



Labour Market Bulletin

Manitoba

February 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 remained relatively unchanged in February, at 642,200. Manitoba has seen a year-over-year increase of 3,700. In the past month, growth in full-time employment in Manitoba was negligible, increasing by 200, while part-time employment decreased by 700. This is counter to the national trend, as the Canadian economy added 15,400 jobs; full-time employment decreased by 39,300, and part-time employment increased by 54,700.¹

In the past month, employment decreased in the public sector (-1,200) and in the private sector (-500). Self-employment increased significantly by 1,200, offsetting losses in the public sector.²

Seasonally adjusted Monthly Labour Force Statistics

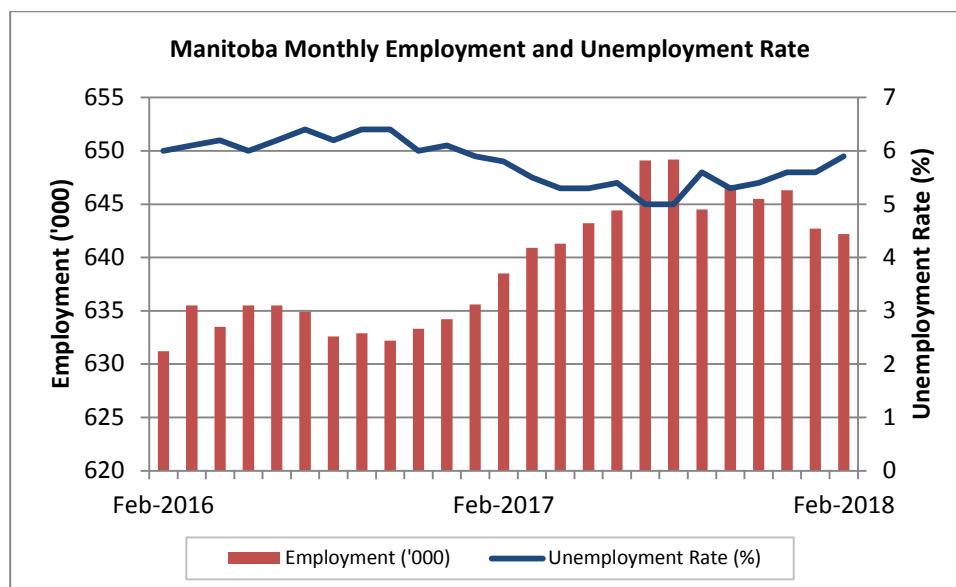
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	February 2018	January 2018	February 2017	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	1,020.4	1,019.5	1,007.4	0.9	0.1	13.0	1.3
Labour Force ('000)	682.2	680.4	677.5	1.8	0.3	4.7	0.7
Employment ('000)	642.2	642.7	638.5	-0.5	-0.1	3.7	0.6
Full-Time ('000)	512.5	512.3	518.3	0.2	0.0	-5.8	-1.1
Part-Time ('000)	129.7	130.4	120.1	-0.7	-0.5	9.6	8.0
Unemployment ('000)	40.1	37.8	39.1	2.3	6.1	1.0	2.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.9	5.6	5.8	0.3	-	0.1	-
Participation Rate (%)	66.9	66.7	67.3	0.2	-	-0.4	-
Employment Rate (%)	62.9	63.0	63.4	-0.1	-	-0.5	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Unemployment

Last month, Manitoba's unemployment rate increased to 5.9%, just above the national unemployment rate of 5.8%. Compared to other the provinces in western Canada, Manitoba continues for a second consecutive month with the third lowest rate, behind British Columbia (4.7%), and Saskatchewan (5.6%).³



The unemployment rate for those aged 15-24 marginally increased for a second consecutive month by 0.3 percentage points to 12.0%. By comparison, the unemployment rate for those aged 25 years and older increased at the same rate of 0.3 percentage points, to 4.7%. Compared to last year, youth unemployment rates improved; decreasing by 0.9 percentage points, as the unemployment rate for young women fell by 1.5 percentage points since February 2017. Year over year changes to Manitoba's unemployment rate were marginally lower than what was seen nationwide; -1.3 percentage points for Canadian youth, and -0.7 percentage points for Canadians 25 years and over.⁴

Manitoba Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	February 2018 (%)	January 2018 (%)	February 2017 (%)	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
				(% points)	(% points)
Total	5.9	5.6	5.8	0.3	0.1
25 years and over	4.7	4.4	4.4	0.3	0.3
Men - 25 years and over	5.1	4.8	4.5	0.3	0.6
Women - 25 years and over	4.2	3.9	4.3	0.3	-0.1
15 to 24 years	12.0	11.7	12.9	0.3	-0.9
Men - 15 to 24 years	14.5	13.8	14.7	0.7	-0.2
Women - 15 to 24 years	9.4	9.2	10.9	0.2	-1.5

