



# Labour Market Bulletin

Manitoba

July 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 declined to 646,600 (-3,600) in July, and 2,500 less people were employed compared to the same time last year.<sup>1</sup> In July, full-time employment in Manitoba increased by 3,500 (+0.7%) while part-time employment decreased by 7,000 (-5.4%).<sup>2</sup> Meanwhile, employment in the public sector declined to 158,800 (-2.1%), while the private sector remained relatively unchanged at 395,300 (+0.1%). Self-employment declined to 92,600 (-0.6%).<sup>3</sup>

According to most recent data, the value of Manitoba's total exports to the U.S. increased to \$1.06 billion (+4.3%) in June, compared to \$1.01 billion in May, even though Canada was subject to U.S. tariffs on steel (25%) and aluminum (10%). Over the same period, Manitoba's total imports from the United States (U.S.) declined to \$1.54 billion (-2.8%).<sup>4</sup> On July 1, Canada responded with its own tariffs on a variety of U.S. goods, valued at around C\$16.6 billion. Despite this slight contraction in Manitoba's trade deficit with the U.S., the tariffs may soon impact consumer spending, as some food and beverage companies are likely to increase their prices to counter the tariffs on aluminum.<sup>5,6</sup>

### Unemployment

In July, Manitoba's unemployment rate remained relatively steady at 6.0%. However, Manitoba's economy still faces uncertainty as several mining operations in northern Manitoba have ended, North American Free Trade Agreement negotiations remain ongoing, and the full impact of the trade war between Canada and the U.S., particularly in regards to tariffs on steel, has yet to be seen. In addition, Canada is now facing further global trade challenges as the U.S. escalates its trade war with China. For instance, China's retaliatory tariffs against

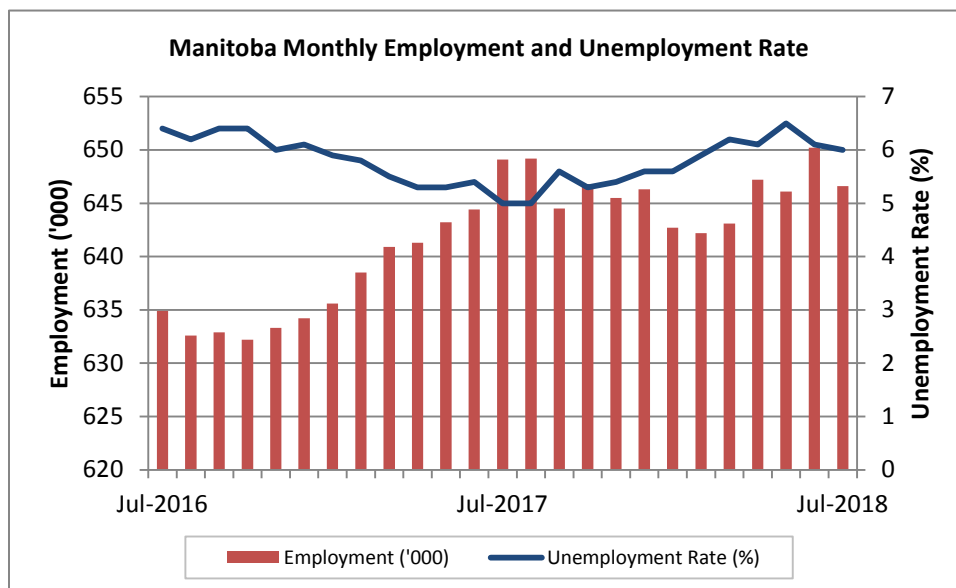
the U.S. are negatively impacting Manitoba’s agriculture industry by depreciating North American soy and pork prices as both industries are strongly tied across the continent.<sup>7,8,9</sup>

**Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics**

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	July 2018	June 2018	July 2017	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	1,026.0	1,025.0	1,014.6	1.0	0.1	11.4	1.1
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	687.8	692.8	683.3	-5.0	-0.7	4.5	0.7
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	646.6	650.2	649.1	-3.6	-0.6	-2.5	-0.4
Full-Time ('000)	524.5	521.0	525.1	3.5	0.7	-0.6	-0.1
Part-Time ('000)	122.2	129.2	124.1	-7.0	-5.4	-1.9	-1.5
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	41.2	42.6	34.2	-1.4	-3.3	7.0	20.5
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	6.0	6.1	5.0	-0.1	-	1.0	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	67.0	67.6	67.3	-0.6	-	-0.3	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	63.0	63.4	64.0	-0.4	-	-1.0	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada – Table 14-10-0287-01, formerly CANSIM 282-0087



On a month-over-month basis, the unemployment rate for Manitoba youth (ages 15-24 years) declined by 0.7 percentage points to 11.1%. In comparison, the unemployment rate for those aged 25 years and older remained relatively unchanged at 5.0%, although their rate is up from a year ago (+1.2 percentage points).

