



Labour Market Bulletin

Manitoba

September 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 increased by 400 in the third quarter of 2018 compared to the same period in 2017. Between the second and third quarter of 2018, employment stayed about the same, as growth in full-time employment (+3,100) was offset by losses in part-time employment (-3,000).¹

In the past quarter, North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) negotiations were closely followed in Manitoba as a prolonged trade war would have hurt the province's economy, as close to C\$9 billion of goods were exported to the U.S. in 2017.² The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) was reached by Canada, the United States and Mexico in September,³ and while the agreement reinforces the strong economic ties between the countries, the U.S. will gain new market access to the Canadian agriculture industry which could potentially hurt the Manitoba labour market (e.g. dairy sector).

Manitoba's farmers continue to feel the negative impacts of America's trade policies. In the past few months, the U.S. escalated its trade war with China, thereby disrupting global agriculture prices. China's retaliatory tariffs on U.S. soybeans and pork has led to prices to decline in North America, and this in turn has hurt Manitoba's soybean and pig farmers.

In spite of the increased risks to the economy, Manitoba's labour force appears to be doing well so far this year, although the third quarter of 2018 showed signs of slowing down. Between the second and third quarter of 2018, employment increased in the private sector (+1,700) and marginally in the public sector (+100). While self-employment declined to 91,000 (-1,400) this quarter, it still grew by 3,600 since the same time last year.⁴

According to most recent data, the number of regular Employment Insurance (EI) beneficiaries in Manitoba soared to 17,900 in July, an increase of +18.2% when compared to the month of June (15,140).⁵ Such an increase may be short-lived, as it is likely that a large portion of the beneficiaries are from the education services industry that just finished working in the previous school year. A similar trend was seen in July 2017, when the monthly increase in Manitoba’s EI beneficiaries was 16.6%.⁶

Unemployment

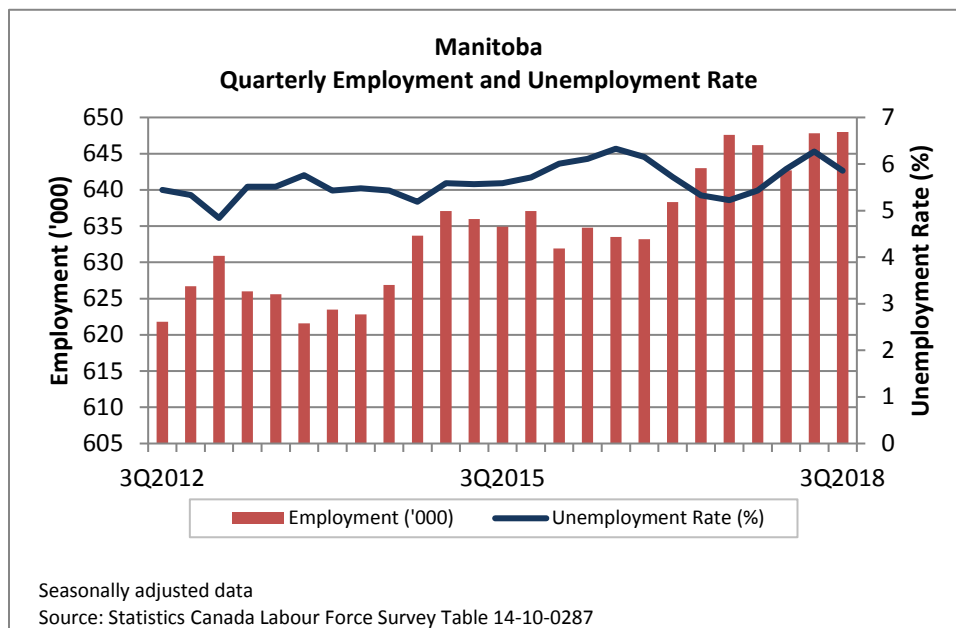
In the third quarter of 2018, Manitoba’s unemployment rate decreased to 5.9%, on par with the national rate. Compared to other the provinces in western Canada, Manitoba held the second lowest unemployment rate, behind British Columbia (4.8%).⁷

