



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Manitoba

February 2017



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 improved in February as provincial employment increased 3,400 on a monthly basis. This recent gain leaves overall employment up 6,600 compared to the same time last year. Monthly losses were entirely in part-time employment (-500), while the number of individuals employed full-time increased by 3,900.

On an annual basis, part-time employment decreased by 1,200 and full-time employment grew by 7,800. Looking ahead, RBC Economics is forecasting employment in Manitoba to rise by 1.0% and 0.9% in 2017 and 2018, respectively.<sup>1</sup>

#### Unemployment

The province's unemployment rate fell 0.3 percentage points to 5.8% in February. Manitoba currently has the second lowest unemployment rate in Canada, behind only British Columbia (5.1%).<sup>2</sup> Looking ahead, the Conference Board of Canada expects the province's unemployment rate to stay at 5.8% over the next year.<sup>3</sup>

Youth unemployment remained high this month, with the unemployment rate for those aged 15 to 24 averaging 13.1%, nearly triple the rate of those aged 25 and older. Compared to this time last year, the youth unemployment rate is up 0.8 percentage points, while the rate for those 25 years and older is down 0.3 percentage points to 4.8%.

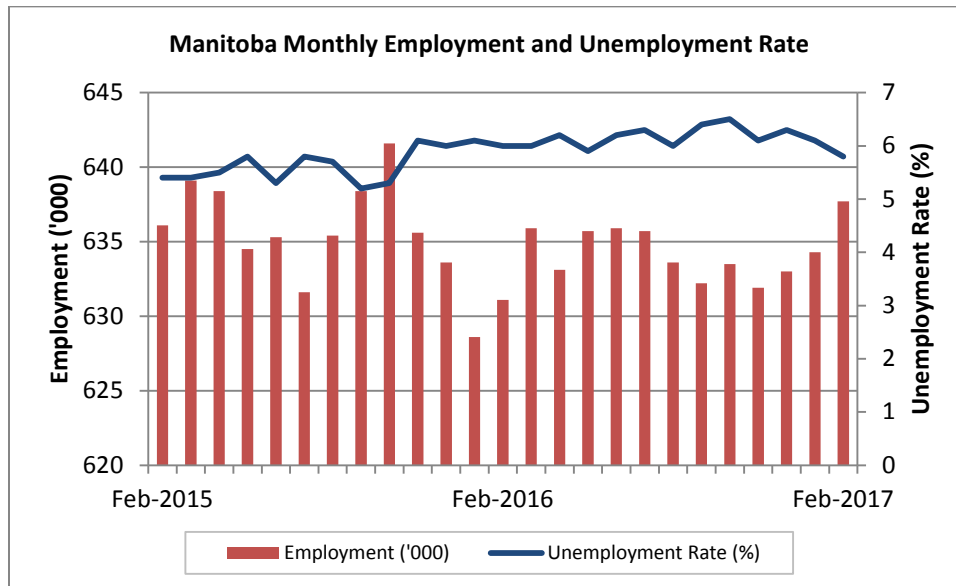
Looking at trends by gender and age, the unemployment rate remains the highest among young men (15 to 24 years) at 15.0%. Over the year, the unemployment rate for young men increased 1.5 percentage points, up from 13.5% last February. Unemployment among young women also remains high at 10.9%.

## Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	February 2017	January 2017	February 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	1,007.4	1,006.1	994.0	1.3	0.1	13.4	1.3
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	677.2	675.6	671.3	1.6	0.2	5.9	0.9
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	637.7	634.3	631.1	3.4	0.5	6.6	1.0
Full-Time ('000)	517.0	513.1	509.2	3.9	0.8	7.8	1.5
Part-Time ('000)	120.7	121.2	121.9	-0.5	-0.4	-1.2	-1.0
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	39.5	41.3	40.2	-1.8	-4.4	-0.7	-1.7
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	5.8	6.1	6.0	-0.3	-	-0.2	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	67.2	67.2	67.5	0.0	-	-0.3	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	63.3	63.0	63.5	0.3	-	-0.2	-

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	February 2017 (%)	January 2017 (%)	February 2016 (%)	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
				(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	5.8	6.1	6.0	-0.3	-0.2
<b>25 years and over</b>	4.5	4.8	4.8	-0.3	-0.3
Men - 25 years and over	4.5	5.3	5.3	-0.8	-0.8
Women - 25 years and over	4.4	4.1	4.2	0.3	0.2
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	13.1	13.2	12.3	-0.1	0.8
Men - 15 to 24 years	15.0	14.8	13.5	0.2	1.5
Women - 15 to 24 years	10.9	11.5	10.9	-0.6	0.0

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Manitoba's good-producing sector employed 3,200 more people in February compared to the previous month and 3,400 more people compared to February 2016. Employment growth in the goods-producing sector over the past year can partly be attributed to gains in construction, which now employs 1,900 more people. Moving forward, economists suggest that construction spending will continue to be a key factor contributing to Manitoba's growth in 2017.<sup>4</sup> RBC Economics cites continuing expenditures by Manitoba Hydro on a number power projects including Keeyask Generating Station and the Bipole III Transmission Line as key contributors to this positive outlook.<sup>5</sup>

Sizeable gains in the forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas industry (+1,300) and manufacturing (+1,000) also positively affected growth in the goods sector. The forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas industry had the largest yearly growth rate (+21.0%) among all goods-producing industries.

**Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry**

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	February 2017	January 2017	February 2016	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	637.7	634.3	631.1	3.4	0.5	6.6	1.0
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	153.4	150.2	150.0	3.2	2.1	3.4	2.3
Agriculture	23.1	24.4	23.3	-1.3	-5.3	-0.2	-0.9
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	7.5	7.3	6.2	0.2	2.7	1.3	21.0
Utilities	9.6	9.8	10.2	-0.2	-2.0	-0.6	-5.9
Construction	48.4	45.1	46.5	3.3	7.3	1.9	4.1
Manufacturing	64.8	63.7	63.8	1.1	1.7	1.0	1.6
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	484.4	484.1	481.0	0.3	0.1	3.4	0.7
Trade	87.8	88.6	89.2	-0.8	-0.9	-1.4	-1.6
Transportation and warehousing	37.7	36.7	35.3	1.0	2.7	2.4	6.8
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	37.9	36.3	32.7	1.6	4.4	5.2	15.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	28.3	28.4	26.5	-0.1	-0.4	1.8	6.8
Business, building and other support services	17.4	18.1	18.7	-0.7	-3.9	-1.3	-7.0
Educational services	49.9	49.4	50.4	0.5	1.0	-0.5	-1.0
Health care and social assistance	101.1	103.0	101.8	-1.9	-1.8	-0.7	-0.7
Information, culture and recreation	23.8	23.5	22.8	0.3	1.3	1.0	4.4
Accommodation and food services	40.2	39.1	41.1	1.1	2.8	-0.9	-2.2
Other services	27.5	27.6	29.4	-0.1	-0.4	-1.9	-6.5
Public administration	33.0	33.5	33.0	-0.5	-1.5	0.0	0.0

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

A mixture of gains and losses across services-producing industries left overall employment in the sector mostly unchanged (+300) in February. Noteworthy is a decrease in health care and social assistance, which saw employment fall by 1,900 month over month. Employment in the industry is also down on an annual basis (-700). The employment outlook for this industry is not positive in the short-term as the Government of

Manitoba is currently facing a budget deficit and is implementing restraint and saving measures in an effort to move the budget back to balance.<sup>6</sup>

The finance, insurance, real estate and leasing industry saw an uptick in employment in February (+1,600). This most recent gain brings the industry's employment up nearly 15.9% compared to the same time last year. In contrast, employment in business, building and other support services is down 7.0% year over year (-1,300).

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Employment in the Southwest region is down 3.3% compared to February 2016 – the only Manitoba region to have declining employment over the last year. However, the region's unemployment rate decreased 0.9 percentage points to 5.2% over the same period, suggesting a decrease in labour force size. Nonetheless, the employment outlook for Southwest region should improve over the next two years as a number of public and private projects will provide some support for construction and related industries. These projects include Brandon University's new student housing project, the Sioux Valley Dakota First Nation commercial development and Federated Co-operatives Limited's new fertilizer terminal.

Employment in Winnipeg stagnated over the last year. Employment was up just 0.2% year over year and the region's unemployment rate rose 0.5 percentage points and now sits at 6.8%. Nevertheless, some local industries bucked this trend. The region's finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing industry led employment growth over the past year.<sup>7</sup> Public administration and manufacturing also saw strong employment growth.<sup>8</sup>

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

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	February 2017 ('000)	February 2016 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	February 2017 (%)	February 2016 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Manitoba</b>	628.9	624.5	0.7	6.0	5.9	0.1
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Southeast	59.4	56.9	4.4	5.0	5.9	-0.9
South Central and North Central	53.4	52.6	1.5	3.1	3.7	-0.6
Southwest	52.4	54.2	-3.3	5.2	6.1	-0.9
Winnipeg	381.6	380.8	0.2	6.8	6.3	0.5
Interlake	46.3	45.1	2.7	5.5	6.2	-0.7
Parklands and Northern	35.8	34.9	2.6	5.0	4.6	0.4

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding*

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

In contrast to Winnipeg, the Southeast region experienced strong employment growth (+4.4%) over the past year. The majority of this growth was in the goods-producing sector, with the largest gains in construction.<sup>9</sup> Not surprisingly, the region's unemployment rate is down nearly a full percentage point to 5.0% year over year, and is now well below the provincial average.

**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> Paul Ferley. RBC Economics – Research. Manitoba: Provincial outlook. March 2017.

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

<sup>2</sup> Source: Statistics Canada. Table 282-0087 - Labour force survey estimates (LFS), by sex and age group, seasonally adjusted and unadjusted, monthly (persons unless otherwise noted), CANSIM (database). (accessed: March 10, 2017)

<sup>3</sup> Conference Board of Canada, Provincial Outlook: Autumn 2016

<sup>4</sup> TD Economics, Provincial economic forecast. December 20, 2016.

[https://www.td.com/document/PDF/economics/qef/ProvincialEconomicForecast\\_Dec2016.pdf](https://www.td.com/document/PDF/economics/qef/ProvincialEconomicForecast_Dec2016.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Paul Ferley. RBC Economics – Research. Manitoba: Provincial outlook. December 2016.

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

<sup>6</sup> Deloitte. 2016-2017 Manitoba budget highlights. Retrieved from:

<https://www2.deloitte.com/ca/en/pages/tax/articles/2016-2017-manitoba-budget-highlights.html>

<sup>7</sup> Source: Statistics Canada. Table 282-0124 - Labour force survey estimates (LFS), employment by economic region based on 2011 Census boundaries and North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), 3-month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality, monthly (persons), CANSIM (database). (accessed: March 13, 2017)

<sup>8</sup> Source: Statistics Canada. Table 282-0124 - Labour force survey estimates (LFS), employment by economic region based on 2011 Census boundaries and North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), 3-month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality, monthly (persons), CANSIM (database). (accessed: March 13, 2017)

<sup>9</sup> Source: Statistics Canada. Table 282-0124 - Labour force survey estimates (LFS), employment by economic region based on 2011 Census boundaries and North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), 3-month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality, monthly (persons), CANSIM (database). (accessed: March 13, 2017)