



Labour Market Bulletin

Manitoba

June 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 grew during the second quarter of 2018 (+5,100), and employment is up 4,800 overall since the same time last year. In the past quarter, full-time employment in Manitoba grew by 7,000, while part-time employment decreased by 1,300. This follows the national trend, as the Canadian economy had a net increase of 43,600 full-time jobs and a loss of 12,400 part-time jobs during the second quarter of 2018.¹

Within the past few months, Canada's trade relationship with the United States (U.S.) has become increasingly uncertain, as North American Free Trade negotiations stalled and signs of a trade war have escalated. On June 1, 2018 the U.S. removed Canada's exemption from its steel (25%) and aluminum (10%) tariffs. And later on July 1, the government of Canada responded with its own tariffs on a variety of U.S. goods, valued at around C\$16.6 billion. A trade war would negatively impact Manitoba, as roughly 64% of its exports in 2017 went to the U.S..²

Already the tariffs are taking a toll across Canada, as a steel manufacturer in Ontario has already laid off employees, while another in Quebec previously laid off staff in March and recently reduced its working hours.^{3,4} Fortunately, the Canadian government will provide up to \$2 billion in financial aid, including \$250 million to improve Canada's aluminum and steel supply chains, and extend Employment Insurance (EI) work-sharing agreements by an additional 38 weeks.^{5,6}

In spite of the increasing risks to the economy, Manitoba's labour force appears to be doing well so far this year. In the past quarter, employment increased in the public sector (+2,500) and in the private sector (+3,100). Self-employment remained relatively unchanged, declining slightly to 92,400.⁷

According to most recent data, the number of EI beneficiaries in Manitoba declined to 15,180 (-3%) in April compared to the same time last year.⁸ Such improvement may be short-lived, as some employers could attempt to control costs from tariffs by reducing their workforce.

Unemployment

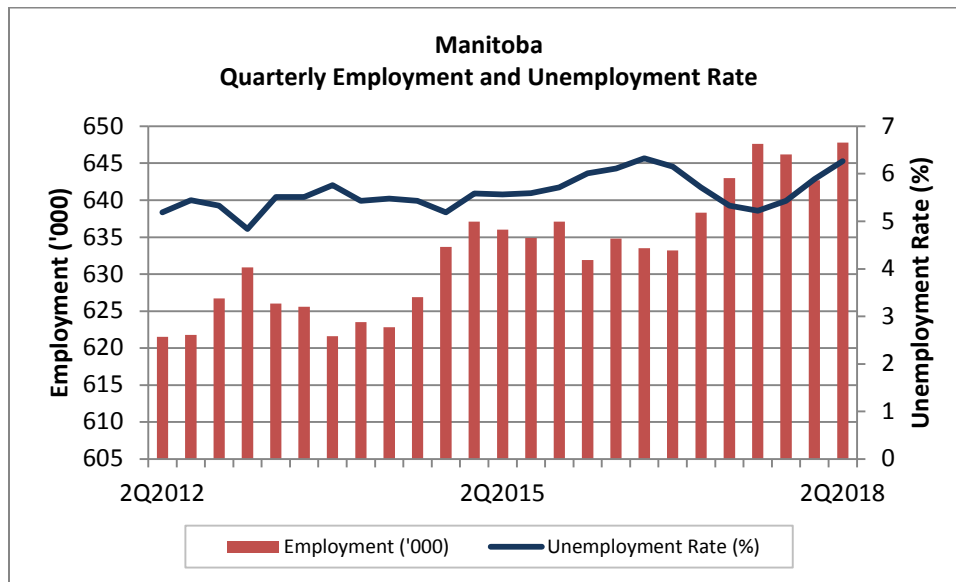
Last quarter, Manitoba's unemployment rate increased to 6.3%, just above the national unemployment rate of 5.9%. Compared to other the provinces in western Canada, Manitoba held the second lowest unemployment rate, behind British Columbia (5.0%).⁹

