



Labour Market Bulletin

Manitoba

January 2018



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 trended down in January 2018 with a loss of 3,600 (-0.6%). The province may see a rebound in employment over the next few months, as a lower Canadian dollar and receipt of a \$2 billion equalization payment in March could promote economic growth.¹ Though employment decreased this past month, Manitoba has seen a year-over-year increase of 7,100.²

In the past month, full-time employment in Manitoba decreased by 7,700, while part-time employment increased by 4,100. This is counter to the national trend, where full-time employment increased by 49,000, and part-time employment decreased by 137,000.³ While the province has experienced nearly 3 years of strong economic growth, the Conference Board of Canada expects Manitoba's GDP to decline to 1.3% in 2018.⁴

In the past month, employment in the public sector remained relatively unchanged at 159,700 (+0.2%), while the private sector decreased to 391,000 (-1.2%). Self-employment increased marginally by 800.⁵

Unemployment

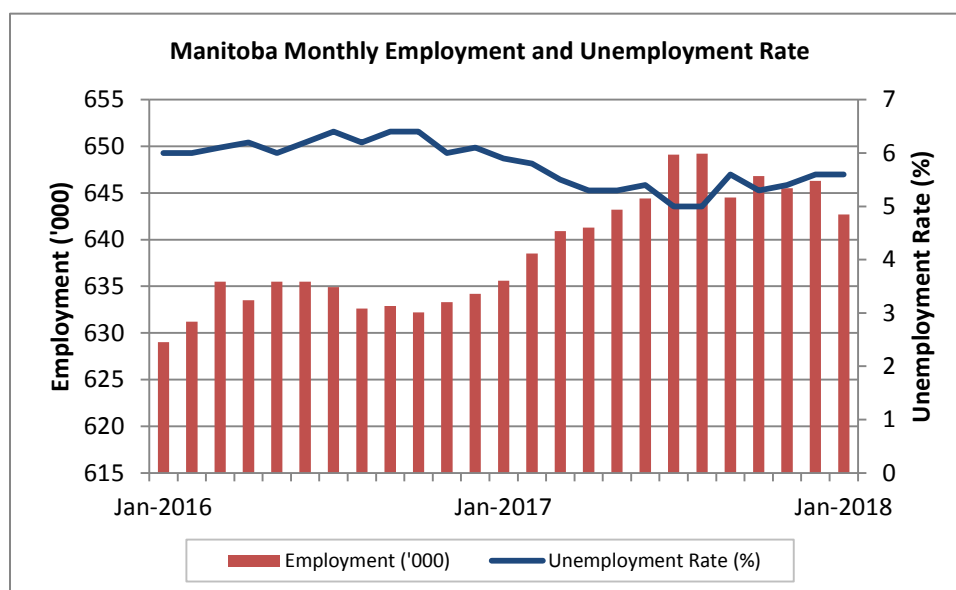
Manitoba's unemployment rate remained unchanged in January at 5.6%. The Canadian Federation of Independent Business reported that optimism among small businesses increased to an index of 61.6 (out of 100), just 1.1 points below the national average. Continued optimism and increased short-term hiring by small business owners may further reduce the unemployment rate.⁶

Seasonally adjusted Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	January 2018	December 2017	January 2017	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	1,019.5	1,018.9	1,006.1	0.6	0.1	13.4	1.3
Labour Force ('000)	680.4	684.5	675.4	-4.1	-0.6	5.0	0.7
Employment ('000)	642.7	646.3	635.6	-3.6	-0.6	7.1	1.1
Full-Time ('000)	512.3	520.0	515.0	-7.7	-1.5	-2.7	-0.5
Part-Time ('000)	130.4	126.3	120.6	4.1	3.2	9.8	8.1
Unemployment ('000)	37.8	38.2	39.8	-0.4	-1.0	-2.0	-5.0
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.6	5.6	5.9	0.0	-	-0.3	-
Participation Rate (%)	66.7	67.2	67.1	-0.5	-	-0.4	-
Employment Rate (%)	63.0	63.4	63.2	-0.4	-	-0.2	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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