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

In February, employment losses in Manitoba's goods-producing (-1,500) sector exceeded growth in the province's service-producing sector (+900). Year over year employment growth within the service-producing sector grew by 1.6%. Compared to the goods-producing sector, the service sector includes some of the largest industries, representing nearly 77% of all employed Manitobans.⁵

Last month, the sector experienced significant employment losses in construction (-1,100), as Manitoba's cold winters often delay construction projects. However the provincial government's 2018 budget is expected to include infrastructure funding similar to last year's, and should help the industry overcome some recent job losses in the near future.⁶

Year over year, employment in the goods-producing sector fell by 4,400, as employment losses were primarily in manufacturing (-4,000), and utilities (-1,700). Over the same period, there was significant growth in agriculture (+3,300). The province's goods-producing sector is on a path for further job losses in the long-run; new housing-starts are expected to decline, several major construction projects are near completion, and mining companies Vale and Hudbay Minerals have planned to reduce their operations in northern Manitoba.^{7, 8, 9}

Last month, health care and social assistance experienced the highest employment gains within the province (+1,300), followed by trade (+1,200). Despite last month's job losses in education (-400), employment in the public sector (health care and social assistance, public administration, and education) represented nearly 29% of all employment within the province. The provincial public service is expected to face further challenges in 2018 as the province works towards reducing its deficit.¹⁰

On a year-over-year basis, the services-producing sector experienced significant growth across the province, with employment increasing by 1.6% (+8,000). Since February 2017, there was strong growth in accommodation and food services (+4,200), followed by health care and social services (+2,400), trade (+2,300), other services (+2,300). However, Manitoba's economy is expected to decline in 2018, and the resulting drop in spending could lead to retailers cutting back on hiring. An additional concern for this industry is the pending Safeway employees strike, effective March 18, 2018.¹¹ Recently, Safeway's parent company Sobeys, closed 10 stores in British Columbia's Lower Mainland due to falling sales and a change in customer's demands.¹²

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	February 2018	January 2018	February 2017	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	642.2	642.7	638.5	-0.5	-0.1	3.7	0.6
Goods-producing sector	149.0	150.5	153.4	-1.5	-1.0	-4.4	-2.9
Agriculture	26.3	25.7	23.0	0.6	2.3	3.3	14.3
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	6.7	6.5	7.5	0.2	3.1	-0.8	-10.7
Utilities	7.7	8.1	9.4	-0.4	-4.9	-1.7	-18.1
Construction	48.0	49.1	48.9	-1.1	-2.2	-0.9	-1.8
Manufacturing	60.5	61.1	64.5	-0.6	-1.0	-4.0	-6.2
Services-producing sector	493.1	492.2	485.1	0.9	0.2	8.0	1.6
Trade	90.6	89.4	88.3	1.2	1.3	2.3	2.6
Transportation and warehousing	36.3	37.5	37.6	-1.2	-3.2	-1.3	-3.5
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	36.6	36.4	38.0	0.2	0.5	-1.4	-3.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	28.8	28.5	28.2	0.3	1.1	0.6	2.1
Business, building and other support services	19.1	20.4	17.6	-1.3	-6.4	1.5	8.5
Educational services	50.6	51.0	50.0	-0.4	-0.8	0.6	1.2
Health care and social assistance	103.3	102.0	100.9	1.3	1.3	2.4	2.4
Information, culture and recreation	21.9	22.7	23.8	-0.8	-3.5	-1.9	-8.0
Accommodation and food services	44.6	43.8	40.4	0.8	1.8	4.2	10.4
Other services	29.6	29.2	27.3	0.4	1.4	2.3	8.4
Public administration	31.8	31.2	33.0	0.6	1.9	-1.2	-3.6

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Within the past year, employment grew within four of Manitoba's six regions. Employment growth was predominant in the Winnipeg region as 4,200 new positions were added. Over the same period, Interlake, and Parklands and North lost 1,700 and 300 positions, respectively. As such, Manitoba's unemployment rate improved marginally to 5.8% since February 2017.

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	February 2018 ('000)	February 2017 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	February 2018 (%)	February 2017 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Manitoba	635.7	628.9	1.1	5.8	6.0	-0.2
Economic Regions						
Southeast	59.5	59.4	0.2	5.6	5.0	0.6
South Central and North Central	55.5	53.4	3.9	3.5	3.1	0.4
Southwest	54.8	52.4	4.6	4.5	5.2	-0.7
Winnipeg	385.8	381.6	1.1	6.6	6.8	-0.2
Interlake	44.6	46.3	-3.7	4.5	5.5	-1.0
Parklands and North	35.5	35.8	-0.8	5.1	5.0	0.1

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Year over year, Winnipeg's economy saw employment increase by 1.1% to 385,800. During the same period the unemployment rate remained relatively unchanged at 6.6%. The sharing economy should soon grow in Winnipeg, as three Canadian ride-sharing companies (TappCar, Cowboy Taxi, and InstaRyde) are now licenced to operate within the city.¹³ The companies currently face no competition from U.S. companies, Lyft and Uber, as they have decided not to operate at this time under Manitoba Public Insurance's insurance coverage plan for ride-sharing drivers.¹⁴