Manitoba Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Data	2nd Quarter 2018	1st Quarter 2018	2nd Quarter 2017	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	1,023.8	1,020.5	1,011.9	3.3	0.3	11.9	1.2
Labour Force ('000)	691.1	682.8	679.1	8.3	1.2	12.0	1.8
Employment ('000)	647.8	642.7	643.0	5.1	0.8	4.8	0.7
Full-Time ('000)	519.4	512.4	521.2	7.0	1.4	-1.8	-0.3
Part-Time ('000)	128.5	130.2	121.7	-1.7	-1.3	6.8	5.6
Unemployment ('000)	43.3	40.2	36.2	3.1	7.7	7.1	19.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.3	5.9	5.3	0.4	-	1.0	-
Participation Rate (%)	67.5	66.9	67.1	0.6	-	0.4	-
Employment Rate (%)	63.3	63.0	63.5	0.3	-	-0.2	-

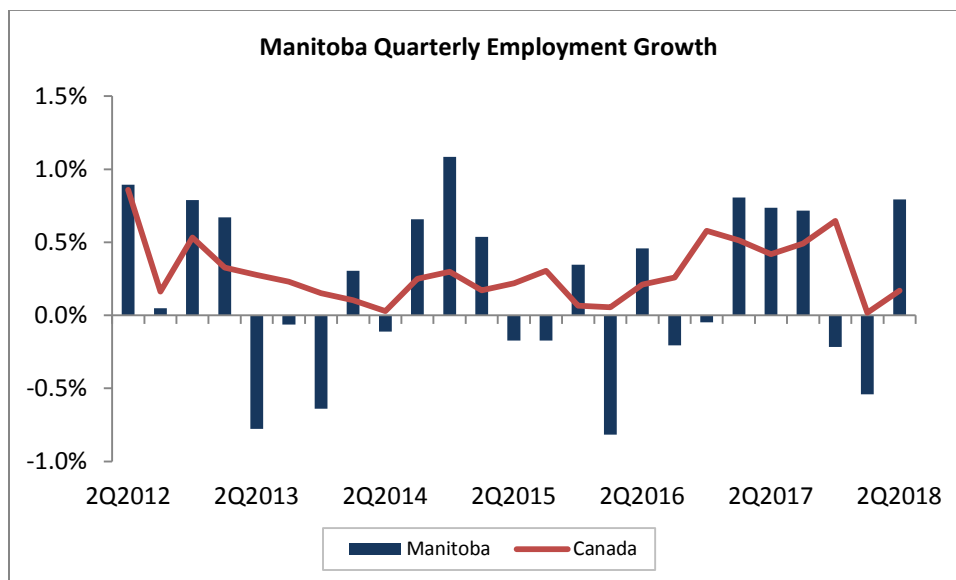
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0287, formerly CANSIM 282-0087



In Manitoba, the unemployment rate of those aged 15-24 increased by 0.3 percentage points this quarter to 12.2%. By comparison, the unemployment rate for those aged 25 years and older increased by 0.4 percentage points to 5.1%. In both cases, their unemployment rates increased as a greater number of people were looking for work.

Since the second quarter of 2017, the youth unemployment rate increased by 1.2 percentage points to 12.2% as the number of unemployed young men increased to 8,300 (+1,800), whereas the number of unemployed young women remained fairly steady at 5,300.¹⁰ During the same period, the unemployment rate for people 25 years and older increased by 0.8 percentage points.



Manitoba Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	2nd Quarter 2018 (%)	1st Quarter 2018 (%)	2nd Quarter 2017 (%)	Quarterly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Total	6.3	5.9	5.3	0.4	1.0
25 years and over	5.1	4.7	4.3	0.4	0.8
Men - 25 years and over	5.4	5.1	4.5	0.3	0.9
Women - 25 years and over	4.8	4.3	4.0	0.5	0.8
15 to 24 years	12.2	11.9	11.0	0.3	1.2
Men - 15 to 24 years	14.4	14.3	11.7	0.1	2.7
Women - 15 to 24 years	9.8	9.1	10.4	0.7	-0.6

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0287, formerly CANSIM 282-0087

Labour market indicators for indigenous people

In the second quarter of 2018, the total population aged 15+ in Manitoba was just over 1.0 million. The Indigenous population living off-reserve accounted for 11.7% of that, or 119,500 people. Compared to the same time last year, employment among Manitoba's Indigenous people increased to 69,800 (+3,100). Employment growth was predominantly in part-time positions (+2,700), as full-time employment remained relatively unchanged (+400).