The unemployment rate for those aged 15-24 marginally increased this month by 0.2 percentage points to 11.7%. By comparison, the unemployment rate for those aged 25 years and older remained relatively unchanged at 4.4%, a decrease of 0.2 percentage points. Compared to last year, youth unemployment rates improved; decreasing by 1.2 percentage points. For both age groups, the improvements were marginally lower over the past year than what was seen nationwide (-2.2 and -0.7 percentage points, respectively).⁷

Manitoba Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	January 2018 (%)	December 2017 (%)	January 2017 (%)	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
				(% points)	(% points)
Total	5.6	5.6	5.9	0.0	-0.3
25 years and over	4.4	4.5	4.6	-0.1	-0.2
Men - 25 years and over	4.8	4.7	5.1	0.1	-0.3
Women - 25 years and over	3.9	4.2	4.0	-0.3	-0.1
15 to 24 years	11.7	11.5	12.9	0.2	-1.2
Men - 15 to 24 years	13.8	13.5	14.1	0.3	-0.3
Women - 15 to 24 years	9.2	9.3	11.6	-0.1	-2.4

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

In January, employment in Manitoba's goods-producing sector (150,500) remained relatively unchanged compared to the same time last year (150,800). Year over year, employment losses were primarily in manufacturing (-2,800), and utilities (-1,600). Over the same period, there was moderate growth in construction (+3,300). Ongoing residential and non-residential construction projects should further increase employment in the short-term, as 2017 saw an increase (14.9%) in residential investments. However, as major residential projects near completion, the Conference Board of Canada expects residential investments within Manitoba to drop by almost 6% in 2018.⁸

On a year-over-year basis, the services-producing sector experienced moderate growth across the province, with employment increasing by 1.5% (+7,400). Since January 2017, there was modest growth in employment in accommodation and food services (+4,300) and business, building and other support services (+2,300). Over the same period, employment decreased in public administration (-2,300) and information, culture and recreation (-700).

Manitoba's efforts to diversify its economy remains strong as Manitoba's film and music industry are expected to reach a record high of nearly \$160 million in production volumes for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.⁹ Additionally, the provincial government signed a five-year multilateral agricultural policy agreement with the federal government, where \$176 million will be invested in the sustainability and competitiveness of the agriculture and food sector.¹⁰

However, Manitoba's competitive edge as a cheap energy provider may soon change, as Manitoba Hydro pursues its request with the Public Utilities Board of Manitoba for a 7.9% annual rate increase for the next 5 years. The request has led to significant pushback from consumers and businesses concerned with growing electricity bills.¹¹

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	January 2018	December 2017	January 2017	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	642.7	646.3	635.6	-3.6	-0.6	7.1	1.1
Goods-producing sector	150.5	149.5	150.8	1.0	0.7	-0.3	-0.2
Agriculture	25.7	25.9	24.0	-0.2	-0.8	1.7	7.1
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	6.5	6.2	7.3	0.3	4.8	-0.8	-11.0
Utilities	8.1	8.2	9.7	-0.1	-1.2	-1.6	-16.5
Construction	49.1	46.6	45.8	2.5	5.4	3.3	7.2
Manufacturing	61.1	62.6	63.9	-1.5	-2.4	-2.8	-4.4
Services-producing sector	492.2	496.8	484.8	-4.6	-0.9	7.4	1.5
Trade	89.4	91.3	89.4	-1.9	-2.1	0.0	0.0
Transportation and warehousing	37.5	35.8	36.9	1.7	4.7	0.6	1.6
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	36.4	36.7	36.6	-0.3	-0.8	-0.2	-0.5
Professional, scientific and technical services	28.5	28.9	28.3	-0.4	-1.4	0.2	0.7
Business, building and other support services	20.4	20.3	18.1	0.1	0.5	2.3	12.7
Educational services	51.0	51.1	49.6	-0.1	-0.2	1.4	2.8
Health care and social assistance	102.0	105.2	102.4	-3.2	-3.0	-0.4	-0.4
Information, culture and recreation	22.7	22.7	23.4	0.0	0.0	-0.7	-3.0
Accommodation and food services	43.8	44.6	39.5	-0.8	-1.8	4.3	10.9
Other services	29.2	29.3	27.2	-0.1	-0.3	2.0	7.4
Public administration	31.2	30.8	33.5	0.4	1.3	-2.3	-6.9