The youth unemployment rate is about the same as it was in July of 2017, down by 0.1 percentage points from 11.2%. During this time, the number of unemployed young men decreased to 11,600 (-1,300), whereas the number of unemployed young women increased to 10,500 (+1,300).<sup>10</sup>

**Manitoba Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age**

Seasonally Adjusted Data	July 2018	June 2018	July 2017	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	6.0	6.1	5.0	-0.1	1.0
<b>25 years and over</b>	5.0	5.1	3.8	-0.1	1.2
Men - 25 years and over	5.4	5.1	3.9	0.3	1.5
Women - 25 years and over	4.6	5.0	3.7	-0.4	0.9
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	11.1	11.8	11.2	-0.7	-0.1
Men - 15 to 24 years	11.6	13.1	12.9	-1.5	-1.3
Women - 15 to 24 years	10.5	10.2	9.2	0.3	1.3

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

**EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY**

Manitoba's goods-producing sector employed 5,700 fewer (-3.8%) workers compared to the same time last year. The employment losses were predominantly in construction (-2,300), manufacturing (-2,000), and utilities (-1,600). Over the same period, agriculture increased by 800.

With the recent trade war between China and the U.S., Manitoba's agriculture industry is already showing signs of being negatively impacted, particularly soy bean farmers. In July, China placed a retaliatory tariff of 25% on American soybeans, putting downward pressure on global soybean prices and especially the price across North America.<sup>11</sup> In 2017, Canada exported 1,964,728 metric tonnes of soybeans to China, followed by the U.S. (467,877 metric tonnes) and Japan (351,702 metric tonnes).<sup>12</sup> It is possible increased exports to China could offset the lower prices created by an overabundance of soybeans in the U.S.;<sup>13</sup> however, the U.S. Agriculture Department will provide American farmers access to a \$12 billion U.S. aid package, due to tariffs placed on U.S. products.<sup>14,15</sup> Since 2011, soybean production in Manitoba has grown from 413,700 to 2,245,300 metric tonnes in 2017.<sup>16</sup> In 2017, Canada exported over \$995 million in soya beans to China; almost 40% was from Manitoba (\$391.4 million).<sup>17</sup>

The construction industry may get a boost before the end of the year, as new non-residential construction projects are set to get underway, such as the Manitoba portion of Enbridge's Line 3 pipeline in Southern Manitoba, Red River College's Innovation Centre in Winnipeg, and an 80 acre industrial park at Winnipeg's CentrePort.<sup>18,19,20</sup>

In July, employment in the goods-producing sector decreased due in part to significant employment losses in construction (-2,100) and in agriculture (-1,600). Employment also decreased in forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas (-400). Manufacturing increased slightly (+600); employment in utilities was unchanged (+100).

Compared to July 2017, employment within the services-producing sector grew across the province by 3,200 (+0.6%). Employment grew predominantly in transportation and warehousing (+3,900), healthcare and social assistance (+3,800), and in other services (+3,600). Over the same period, employment decreased significantly in educational services (-6,500) and trade (-3,400)

On the month, employment growth was led by job gains in healthcare and social assistance (+1,300), transportation and warehousing (+800), and professional, scientific, and technical services (+800). Nonetheless, the job gains were offset by losses primarily from the educational services (-2,300) and information, culture, and recreation (-900).

### Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	July 2018	June 2018	July 2017	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	646.7	650.2	649.1	-3.5	-0.5	-2.4	-0.4
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	146.2	149.4	151.9	-3.2	-2.1	-5.7	-3.8
Agriculture	24.6	26.2	23.8	-1.6	-6.1	0.8	3.4
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	6.1	6.5	6.8	-0.4	-6.2	-0.7	-10.3
Utilities	7.1	7.0	8.7	0.1	1.4	-1.6	-18.4
Construction	45.6	47.7	47.9	-2.1	-4.4	-2.3	-4.8
Manufacturing	62.7	62.1	64.7	0.6	1.0	-2.0	-3.1
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	500.4	500.7	497.2	-0.3	-0.1	3.2	0.6
Trade	87.9	87.6	91.3	0.3	0.3	-3.4	-3.7
Transportation and warehousing	39.9	39.1	36.0	0.8	2.0	3.9	10.8
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	36.2	36.4	36.7	-0.2	-0.5	-0.5	-1.4
Professional, scientific and technical services	28.3	27.5	27.7	0.8	2.9	0.6	2.2
Business, building and other support services	20.2	20.5	20.6	-0.3	-1.5	-0.4	-1.9
Educational services	50.2	52.5	56.7	-2.3	-4.4	-6.5	-11.5
Health care and social assistance	105.3	104.0	101.5	1.3	1.3	3.8	3.7
Information, culture and recreation	24.0	24.9	24.6	-0.9	-3.6	-0.6	-2.4
Accommodation and food services	43.5	43.4	42.4	0.1	0.2	1.1	2.6
Other services	30.7	30.3	27.1	0.4	1.3	3.6	13.3
Public administration	34.3	34.4	32.6	-0.1	-0.3	1.7	5.2

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada – Table 14-10-0355, formerly CANSIM 282-0088

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Within the past year, employment grew in three of Manitoba's six economic regions. Employment growth in the province was led by Winnipeg with 3,100 jobs created, followed by Southwest (+800), and Southeast (+300).