In the past quarter, the unemployment rate among Manitoba's Indigenous population was 10.4%, a decrease of 1.3 percentage points since the second quarter of 2017. Among the non-Indigenous population, the unemployment rate was 5.6%, an increase of 1.3 percentage points over the same period.

Since the second quarter of 2017, the participation rate of Manitoba's Indigenous people grew by 0.4 percentage points to 65.2% while Manitoba's non-Indigenous population participation rate increased by the same measure to 68.2%. The employment rate for the province's Indigenous people was 58.4%, compared to 64.4% for its non-Indigenous population.

Manitoba - Labour Market Indicators for Indigenous People

3-month moving averages Seasonally unadjusted data	Indigenous		Yearly variation (Indigenous)		Non-Indigenous		Yearly variation (non-Indigenous)	
	Q2 2018	Q2 2017	number	%	Q2 2018	Q2 2017	number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	119.5	116.7	2.8	2.4	904.3	895.1	9.2	1.0
Labour Force ('000)	77.9	75.6	2.3	3.0	616.7	607.2	9.5	1.6
Employment ('000)	69.8	66.7	3.1	4.6	582.3	581.1	1.2	0.2
Full-Time ('000)	55.7	55.3	0.4	0.7	468.4	470.4	-2.0	-0.4
Part-Time ('000)	14.2	11.5	2.7	23.5	114.0	110.7	3.3	3.0
Unemployment ('000)	8.1	8.9	-0.8	-9.0	34.4	26.1	8.3	31.8
Unemployment Rate (%)	10.4	11.7	-1.3	-	5.6	4.3	1.3	-
Participation Rate (%)	65.2	64.8	0.4	-	68.2	67.8	0.4	-
Employment Rate (%)	58.4	57.2	1.2	-	64.4	64.9	-0.5	-

Notes: The Labour Force Survey excludes those living on-reserve.

Estimates are based on three-month moving averages.

Totals may not add due to rounding.

Totals may be different from other tables due to adjustments done to indigenous statistics in the Labour Force Survey.

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – ESDC custom table

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Since the second quarter of 2017, Manitoba's goods producing sector employed 4,500 fewer workers (-2.9%) compared to the same time last year. Since the first quarter of 2017, employment growth was only in agriculture (+3,100), yet these gains were offset by job losses in all the other industries in this sector, most notably construction (-2,700), utilities (-2,300), and manufacturing (-1,900). Looking forward, the goods producing sector is likely to contract further in the coming months. Both manufacturing and construction face mounting pressures due in part to the U.S. placing tariffs of 25% on steel and 10% on aluminum, and increased costs from Canadian counter-tariffs.

In the second quarter of 2018, Manitoba's goods-producing sector remained relatively unchanged (+300). Employment increased in Manufacturing (+2,000) and agriculture (+500). Over the same period, employment declined in construction (-1,600) and in utilities (-600).

Following the discovery of genetically modified wheat in Alberta, Japan and Korea each implemented temporary bans on the sale of Canadian wheat. South Korea's temporary ban was quickly lifted after test results of Canadian wheat and flour were found to be negative.¹¹ At the time of writing this report, Japan continues to enforce its ban on the sales of Canadian wheat until it completes its own testing.¹² In 2017, Manitoba exported over \$10 million in wheat to South Korea and over \$100 million to Japan.¹³

Manitoba's manufacturing industry remains strong. For example, Winnipeg's NewFlyer Industries announced that it was awarded a contract for ten busses from the Toronto Transit Commission, with the option to deliver

an additional 30 buses over the next two years.¹⁴ The company employs over 1,000 people at its Winnipeg facilities.¹⁵

Since the second quarter of 2017, Manitoba's services producing sector employed 9,400 (+1.9%) more people compared to the same time last year. Employment growth was seen in other services (such as machine maintenance workers; +3,500), health care and social assistance (+3,200), educational services (+2,600), and in transportation and warehousing (+1,700). Whereas employment declined in retail and wholesale trade (-3,000), the remainder of service industries were relatively unchanged.