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Within the past month, employment grew in all the regions of Manitoba, with the exception of the Interlake and the Parklands and North regions. However, the unemployment rate increased in Southeast, South Central and North Central, and Parklands and North.

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	January 2018 ('000)	January 2017 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	January 2018 (%)	January 2017 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Manitoba	640.0	630.2	1.6	5.4	5.9	-0.5
Economic Regions						
Southeast	59.8	59.6	0.3	5.8	4.2	1.6
South Central and North Central	56.3	53.8	4.6	3.9	3.1	0.8
Southwest	55.3	53.1	4.1	4.5	5.2	-0.7
Winnipeg	388.8	382.1	1.8	5.9	6.7	-0.8
Interlake	44.6	45.8	-2.6	3.9	5.6	-1.7
Parklands and North	35.1	35.9	-2.2	5.4	5.0	0.4

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Southeast experienced minimal employment growth (0.3%) since January 2017, as employment remained relatively unchanged at 59,800. Last month, Klondex Mines Ltd. announced the immediate reduction of its True North gold mine operations and workforce near Bissett. An estimated 90 employees were to be affected by the immediate layoffs and an additional 150 once operations end. The mine will continue to operate until the end of March, and then be placed into care and maintenance.^{12, 13}

Winnipeg's economy saw employment increase by 1.8% between January 2017 and January 2018. Over the same period, the unemployment rate fell by 0.8 percentage points to 5.9%. The Conference Board however expects the city's real GDP to slow to 1.4% in 2018.¹⁴

While Sears Canada closed its remaining two Winnipeg stores in January, the former Target store near Polo Park shopping centre is being redeveloped to welcome three new tenants; Winners and HomeSense (retail), and 24-7 InTouch (call centre). InTouch's new call centre is to open later this year and will create 500 new jobs.

Bell MTS (telecom) is looking to further reduce its workforce by another 62 employees through voluntary retirement packages.¹⁵ In 2016, MTS reduced its workforce by 300 people with retirement packages before it was sold to Bell. Following the sale, Bell MTS again reduced its workforce by another 85 employees in 2017.¹⁶

Parklands and North region experienced a decrease in employment of 2.2% to 35,100 compared to the same period last year. While Churchill continues to wait on repairs to its single rail-line, the provincial government announced that it will be providing funds towards the repairs and restoration of the Churchill Town Centre Complex and its theatre. Damaged by severe weather conditions, the complex includes a school, hospital, personal care home, and other amenities. Roof and theatre repairs are to be completed by the fall of 2018.¹⁷

The provincial government reported that more than half of the winter roads are open, providing 13 of 23 communities within the region access to these roads; the remaining 2,400 km are to open by mid-February. Approximately \$10 million will be invested in the winter road network, ensuring the delivery of essential goods to remote northern communities.¹⁸

Despite Hudbay's planned closure of its Reed mine outside of Flin Flon later this year, mining company Minova hopes to open its nearby PL mine by 2019. The mine is expected to employ between 110 and 120 people, with an estimated \$35 million in capital expenditures.¹⁹

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: http://www.esdc.gc.ca/cqi-bin/contact/edsc-esdc/eng/contact_us.aspx?section=lmi

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

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada as represented by Employment and Social Development Canada, 2018, all rights reserved

¹ CBC News. Manitoba film tax credit still under review, despite \$217M-boost from feds, province says. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/manitoba-federal-equalization-payment-film-tax-credit-1.4519091>. (February 4, 2018).