Manitoba Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally adjusted data	3rd Quarter 2018	2nd Quarter 2018	3rd Quarter 2017	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	1,026.6	1,023.8	1,015.7	2.8	0.3	10.9	1.1
Labour Force ('000)	688.2	691.1	683.3	-2.9	-0.4	4.9	0.7
Employment ('000)	648.0	647.8	647.6	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.1
Full-Time ('000)	522.5	519.4	521.4	3.1	0.6	1.1	0.2
Part-Time ('000)	125.5	128.5	126.3	-3.0	-2.3	-0.8	-0.6
Unemployment ('000)	40.3	43.3	35.7	-3.0	-6.9	4.6	12.9
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.9	6.3	5.2	-0.4	-	0.7	-
Participation Rate (%)	67.0	67.5	67.3	-0.5	-	-0.3	-
Employment Rate (%)	63.1	63.3	63.8	-0.2	-	-0.7	-

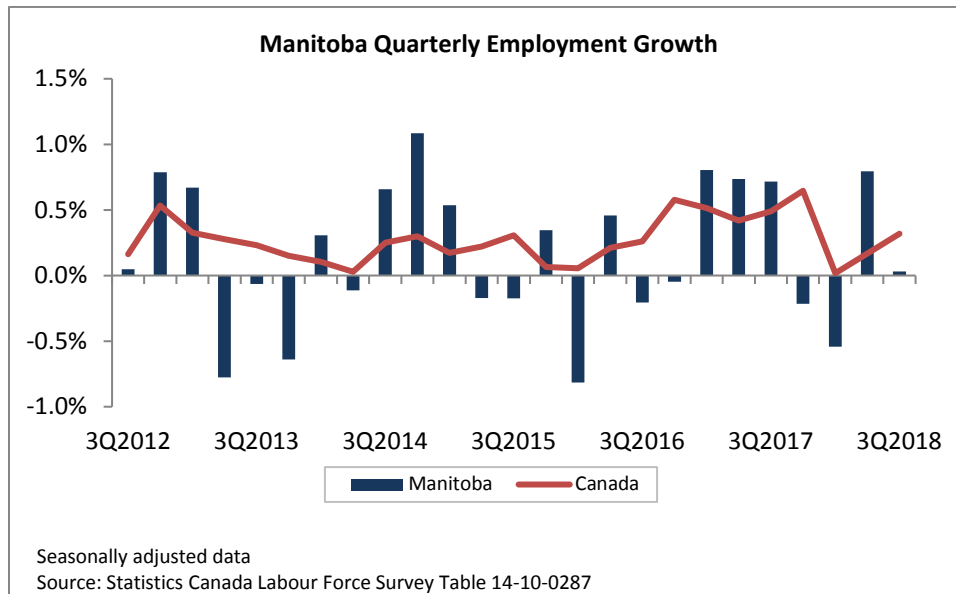
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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



In the third quarter of 2018, the unemployment rate of Manitoba’s youth (aged 15-24) decreased by 1.3 percentage points to 10.9%. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate for Manitobans aged 25 years and older decreased by 0.2 percentage point to 4.9%. These decreases reflect of an overall drop in the number of people who were unemployed.

Since the third quarter of 2017, the youth unemployment rate decreased by 0.6 percentage point to 10.9% as the number of unemployed young men decreased to 6,900 (-300), and the number of unemployed young women decreased to 5,000 (-400).⁸ During the same period, the unemployment rate for people 25 years and older increased by 0.9 percentage points to 4.9%.



Manitoba Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally adjusted data	3rd Quarter 2018 (%)	2nd Quarter 2018 (%)	3rd Quarter 2017 (%)	Quarterly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
	Total	5.9	6.3	5.2	-0.4
25 years and over	4.9	5.1	4.0	-0.2	0.9
Men - 25 years and over	5.2	5.4	4.1	-0.2	1.1
Women - 25 years and over	4.5	4.8	3.9	-0.3	0.6
15 to 24 years	10.9	12.2	11.5	-1.3	-0.6
Men - 15 to 24 years	12.3	14.4	12.7	-2.1	-0.4
Women - 15 to 24 years	9.4	9.8	10.2	-0.4	-0.8

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 third 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 120,200 people. Compared to the same time last year, employment among Manitoba's Indigenous people increased to 71,100 (+2,700). Employment growth was observed in full-time positions (+4,400), which was slightly offset by decreases in part-time employment (-1,700).