In the second quarter of 2018, employment within the services producing sector grew by 4,900 (+1.0%), despite employment losses in trade (-1,800) and accommodation and food services (-1,500). Even with the decline in accommodation and food services employment, the Conference Board of Canada anticipates the province's GDP will increase by 0.1 to 0.2 per cent this year due in part to increased spending during the Winnipeg Jets recent playoff run.¹⁶

This quarter, employment in other services grew by (1.3%) and should continue to remain strong after StandardAero announced that it was relocating its helicopter engine maintenance services from Richmond, B.C. to Winnipeg. The company plans to invest close to \$7.5 million on retrofitting its current maintenance building and installing new equipment. Additional maintenance workers may be required should the helicopter engine maintenance business prove successful.¹⁷

Manitoba farmers will be happy to hear that the Canadian National Railway is investing \$3.4 billion into its national rail network, including \$130 million in maintaining and expanding its operations in Manitoba. In addition, the company plans to add 1,250 conductors across the country, with nearly 100 working in Winnipeg before the end of the year.^{18,19,20} Earlier this year, farmers across Canada faced financial hardship as the delivery of millions of dollars in grain were delayed by weeks, even months, due to cold weather and increased demand on rail companies for the delivery of oil, minerals, lumber, and shipping containers.²¹

Manitoba Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	2nd Quarter 2018	1st Quarter 2018	2nd Quarter 2017	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	647.9	642.7	643.0	5.2	0.8	4.9	0.8
Goods-producing sector	148.7	148.4	153.2	0.3	0.2	-4.5	-2.9
Agriculture	26.6	26.1	23.5	0.5	1.9	3.1	13.2
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	6.5	6.5	7.2	0.0	0.0	-0.7	-9.7
Utilities	7.1	7.7	9.4	-0.6	-7.8	-2.3	-24.5
Construction	46.2	47.8	48.9	-1.6	-3.3	-2.7	-5.5
Manufacturing	62.4	60.4	64.3	2.0	3.3	-1.9	-3.0
Services-producing sector	499.1	494.2	489.7	4.9	1.0	9.4	1.9
Trade	88.3	90.1	91.3	-1.8	-2.0	-3.0	-3.3
Transportation and warehousing	38.3	36.8	36.6	1.5	4.1	1.7	4.6
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	36.4	36.7	36.8	-0.3	-0.8	-0.4	-1.1
Professional, scientific and technical services	28.0	28.8	28.2	-0.8	-2.8	-0.2	-0.7
Business, building and other support services	19.7	19.4	19.2	0.3	1.5	0.5	2.6
Educational services	52.7	51.1	50.1	1.6	3.1	2.6	5.2
Health care and social assistance	104.8	103.2	101.6	1.6	1.6	3.2	3.1
Information, culture and recreation	24.3	22.5	23.7	1.8	8.0	0.6	2.5
Accommodation and food services	42.6	44.1	42.1	-1.5	-3.4	0.5	1.2
Other services	30.2	29.8	26.7	0.4	1.3	3.5	13.1
Public administration	33.8	31.7	33.4	2.1	6.6	0.4	1.2

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table T14-10-0355, formerly CANSIM 282-0088

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Since the second quarter of 2017, employment grew in all of Manitoba's regions, except Interlake. Over the same period, unemployment rates declined in South Central and North Central, Southwest, and Parklands and North, while increasing in the remainder of the Province.

