employment              |                         |                            | Unemployment Rate    |                      |                                   |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
|   | April<br>2016<br>('000) | April<br>2015<br>('000) | Yearly<br>Variation<br>(%) | April<br>2016<br>(%) | April<br>2015<br>(%) | Yearly<br>Variation<br>(% points) |
| <b>Manitoba</b>                                       | 626.7                   | 631.0                   | -0.7                       | 6.2                  | 5.5                  | 0.7                               |
| <b>Economic Regions</b>                               |                         |                         |                            |                      |                      |                                   |
| Southeast   | 59.6                    | 54.8                    | 8.8                        | 5.2                  | 6.0                  | -0.8                              |
| South Central and North Central                       | 53.7                    | 55.2                    | -2.7                       | 3.8                  | 3.2                  | 0.6                               |
| Southwest   | 52.6                    | 56.7                    | -7.2                       | 6.9                  | 3.4                  | 3.5                               |
| Winnipeg  | 381.5                   | 383.8                   | -0.6                       | 6.4                  | 6.1                  | 0.3                               |
| Interlake   | 44.5                    | 44.4                    | 0.2                        | 8.2                  | 5.1                  | 3.1                               |
| Parklands and Northern                                | 34.8                    | 36.1                    | -3.6                       | 4.4                  | 6.5                  | -2.1                              |

*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.

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<sup>1</sup> Conference Board of Canada, Provincial Outlook Economic Forecast: Winter 2016

<sup>2</sup> Economic Development Canada, Growth: Its own worst enemy?, Global Export Forecast Spring 2016

<sup>3</sup> Statistics Canada CANSIM Table 080-0020 - Retail trade, sales by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), monthly (dollars), CANSIM (database). (accessed: May 6, 2016)