The unemployment rate among Manitoba's Indigenous population was 10.2% in the third quarter of 2018, an increase of 0.4 percentage point since the third quarter of 2017. Among the non-Indigenous population, the unemployment rate was 5.7%, an increase of 0.6 percentage points over the same period.

Since the third quarter of 2017, the participation rate of Manitoba's Indigenous people grew by 1.4 percentage points to 65.9% while Manitoba's non-Indigenous population participation rate decreased by 0.6 percentage points to 67.9%. The employment rate for the province's Indigenous people was 59.1%, compared to 64.0% 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)	
	Q3 2018	Q3 2017	number	%	Q3 2018	Q3 2017	number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	120.2	117.4	2.8	2.4	906.4	898.4	8.0	0.9
Labour Force ('000)	79.1	75.8	3.3	4.4	615.2	615.4	-0.2	0.0
Employment ('000)	71.1	68.4	2.7	3.9	580.2	584.0	-3.8	-0.7
Full-Time ('000)	60.5	56.1	4.4	7.8	475.5	479.1	-3.6	-0.8
Part-Time ('000)	10.6	12.3	-1.7	-13.8	104.7	104.9	-0.2	-0.2
Unemployment ('000)	8.1	7.4	0.7	9.5	34.9	31.4	3.5	11.1
Unemployment Rate (%)	10.2	9.8	0.4	-	5.7	5.1	0.6	-
Participation Rate (%)	65.9	64.5	1.4	-	67.9	68.5	-0.6	-
Employment Rate (%)	59.1	58.2	0.9	-	64.0	65.0	-1.0	-

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

In the third quarter of 2018, Manitoba's goods-producing sector employed 5,800 fewer workers (-3.8%) compared to the same time last year. Employment growth was only seen in the agriculture industry (+700), which was more than offset by job losses in manufacturing (-3,000), construction (-2,100), and utilities (-1,400).

Manufacturing and construction continue to face mounting pressures due in part to the U.S. placing tariffs of 25% on steel and 10% on aluminum, and increased costs from Canada retaliatory tariffs. Since the third quarter of 2017, Manitoba's manufacturing industry has weakened as employment declined to 61,700. The industry could see further declines in the coming months, as uncertainty still remains around tariffs in the trade negotiations with the U.S.

The Conference Board of Canada anticipates Manitoba's agriculture industry will not repeat last year's success, as real agriculture output this year is expected to only grow at a rate of 2.0%.⁹ This season has been particularly challenging for Manitoba's farmers, as persistent dry weather conditions threatened livestock and crop yields, Japan and South Korea temporarily banned the sale of Canadian wheat, pork and soybean prices have declined due to global trade disputes, and Canada's supply management system faces threats from USMCA.^{10,11,12,13,14,15}

In the third quarter of 2018, Manitoba's goods-producing sector fell to 146,000 (-2,700) compared to the previous quarter as employment remained constant or dipped in each respective industry. The decreases occurred in agriculture (-1,600), manufacturing (-700) and construction (-500).

Manitoba's mining industry continues to decline as two mining operations closed in Northern Manitoba this quarter, including Hudbay's Reed Mine in Flin Flon and Vale's smelter and refinery in Thompson. In addition, an undisclosed number of non-union positions were cut at Vale's Thompson operations.^{16,17,18} Despite ongoing mining exploration across the region, no new mines are anticipated to open in the next few years.