In July, Manitobans were shocked by the sudden announcement that Greyhound Canada would cease all operations in Western Canada effective October 1, 2018. Greyhound's departure is due in part to a 41% decline in ridership since 2010, compounded by the company running an operating deficit in Western Canada since 2004.<sup>21</sup> Greyhound's departure from Manitoba will affect 64 employees, and negatively impact remote and rural communities where residents require affordable and reliable transportation.<sup>22</sup>

Manitoba's recreational cannabis sector still has room to grow, as the provincial government issued a request for pre-qualifications for new retail cannabis stores. The province wants to eliminate the black market within

the next two years, by providing up to 90% of Manitobans with quick and easy access to legal cannabis. Earlier this year the province approved four organizations to operate over 30 retail cannabis stores across the province.<sup>23</sup>

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

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	July 2018 ('000)	July 2017 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	July 2018 (%)	July 2017 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Manitoba</b>	655.9	654.2	0.3	6.1	5.2	0.9
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Southeast	64.0	63.7	0.5	4.6	3.5	1.1
South Central and North Central	55.4	55.9	-0.9	4.2	3.5	0.7
Southwest	56.7	55.9	1.4	4.2	5.4	-1.2
Winnipeg	398.6	395.5	0.8	6.9	5.7	1.2
Interlake	46.1	47.7	-3.4	6.3	3.4	2.9
Parklands and Northern	35.1	35.5	-1.1	4.9	6.3	-1.4

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Between July 2017 and July 2018, Winnipeg saw employment increase by 0.8%. Over the same period, the unemployment rate grew 1.2 percentage points to 6.9%. Nonetheless, new construction projects were announced, including a new \$26 million industrial park in CentrePort, Red River College's \$95 million Innovation Centre, and \$3.9 million in renovations at the St. James Civic Center.<sup>24,25,26</sup>

Employment within Southwest grew 1.4%, and its unemployment rate decreased by 1.2 percentage points. Employment within the region is likely to improve in the short-term, as construction on Enbridge's Line 3 replacement pipeline in Manitoba is expected to commence this August. Around 2,000 workers are expected to be employed on the pipeline until completion at the end of the year. Within Manitoba, construction will take place on three sections of the pipeline that run through the Southwest and South Central regions, with 600 to 800 people employed on each section.<sup>27,28,29</sup> Just this July, Enbridge awarded the SA Energy Group a \$282 million contract to construct portions of the Manitoba section of the pipeline.<sup>30</sup>

Within the past year, employment declined by 0.9% in South Central and North Central, as its unemployment rate increased by 0.7 percentage points to 4.2%. Despite the slight economic decline in the region, new hotels are to be constructed, including a Best Western in Morden and a \$10 million Wyndham Microtel Inn and Suites on Long Plain First Nation's urban reserve outside of Portage La Prairie.<sup>31,32</sup> Construction is likely to remain strong within the region, as the city of Winkler issued 34 permits in June, along with 15 in neighbouring Morden.<sup>33</sup>

Employment within Interlake declined by 3.4% as its unemployment rate increased by 2.9 percentage points to 6.3%. In July, the federal government announced that it will invest \$5.6 million into an infrastructure project at the Central Manitoba Railway Pine Falls Subdivision. The investment will improve the transportation of goods from the Canadian National's Symington Yard in Winnipeg to the Imperial Oil terminal at Birds Hill. CANDO Rail Services, owner of the rail line, will match the federal investment, for a combined total of over \$11 million in

upgrades and supporting infrastructure. Construction is anticipated to begin this fall, and create around 100 jobs.<sup>34,35</sup>

Compared to July 2017, employment in Parklands and North declined by 1.1% and the unemployment rate decreased by 1.4 percentage points. On July 31, Vale ceased its smelting and refining operations, as 127 workers lost their jobs. However, 34 workers have been retained until the end of the year.<sup>36</sup> Simultaneously, Hudbay Minerals closed its Reed mine near Flin Flon, but fortunately, the 40 full-time workers are reported to have been reassigned to the company's other operations either in Flin Flon or Snow Lake.<sup>37</sup>

**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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<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0287-01 Labour force characteristics, monthly, seasonally adjusted and trend-cycle, last 5 months accessed August 10, 2018 <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1410028701>

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