Manitobans will soon benefit from millions of dollars in investments from two new federal and provincial partnerships. First off, the governments signed onto the new multilateral Housing Partnership Framework, advancing the National Housing Strategy. Manitoba will work with the federal government to address the province's own unique housing needs, such as the preservation and repair of social housing.²²

Secondly, the governments signed a bilateral agreement under the Investing in Canada plan, which will see over \$1.1 billion in long-term federal funding in various infrastructure projects. The agreement is designed to help support economic growth, improve mobility for Manitobans, and combat climate change. Over the next decade, the majority of funding (over \$997 million) will support green infrastructure, and public transit

projects. The rest of the funding (\$173 million) will be allocated to community, culture and recreation infrastructure, and rural and northern communities' infrastructure.²³ Under the first phase of the plan, Infrastructure Canada has approved more than 100 projects in Manitoba, worth over \$325 million.²⁴

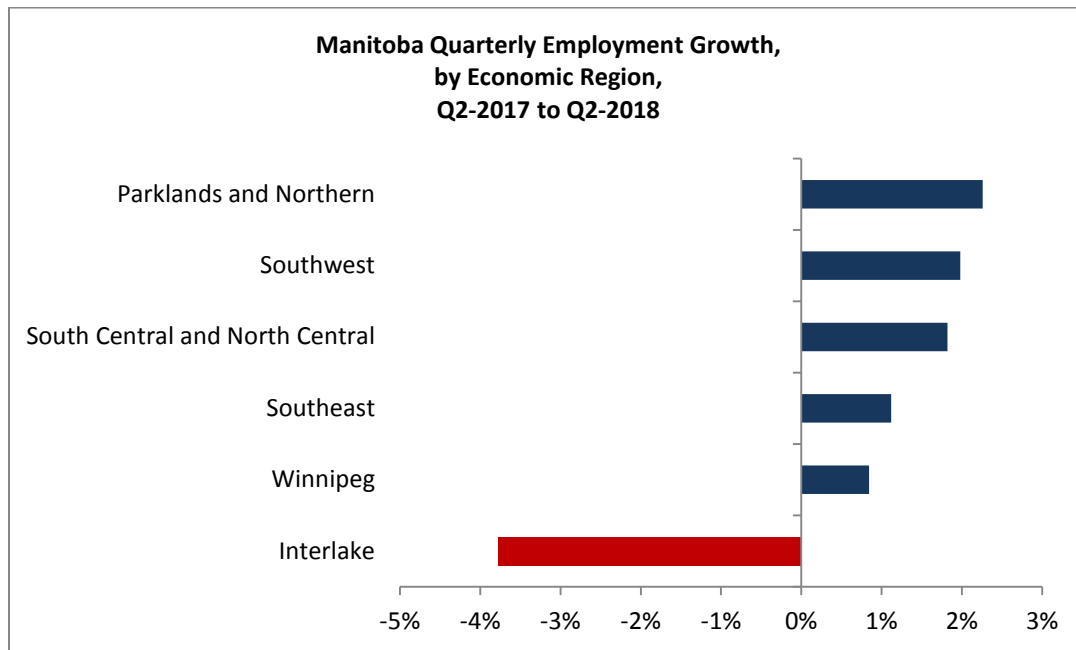
In the private sector, retailers are getting ready as recreational cannabis will become legal across Canada on October 17, 2018.²⁵ Last fall, the provincial government conditionally approved licences for four organizations to sell pot, and details on the number shops to open across the province are now becoming available.²⁶ For instance, Delta 9 will open two stores in Winnipeg, one in Brandon, and another in Thompson.²⁷ Meanwhile, National Access Cannabis Corp. and Hiku Brands Company Ltd. are each expected to operate ten stores across the province.^{28,29} In addition, all three of the aforementioned organizations will offer online retail services.³⁰ At the time of writing this report, details on the number of stores from the fourth organization have not yet been announced.