In the third quarter of 2018, Manitoba's manufacturing industry declined (-1.1%) compared to the previous quarter. However, Winnipeg's diverse manufacturing industry remains strong, for instance Winnipeg-based NewFlyer was awarded a few contracts for new buses, and Canada Goose opened its third manufacturing facility in Winnipeg, and is expected to create over 700 jobs.¹⁹

Looking forward, the newly announced USMCA, while reinforcing economic ties between Canada, the U.S. and Mexico, could have negative impacts on certain Manitoban industries.²⁰ For instance, the U.S. will gain new market access to the Canadian agriculture industry (e.g. dairy) which could hurt the labour market. Meanwhile, free trade agreements with Korea, Europe, and the anticipated Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership are expected to cushion some of the impact by opening up new markets in these countries

In the third quarter of 2018, Manitoba's services-producing sector employed 6,200 additional people (+1.3%) compared to the same time last year. Employment growth was most prominent in health care and social assistance (+3,900), transportation and warehousing (+3,400), and other services (+3,100). These increases were tempered by decreases most notably in trade (-3,200) and educational services (-2,400).

Employment within the services-producing sector grew by 2,900 (+0.6%) in the third quarter of 2018 compared to the previous quarter, mainly attributed to employment gains in transportation and warehousing (+1,700), business, building and other support services (+1,600) and public administration (+1,100). The largest employment losses occurred in educational services (-1,400) and finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (-800).

Manitoba Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally adjusted data ('000)	3rd Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
	2018	2018	2017	Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	648.0	647.9	647.6	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.1
Goods-producing sector	146.0	148.7	151.8	-2.7	-1.8	-5.8	-3.8
Agriculture	25.0	26.6	24.3	-1.6	-6.0	0.7	2.9
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	6.5	6.5	6.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Utilities	7.1	7.1	8.5	0.0	0.0	-1.4	-16.5
Construction	45.7	46.2	47.8	-0.5	-1.1	-2.1	-4.4
Manufacturing	61.7	62.4	64.7	-0.7	-1.1	-3.0	-4.6
Services-producing sector	502.0	499.1	495.8	2.9	0.6	6.2	1.3
Trade	88.4	88.3	91.6	0.1	0.1	-3.2	-3.5
Transportation and warehousing	40.0	38.3	36.6	1.7	4.4	3.4	9.3
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	35.6	36.4	37.1	-0.8	-2.2	-1.5	-4.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	28.3	28.0	27.8	0.3	1.1	0.5	1.8
Business, building and other support services	21.3	19.7	20.5	1.6	8.1	0.8	3.9
Educational services	51.3	52.7	53.7	-1.4	-2.7	-2.4	-4.5
Health care and social assistance	105.6	104.8	101.7	0.8	0.8	3.9	3.8
Information, culture and recreation	23.6	24.3	24.2	-0.7	-2.9	-0.6	-2.5
Accommodation and food services	42.4	42.6	42.6	-0.2	-0.5	-0.2	-0.5
Other services	30.6	30.2	27.5	0.4	1.3	3.1	11.3
Public administration	34.9	33.8	32.5	1.1	3.3	2.4	7.4

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Between the third quarter of 2017 and the third quarter of 2018, employment decreased in four of Manitoba's economic regions (South Central and North Central, Parklands and Northern, Interlake, and Southwest) while it increased in the remaining two (Winnipeg and Southeast).

This past quarter, the provincial government has made major investments in support of Manitobans. Significant funding included a \$380 million contract with Bell Mobility to replace the provincial FleetNet emergency system; an additional \$3.7 million in grant funding for community development projects; \$5.4 million to support hundreds of community Green Team projects; \$54 million in public school infrastructure upgrades; and nearly \$10 million in upgrades to health care facilities.^{21,22,23,24,25}

In September, the province of Manitoba and state of Indiana signed a memorandum of understanding to promote co-operation in agriculture research, trade, investment, and youth leadership. Under the agreement, both regions will share common priorities and strengths within the agriculture industry. In 2017, the regions generated over \$1.1 billion in two-way trade, including \$911 million in imports from Indiana.^{26,27}

The federal government made two significant announcements regarding Indigenous program funding. First, over the next ten years, roughly \$1.7 billion will be invested in funding Indigenous child-care initiatives, including \$112 million towards the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF).²⁸ Secondly, \$154 million will be committed to helping the MMF develop a plan towards self-government.²⁹

