



# Labour Market Bulletin

Manitoba

May 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 May, posting large employment gains and recovering from a relatively poor performance the previous month. Driven by employment growth in the services-producing sector, employment grew by 2,900. Overall, employment in Manitoba has been up and down on a monthly basis since peaking in October 2015.

Monthly employment gains were spread across both full-time (+1,900) and part-time (+1,100) positions. The number of people employed full-time is now up by 4,700 (+0.9%) over the year. Conversely, 3,600 fewer individuals (-3.6%) are employed part-time over the year.

Employment growth was split between the private and public sector in May, expanding by 900 and 1,100 respectively. Only public sector employment experienced growth over the year (+1,300) while the private sector shed 1,000 positions. Meanwhile, more Manitobans were self-employed (+900) in May compared to the previous month.

### Unemployment

The number of unemployed persons in Manitoba decreased considerably in May (-1,800), and the province's unemployment rate dropped from 6.1% to 5.9%. As a result, Manitoba now claims the lowest provincial rate in Canada. Nonetheless, the province's unemployment rate was higher in May 2016 compared to the same time last year (5.7%). Looking ahead, the Conference Board of Canada expects Manitoba'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 averaged 12.7%. Compared to this time last year, the youth unemployment rate is up by 0.9 percentage points. Meanwhile, those aged 25 to 54 had the lowest unemployment rate (4.5%) among all age groups in May.

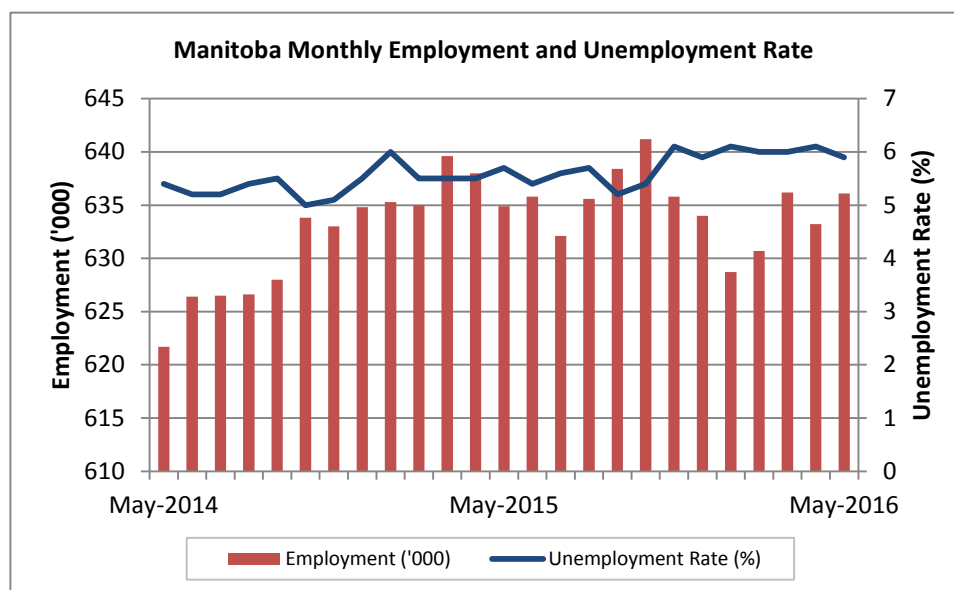
Looking at trends by gender, the unemployment rate remains the highest among young men at 14.1%, while the unemployment rate for young women sits at 11.2%. For those aged 25 years and over, the unemployment rate for both genders is below the provincial average—5.0% for men and 4.0% for women.

### Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	May 2016	April 2016	May 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	997.5	996.3	985.6	1.2	0.1	11.9	1.2
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	675.7	674.6	673.7	1.1	0.2	2.0	0.3
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	636.1	633.2	634.9	2.9	0.5	1.2	0.2
Full-Time ('000)	518.1	516.2	513.4	1.9	0.4	4.7	0.9
Part-Time ('000)	118.0	116.9	121.6	1.1	0.9	-3.6	-3.0
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	39.6	41.4	38.7	-1.8	-4.3	0.9	2.3
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	5.9	6.1	5.7	-0.2	-	0.2	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	67.7	67.7	68.4	0.0	-	-0.7	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	63.8	63.6	64.4	0.2	-	-0.6	-

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	May 2016 (%)	April 2016 (%)	May 2015 (%)	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
				(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	5.9	6.1	5.7	-0.2	0.2
<b>25 years and over</b>	4.6	5.1	4.6	-0.5	0.0
Men - 25 years and over	5.0	5.4	4.5	-0.4	0.5
Women - 25 years and over	4.0	4.6	4.8	-0.6	-0.8
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	12.7	11.8	11.8	0.9	0.9
Men - 15 to 24 years	14.1	13.0	13.3	1.1	0.8
Women - 15 to 24 years	11.2	10.4	10.1	0.8	1.1

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

**EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY**

Manitoba's service-producing sector was responsible for the majority of employment growth in the province in May. Employment in this sector tumbled in the latter part of 2015; and although levels of employment have risen in recent months, the sector still employs 3,500 fewer individuals (-0.7%) compared to last May.

Accommodations and food services experienced the most growth in May, up 1,500 people. The industry will likely see increased activity in summer months as tourism ramps up across the province. Going forward, the city will host an NHL Heritage Classic game in October 2016 and the Canada Summer Games in 2017.

Other substantial growth within the sector came from the professional, scientific and technical services industry, which employed 1,200 more people this May. Moreover, this industry now employs 3,000 more individuals compared to the same time in 2015.

Meanwhile, the wholesale and retail trade industry added 1,300 positions in May, representing the fourth consecutive month of employment gains. The trade industry is Manitoba's second largest employer and employment here is up by 600 compared to last May. In the near-term, Manitoba's enduring employment growth should lead to greater household spending, which may translate into more retail openings going forward.

The province's three public-sector industries experienced mixed results in May. Educational services and health care and social assistance added 300 and 600 workers respectively, while public administration shed 1,300 positions (-4.0%). Only healthcare and social assistance employed more individuals on an annual basis. Employment in public administration is down by 3,900 (-11.2%) over the year.

The transportation and warehousing industry grew by 300 in May, ending five consecutive months of employment losses. Employment in the industry has tumbled over the last year and is now down by 5,300 compared to May 2015. Nonetheless, the spinoff effects from a strong provincial manufacturing sector are expected to positively impact employment trends in transportation and warehousing going forward.

Manitoba's goods-producing sector employed 600 fewer people than in the previous month but remains up by 4,700 compared to the same time last year. The sector's poor performance in May can largely be attributed to losses in manufacturing, which employed 1,800 fewer people. A lower Canadian dollar and a recovering US economy were expected to boost demand from key manufacturing sectors. However, spillover impacts from the energy downturn in Alberta and Saskatchewan are inhibiting overall growth.<sup>2</sup> Employment in manufacturing has been mostly stable over the last year. Nonetheless, May's losses mean that the manufacturing industry employed 4,400 fewer individuals compared to May 2015.

Employment in the construction industry grew on both a monthly (+1,200) and annual (+3,400) basis in May. The outlook for employment in this industry is positive in the near term. The Conference Board of Canada predicts that 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.

The agriculture industry employed 400 fewer individuals compared to the previous month. However, this industry still employed 1,900 more people in May compared to the same time last year. Farmers avoided major flooding this spring and have enjoyed favourable growing conditions so far in 2016. Looking ahead, a pilot project lifting the moratorium on hog barns in the province could also lead to increased economic activity in the short-term.

Finally, in May, employment in the resource extraction industry decreased by 200 from the previous month. Year-over-year, Manitoba's resource extraction industries employed more people and have largely avoided the downward trends in employment experienced in some other provinces.

## Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	May 2016	April 2016	May 2015	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	636.1	633.2	634.9	2.9	0.5	1.2	0.2
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	150.0	150.6	145.3	-0.6	-0.4	4.7	3.2
Agriculture	23.6	24.0	21.7	-0.4	-1.7	1.9	8.8
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	6.6	6.8	4.8	-0.2	-2.9	1.8	37.5
Utilities	10.0	9.4	8.1	0.6	6.4	1.9	23.5
Construction	49.0	47.8	45.6	1.2	2.5	3.4	7.5
Manufacturing	60.8	62.6	65.2	-1.8	-2.9	-4.4	-6.7
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	486.1	482.5	489.6	3.6	0.7	-3.5	-0.7
Trade	92.0	90.7	91.4	1.3	1.4	0.6	0.7
Transportation and warehousing	35.0	34.7	40.3	0.3	0.9	-5.3	-13.2
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	33.6	32.8	33.0	0.8	2.4	0.6	1.8
Professional, scientific and technical services	28.8	27.6	25.8	1.2	4.3	3.0	11.6
Business, building and other support services	17.7	17.7	19.3	0.0	0.0	-1.6	-8.3
Educational services	51.4	51.1	52.5	0.3	0.6	-1.1	-2.1
Health care and social assistance	101.5	100.9	100.5	0.6	0.6	1.0	1.0
Information, culture and recreation	22.9	24.3	22.2	-1.4	-5.8	0.7	3.2
Accommodation and food services	42.9	41.4	40.6	1.5	3.6	2.3	5.7
Other services	29.3	28.9	29.1	0.4	1.4	0.2	0.7
Public administration	30.9	32.2	34.8	-1.3	-4.0	-3.9	-11.2

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

In the Southeast region, employment was up 11.8% in May on an annual basis. The region's unemployment rate also dropped compared to last year and now sits about one percentage point below the provincial average. Nearly one-third of the region's employment growth can be attributed to gains in its manufacturing industry. The majority of Southeast region's employment growth was in the services-producing sector, with the largest gains occurring in health care and social assistance and accommodations and food services.

Employment in the Interlake region expanded by 1.8% from April. Despite this modest increase, the region's unemployment rate increased sharply (+2.6 percentage points) to 7.7% from the previous year. This now represents the highest unemployment rate among economic regions in the province.

In the other economic regions, employment was largely unchanged in May. Employment in Parklands and Northern remained the same but the region's unemployment rate fell by 1.5 percentage points to 4.8%. South Central and North Central also experienced virtually no change in employment and the unemployment rate in this region remained steady at 3.7%.

Winnipeg's employment was down 1.3% year-over-year, due mostly to a sharp drop in the services-producing sector. Unemployment reached 6.4% in Winnipeg, surpassing the provincial rate. The largest employment gains in May occurred in the construction industry. Going forward, jobs in the industry 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 provide a boost to the construction industry.

The largest percentage drop in employment was in the Southwest, where employment is down by 6.2% compared to May 2015. Both the goods- and services-producing sectors experienced declines, with the steepest drop occurring in healthcare and social assistance. Not surprisingly, the region's unemployment rate jumped 4.3 percentage points to 7.2% during the past year.

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

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	May 2016 ('000)	May 2015 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	May 2016 (%)	May 2015 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Manitoba</b>	633.4	635.0	-0.3	6.1	5.6	0.5
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Southeast	61.4	54.9	11.8	5.0	6.2	-1.2
South Central and North Central	54.6	54.9	-0.5	3.7	3.7	0.0
Southwest	53.2	56.7	-6.2	7.2	2.9	4.3
Winnipeg	383.2	388.3	-1.3	6.4	6.2	0.2
Interlake	45.4	44.6	1.8	7.7	5.1	2.6
Parklands and Northern	35.7	35.7	0.0	4.8	6.3	-1.5

*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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**For information on the Labour Force Survey,** please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

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<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>