Manitoba Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

Not Seasonally Adjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	2nd Quarter 2018 ('000)	2nd Quarter 2017 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	2nd Quarter 2018 (%)	2nd Quarter 2017 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Manitoba	652.8	647.7	0.8	6.1	5.1	1.0
Economic Regions						
Southeast	63.2	62.5	1.1	4.8	4.4	0.4
South Central and North Central	56.0	55.0	1.8	3.4	3.7	-0.3
Southwest	56.7	55.6	2.0	3.9	5.8	-1.9
Winnipeg	394.9	391.6	0.8	6.8	5.4	1.4
Interlake	45.8	47.6	-3.8	7.3	3.1	4.2
Parklands and Northern	36.2	35.4	2.3	6.0	6.6	-0.6

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – Table 14-10-0293, formerly CANSIM 282-0122



Since the first quarter of 2017, employment within South Central and North Central increased by 1.8%. Regional employment in construction is likely to grow in the coming months and last until the early months of 2019, as Enbridge begins construction of the Manitoba segment of its Line 3 pipeline. The company announced that up to 800 workers will be working on the pipeline at the height of its construction in the surrounding Morden-Winkler-Altona area.³¹ In the meantime, the City of Portage La Prairie is experiencing its own economic boom as the value of permits issued by the city has surpassed that of 2017.³² The city's growth is due in part to the ongoing construction of the Simplot and Roquette food plants, and that of Meighen Estates.³³

Employment in Southeast grew by 1.1%, while the region's unemployment rate increased by 0.4 percentage points since the second quarter of 2017. With the warm weather of spring, construction ramped up last quarter following an increase in residential and commercial building permits issued by the City of Steinbach.^{34,35}

Employment in Winnipeg increased by 0.8% in the past year, however growth may slow should tariffs with the U.S. persist. For now, construction season is in full swing, as a variety of work has begun across the city. The Hyatt hotel chain is constructing a new Hyatt House hotel, with construction expected to be complete by next summer.³⁶ A new \$27 million equipment-building is being constructed at the James Richardson International airport to support ground handling and cargo companies.³⁷ In addition, the City of Winnipeg is dedicating over \$116 million and targeting over 150 projects towards repairing and maintaining its roads, bridges, back lanes and sidewalks.³⁸

Since the first quarter of 2017, employment in Interlake region declined by 3.8%. Employment in the region should see a boost over the next two years, due to the construction of the permanent flood mitigation channels at Lake St. Martin and Lake Manitoba.³⁹ The federal and Manitoba governments will share costs on the \$540 million project, of which the federal government will fund \$247.5 million through the federal Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund, while the Manitoba government pays the rest.⁴⁰ The flood mitigation channels

are in response to the 2011 and 2014 floods that destroyed several communities in the Interlake, forcing thousands of residents to be evacuated.⁴¹ Some evacuees from the 2011 flood were finally able to return earlier this year following the relocation and rebuilding of several First Nation communities; however, recovery efforts remain ongoing and there are still evacuees in temporary housing.⁴²

Compared to the same period last year, Parklands and North labour market has improved substantially as employment increased by 2.3% and its unemployment rate decreased by 0.6 percentage points. Unfortunately, this robustness may be short-lived since Vale closes its smelter and refinery in Thompson at the end of July.

Uncertainty continues to clouds Churchill's future, as Omnitrax has ended the anticipated sale of its Hudson Bay Railway Line. The company claims that it ended the sale as it was unable to reach an agreement on key issues with the buyers (a consortium comprising of Missinippi Rail Partners, Fairfax Financial Holdings, and AGT Food and Ingredients).⁴³ This announcement came at an unfortunate time, just as the town began rationing propane last received in October. Fortunately, a new shipment arrived ahead of schedule in early July.⁴⁴

Last month, the Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) ruled that Omnitrax had a public duty to restore service, and ordered Omnitrax to begin repairs of the rail line by July 3, 2018. So far, Omnitrax has issued request-for-proposals through its engineering firm AECOM. However, repairs of the rail line may be further delayed, as Omnitrax announced its intent to appeal the CTA order, arguing that it cannot afford the repairs.⁴⁵

Meanwhile, Hudbay Minerals in Flin Flon announced that it will extend the life of its '777' mine until the fourth quarter of 2021. The mine had been scheduled to close in late 2020; however, a reassessment of the mine determined that the reserves could be mined for longer. Analysis of the mine is also being conducted to determine if additional ores can be mined.⁴⁶

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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