

# Labour Market Bulletin

Manitoba

December 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 in Manitoba grew to 651,900 (+3,900) between the third and fourth quarter. Full-time employment led overall employment growth, increasing by 5,600; while part-time employment declined by 1,700. Year-over-year, an additional 5,700 people were employed. Between the third and fourth quarter, employment in the public sector grew to around 164,200 (+1,400), while the private sector increased to about 394,200 (+1,700). Self-employment remained relatively stable at around 91,700 (+700) in the fourth quarter.

Manitoba's economic outlook appears healthier as Canada made progress on two major international trade deals, the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) and the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). On November 30, all three North American countries signed onto the CUSMA. Though the signing has alleviated some uncertainty surrounding trade with Manitoba's largest trading partner, the U.S., both Canada and its southern neighbour continue to enforce their respective tariffs against each other. <sup>4,5,6</sup> On December 30, the CPTPP trade deal went into force. Under the CPTPP, Manitoba now benefits from a wide range of tariff cuts and gains preferential market access with other CPTPP members. <sup>7</sup>

Despite the aforementioned challenges, Manitoba's economy remains steady. According to the Conference Board of Canada (CBOC), Manitoba's quarterly GDP market prices were forecast to grow by 0.8%, 0.9%, 1.1%, and 0.5% from the first to the fourth quarter of 2018.8 However, such growth may be short-lived, as the CBOC anticipates Manitoba's Real GDP growth to decline in the next few years, due in part to the completion of major construction projects (e.g. Keeyask hydroelectric generating station) and the province's declining mining industry. <sup>9</sup>



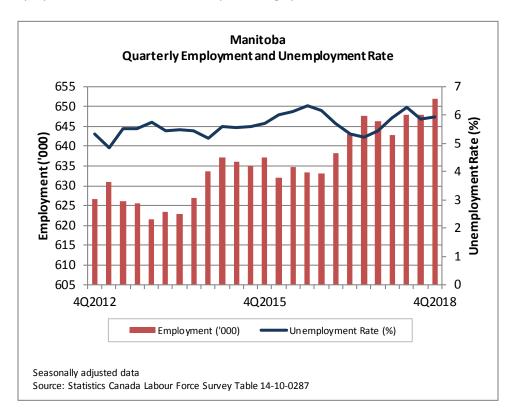
## Manitoba Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally adjusted data	4th Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Quarterly \	/ariation	Yearly Variation	
	2018	2018	2017	Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	1,028.8	1,026.6	1,018.1	2.2	0.2	10.7	1.1
Labour Force ('000)	693.0	688.2	683.3	4.8	0.7	9.7	1.4
Employment ('000)	651.9	648.0	646.2	3.9	0.6	5.7	0.9
Full-Time ('000)	528.1	522.5	519.4	5.6	1.1	8.7	1.7
Part-Time ('000)	123.8	125.5	126.8	-1.7	-1.4	-3.0	-2.4
Unemployment ('000)	41.1	40.3	37.1	0.8	2.0	4.0	10.8
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.9	5.9	5.4	0.0	-	0.5	-
Participation Rate (%)	67.4	67.0	67.1	0.4	-	0.3	-
Employment Rate (%)	63.4	63.1	63.5	0.3	-	-0.1	-

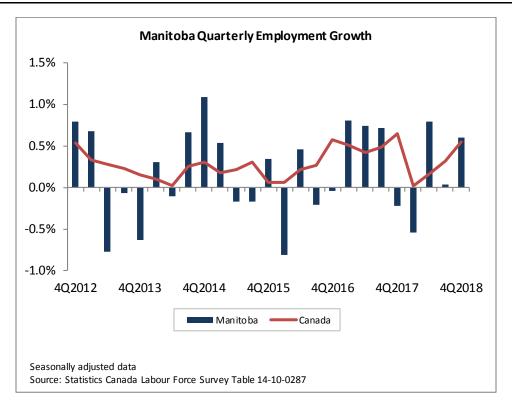
Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Manitoba's unemployment rate remained steady at 5.9% between the third and fourth quarters. Compared to the rest of Western Canada, Manitoba held the third lowest unemployment rate. <sup>10</sup> Year-over-year, the province's unemployment rate has increased 0.5 percentage points.







## Unemployment by major demographic groupings

On a quarter-over-quarter basis, the unemployment rate for Manitoba youth (ages 15-24 years) rose to 12.5%, while the unemployment rate for those aged 25 years and older shrank by 0.2 percentage points to 4.7%. Year over year, Manitoba youth unemployment rate is up 1.0 percentage points; whereas, the unemployment rate for the 25+ age group grew by 0.4 percentage points.

Manitoba Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally adjusted data	4th Quarter 2018 (%)	3rd Quarter 2018 (%)	4th Quarter 2017 (%)	Quarterly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Total	5.9	5.9	5.4	0.0	0.5
25 years and over	4.7	4.9	4.3	-0.2	0.4
Men - 25 years and over	5.0	5.2	4.4	-0.2	0.6
Women - 25 years and over	4.4	4.5	4.2	-0.1	0.2
15 to 24 years	12.5	10.9	11.5	1.6	1.0
Men - 15 to 24 years	13.4	12.3	13.2	1.1	0.2
Women - 15 to 24 years	11.4	9.4	9.7	2.0	1.7

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 fourth quarter of 2018, the total population (15+) in Manitoba was just over 1.0 million. The Indigenous population in Manitoba living off-reserve accounted for 11.8% of that. Compared to the same time last year, employment among Indigenous people in Manitoba increased to 71,200 (+5,100). Full-time employment grew to 57,800 (+5,400), while part-time employment remained relatively steady, despite a slight decrease to 13,400 (-300).