Effective October 1, 2018, Greyhound Canada will cease all operations in Western Canada. The announcement was made in July, as Greyhound Canada continued to experience financial challenges across the region. Since 2004, the company has been running an operating deficit in Western Canada and ridership declined by 41% as of 2010.³⁰ Greyhound's departure from Manitoba will affect 64 employees, and hurt remote and rural communities where residents require affordable and reliable transportation.³¹

Manitoba Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

Seasonally unadjusted data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	3rd Quarter 2018 ('000)	3rd Quarter 2017 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	3rd Quarter 2018 (%)	3rd Quarter 2017 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Manitoba	651.7	652.1	-0.1	6.2	5.6	0.6
Economic Regions						
Southeast	64.0	63.6	0.6	4.3	3.3	1.0
South Central and North Central	54.2	58.0	-6.6	4.6	4.0	0.6
Southwest	56.0	56.2	-0.4	4.6	5.9	-1.3
Winnipeg	399.8	392.5	1.9	6.9	6.4	0.5
Interlake	45.4	46.6	-2.6	6.0	4.1	1.9
Parklands and Northern	32.4	35.2	-8.0	6.1	4.6	1.5

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Since the third quarter of 2017, employment within Southwest decreased by 0.4%. However, regional employment in construction could 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 estimates that the project will create more than 3,000 temporary full-time jobs across Southern Manitoba and add \$392 million Manitoba's economy during its construction.³²

Employment in Winnipeg grew by 1.9% in the past year, although growth may be tempered by ongoing U.S. tariffs. Despite this uncertainty, designer winter clothing manufacturer Canada Goose announced its third manufacturing facility in Winnipeg, and is expected to create over 700 jobs over the next three years.^{33,34}

As winter approaches, Winnipeg's construction season will soon be winding down; however, non-residential construction remains steady. Progress continues on developing the True North Square as its plaza was opened to the public late September. And following the opening of the first tower in June, the second residential tower

at True North is expected to be finished next spring, with the third and fourth towers, the Sutton Place Hotel and Residences to be completed in 2021.³⁵ Across the city, Freightliner Manitoba and Canada West Limited announced new plans for state-of-the-art facilities at Centreport Canada. Freightliner will be moving into a new facility in 2020. Whereas Canada West, along with its partner, will invest \$60 million to build eight buildings. Canada West will commence construction of its first building soon, with an expected opening date in June 2019.³⁶

Since the third quarter of 2017, employment in the Interlake region declined by 2.6% as the unemployment rate increased by 1.9 percentage points. Despite this, employment in agriculture has shown increases in recent months as harvesting within the region progresses. Crop yields within the region vary, as the region experienced insufficient rainfall earlier in the third quarter. As such, the region is in dire need of rainfall as soil conditions and most dugouts remain dry.³⁷

This August, the federal and provincial governments announced the completion of the \$49.5 million housing project that built 190 homes in the new Lake St. Martin community. Work continues on another 130 homes and they are expected to be completed by November 2019.³⁸ This September, the Lake St. Martin First Nation also held a grand opening for its new \$25.6 million Kindergarten to Grade 12 school.³⁹ It has been years since members of the Lake St. Martin First Nation were able to return to their community following the devastating flood of 2011. In 2011, several First Nation communities were destroyed by the flooding, forcing the evacuation of thousands of people.

Compared to the same period last year, employment in Parklands and North decreased by 8.0%, and the unemployment rate increased by 1.5 percentage points. Within the region, mining operations have been reducing activity. Mining company Hudbay Minerals closed its Reed Mine in Flin Flon; fortunately, no jobs were lost as workers were reassigned to alternative operations.⁴⁰ However, mining company Vale closed its smelter and refinery in Thompson at the end of July, laying off 129 workers. Vale would later cut an undisclosed number of non-union positions at its Thompson operations.^{41,42} Even though mining exploration continues across the region, no new mine openings are anticipated in the next few years.

The Arctic Gateway Group Limited Partnership is now the new owner of the rail line to Churchill's port, as the consortium finalized the purchase from Omnitrax at the end of August. Last year flooding destroyed the rail line to town, leaving roughly 900 residents with limited access to the outside world. Time is now of the essence, as the partnership attempts to restore services to Churchill before winter.⁴³



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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