Despite the Conference Board of Canada's expectation that residential construction will decline in 2018, non-residential construction is expected to remain strong with the continuation of existing multi-million dollar projects.¹⁵ In addition to existing projects, the City of Winnipeg recently awarded Stantec Consulting Ltd. a \$2.6 million contract for renovations at the Pan Am Pool later this year.¹⁶ And Siloam Mission recently broke ground on construction of its new overnight shelter which is to be completed by 2020.¹⁷

Employment within South Central and North Central increased by 2,100 within the past year, yet the regional unemployment rate increased marginally by 0.4 percentage points. Last month, the J.R. Simplot Company announced that it would invest \$460 million in expanding its French fry processor plant in Portage la Prairie later this spring.¹⁸

Employment in Parklands and North remained relatively unchanged within the past year, as employment decreased marginally by 300 positions. Churchill continues to wait for repair of the single access rail line as the Government of Canada pursues legal challenges against the Hudson Bay Railway Company.¹⁹ Last month the town received more than \$132,000 in federal funding to help subsidize the cost of gasoline.²⁰

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

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¹ 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 March 9, 2018)

² 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: March 9, 2018)

³ 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 9, 2018)

⁴ 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 March 9, 2018)

⁵ Statistics Canada. Table 282-0088 - Labour Force Survey estimates (LFS), employment by North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), seasonally adjusted and unadjusted, monthly (persons), CANSIM (database). (accessed: March 13, 2018)

⁶ CBC News. Provincial construction budget dips slightly in 2018. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/lake-st-martin-channel-ron-schuler-construction-2018-1.4407152> (November 17, 2017).

⁷ The Conference Board of Canada. Provincial Outlook Economic Forecast: Manitoba – Autumn 2017. Ottawa: the Conference Board of Canada. (accessed: February 9, 2018)

⁸ Thompson Citizen. Vale rep lays all the cards on the table during Thompson's last chamber meeting of 2017. <http://www.thompsoncitizen.net/news/thompson/vale-rep-lays-all-the-cards-on-the-table-during-thompson-s-last-chamber-meeting-of-2017-1.23128110>. (December 20, 2017)

⁹ The Reminder. Hudbay mine closures will mean major reductions at Flin Flon surface operations. <http://www.thereinder.ca/news/local-news/hudbay-mine-closures-will-mean-major-reductions-at-flin-flon-surface-operations-1.8137461> (January 21, 2017).

¹⁰ CBC News. Fiscal restraint will continue as Manitoba works toward balanced budget: Premier. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/manitoba-budget-fiscal-restraint-premier-1.4561597>. (March 4, 2018).

¹¹ CBC News. Union holds strike vote for all Safeway stores in Manitoba. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/ufcw-safeway-1.4528517>. (February 9, 2018)

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- ¹² CBC News. 10 Safeway stores to close in B.C.'s Lower Mainland. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/10-safeway-closures-1.4500761>. (January 23, 2018)
- ¹³ CBC News. Facing new competition from ride-hailing services, Winnipeg taxi companies pledge to improve. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/taxis-ride-hailing-winnipeg-1.4556015>. (March 1, 2018).
- ¹⁴ CBC News. Competition is here' for Uber and Lyft, Pallister government says as 4 other firms play ball with MPI. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/winnipeg-vehicle-for-hire-competition-1.4554266>. (February 27, 2018)
- ¹⁵ Arcand, Alan, and Constantinos Bougas. Metropolitan Outlook 1: Winnipeg—Autumn 2017. Ottawa: The Conference Board of Canada, 2017. (accessed: March 9, 2018)
- ¹⁶ City of Winnipeg. Pam Am Pool Ceiling, Lighting and Public Address System Replacement Project. http://winnipeg.ca/cms/projects/pan_am/pan_am.stm#tab-background. (February 2018).
- ¹⁷ Rollason, Kevin. Winnipeg Free Press. Siloam Mission breaks ground on shelter expansion. February 13, 2018.
- ¹⁸ Government of Manitoba. International food processor announces major expansion of Manitoba operations. <http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=&item=43112>. (February 14, 2018)
- ¹⁹ CBC News. Omnitrax Inc.'s name scratched off federal lawsuit against Churchill railway owners. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/omnitrax-lawsuit-hudson-bay-railway-company-churchill-1.4554450>. (February 27, 2018).
- ²⁰ Government of Canada, Western Economic Diversification. Churchill Residents and Businesses to Benefit from Reduced Gasoline Prices. https://www.canada.ca/en/western-economic-diversification/news/2018/02/churchill_residentsandbusinessesbenefitfromreducedgasolineprice.html. (February 16, 2018).