² Statistics Canada. Table 282-0087 – Labour Force Survey estimates (LFS), by sex and age group, seasonally adjusted and unadjusted, quarterly (persons unless otherwise noted), CANSIM (database). (accessed February 8, 2018)

³ Statistics Canada. Table 282-0087 – Labour Force Survey estimates (LFS), by sex and age group, seasonally adjusted and unadjusted, quarterly (persons unless otherwise noted), CANSIM (database). (accessed February 8, 2018)

⁴ The Conference Board of Canada. Provincial Outlook Economic Forecast: Manitoba – Autumn 2017. Ottawa: the Conference Board of Canada. (accessed: February 9, 2018)

⁵ Statistics Canada. Table 282-0089 - Labour Force Survey estimates (LFS), employment by class of worker and sex, seasonally adjusted and unadjusted, monthly (persons), CANSIM (database). (accessed: February 9, 2018)

⁶ The Canadian Federation of Independent Business. CFIB – Economics January 2018, Manitoba. <https://www.cfib-fcei.ca/sites/default/files/2018-01/Barometer-Prov-Jan18e.pdf> (accessed February 9, 2018).

⁷ Statistics Canada. Table 282-0087 – Labour force survey estimates (LFS), by sex and age group, seasonally adjusted and unadjusted, quarterly, (persons unless otherwise noted) CANSIM (database). (accessed February 9, 2018)

⁸ The Conference Board of Canada. Provincial Outlook Economic Forecast: Manitoba – Autumn 2017. Ottawa: the Conference Board of Canada. (accessed: February 9, 2018)

-
- ⁹ CBC News. Manitoba film industry to post best-ever year with \$160M in productions. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/manitoba-film-industry-best-year-1.4500870>. (January 24, 2018)
- ¹⁰ Government of Manitoba. Governments focus on shared agricultural priorities, sign five-year multilateral agreement. <http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=&item=42932>. (January 15, 2018)
- ¹¹ CBC News. Consumer groups testify Manitoba Hydro can get by with less. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/manitoba-hydro-public-utilities-board-1.4526123>. (February 8, 2018)
- ¹² Klondex Mines Ltd. Klondex announces a reduction in underground operations and workforce at True North and executive management change. <https://www.klondexmines.com/investors/news/klondex-announces-a-reduction-in-underground-operations-and-workforce-at-true-north-and-executive-management-change>
- ¹³ Redekop, Bill. Winnipeg Free Press. Less than stellar output leads to layoffs at Bissett gold mine. <https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/less-than-stellar-output-leads-to-layoffs-at-bissett-gold-mine-468845083.html>. (January 11, 2018).
- ¹⁴ Arcand, Alan, and Constantinos Bougas. Metropolitan Outlook 1: Winnipeg – Autumn 2017. Ottawa: The Conference Board of Canada, 2017.
- ¹⁵ Winnipeg Free Press Untitled January 23, 2018
- ¹⁶ Cash, Martin. Winnipeg Free Press. New Bell MTS entity to cut workforce. <https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/business/new-bell-mts-entity-to-cut-workforce-421764773.html> (May 9, 2017).
- ¹⁷ Government of Manitoba. Province announces plans for major repairs to Churchill Town Centre Complex. <http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=42912&posted=2018-01-14>. (January 14, 2018).
- ¹⁸ Government of Manitoba. Province announces more than half of Manitoba's winter road system now open. <http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=43032&posted=2018-01-26>. (January 26, 2018).
- ¹⁹ The Reminder. PL Mine targets 2019 opening, 110-120 jobs. <http://www.thereminder.ca/news/local-news/pl-mine-targets-2019-opening-110-120-jobs-1.23149535>. (January 22, 2018).