Year-over-year, the unemployment rate among the Indigenous populations in Manitoba increased by 0.4 percentage points to 10.8%. Over the same period, the unemployment rate for the non-Indigenous population, increased to 4.8%. Meanwhile, the participation rate of Indigenous peoples in Manitoba increased by 3.3 percentage points to 65.9%, while among the non-Indigenous population in Manitoba, it remained relatively stable at 67.2%.

Manitoba - Labour Market Indicators for Indigenous People

3-month moving averages	Indigenous		Yearly variation (Indigenous)		Non-Indigenous		Yearly variation (non-Indigenous)	
Seasonally unadjusted data	Q4 2018	Q4 2017	number	%	Q4 2018	Q4 2017	number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	121.2	117.9	3.3	2.8	907.7	900.4	7.3	0.8
Labour Force ('000)	79.9	73.8	6.1	8.3	610.1	606.4	3.7	0.6
Employment ('000)	71.2	66.1	5.1	7.7	580.7	580.2	0.5	0.1
Full-Time ('000)	57.8	52.4	5.4	10.3	463.7	459.9	3.8	0.8
Part-Time ('000)	13.4	13.7	-0.3	-2.2	117.0	120.3	-3.3	-2.7
Unemployment ('000)	8.6	7.7	0.9	11.7	29.4	26.2	3.2	12.2
Unemployment Rate (%)	10.8	10.4	0.4	-	4.8	4.3	0.5	-
Participation Rate (%)	65.9	62.6	3.3	-	67.2	67.3	-0.1	-
Employment Rate (%)	58.8	56.1	2.7	-	64.0	64.4	-0.4	-

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**

Employment in Manitoba's goods-producing sector remained relatively unchanged at 149,200 (-0.1%) compared to the same time last year, due in part to employment growth in construction (+1,400) offsetting a large decline in utilities (-1,300). Employment in the remaining goods production industries remained relatively unchanged.

Compared to the fourth quarter of 2017, the construction industry grew to 48,200 (+3.0%), due in part to the construction of Enbridge's Line 3 pipeline and a resurgence in housing starts in November (670). <sup>11,12</sup> Meanwhile, construction continued on large non-residential projects, such as the Keeyask Hydroelectric dam and Roquette pea-processing facility. In addition, the provincial government announced that it would continue to fund \$20 million in infrastructure projects for the remainder of the 2018-19 fiscal year. These include bridge and gravel road restorations, work on culverts, and preparations for future paving projects. <sup>13</sup>

With the CPTPP now in force, Manitoba's farmers are likely to benefit, as a variety of tariffs are being cut on goods such as pork, beef, wheat and barley, and canola oil. Should the province succeed in diversifying its trade, Manitoba can ease some of its dependency on U.S. consumers. <sup>14</sup> At the same time, the negative impact of the U.S. launched trade wars against China and Mexico have indirectly hurt Manitoba farmers financially. Last summer, retaliatory actions by China and Mexico against the U.S. has led to a depreciation of North American soybean and hog prices; however, hog prices have since recovered slightly. <sup>15</sup>

Through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, the governments of Manitoba and Canada will soon invest a total of \$3 million into Manitoba's agriculture sector. The funding will help create four diversification centres that will operate as private-public partnerships focusing on research to benefit the agriculture sector. <sup>16</sup>

Year-over-year, employment in Manitoba's manufacturing industry remained steady at around 62,600 (-0.2%). In the fourth quarter, the federal government announced that Manitoba's aerospace sector would receive \$10 million in funding from the federal government to promote innovation, skills development, and growth. The funding is anticipated to create up to 70 jobs in the province. <sup>17</sup>

Within the past year, employment within the services-producing sector increased by 5,900 (+1.2%), due in part to strong employment growth in public administration (+3,300). At the same time, employment in transportation and warehousing grew by 4,600, as some of Canada's largest shipping companies expand operations at Winnipeg's CentrePort. <sup>18</sup> Even though employment grew in transportation and warehousing, the industry saw Greyhound Canada cease operations across Western Canada at the end of October, affecting 64 employees in Manitoba. <sup>19</sup> Fortunately, several regional service providers (Brandon Bus Lines, Kelsey Bus Lines, and Maple Bus Lines) are offering long-distance passenger and freight services across most of northern and rural Manitoba. <sup>20</sup>



# Manitoba Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally adjusted data ('000)	4th Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
	2018	2018	2017	Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	651.9	648.0	646.2	3.9	0.6	5.7	0.9
Goods-producing sector	149.2	146.0	149.4	3.2	2.2	-0.2	-0.1
Agriculture	25.2	25.0	25.2	0.2	0.8	0.0	0.0
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	6.3	6.5	6.4	-0.2	-3.1	-0.1	-1.6
Utilities	7.0	7.1	8.3	-0.1	-1.4	-1.3	-15.7
Construction	48.2	45.7	46.8	2.5	5.5	1.4	3.0
Manufacturing	62.6	61.7	62.7	0.9	1.5	-0.1	-0.2
Services-producing sector	502.7	502.0	496.8	0.7	0.1	5.9	1.2
Trade	87.2	88.4	90.7	-1.2	-1.4	-3.5	-3.9
Transportation and warehousing	40.8	40.0	36.2	0.8	2.0	4.6	12.7
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	34.4	35.6	37.2	-1.2	-3.4	-2.8	-7.5
Professional, scientific and technical services	29.8	28.3	28.8	1.5	5.3	1.0	3.5
Business, building and other support services	22.3	21.3	20.3	1.0	4.7	2.0	9.9
Educational services	51.5	51.3	51.3	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.4
Health care and social assistance	106.0	105.6	104.3	0.4	0.4	1.7	1.6
Information, culture and recreation	23.2	23.6	23.3	-0.4	-1.7	-0.1	-0.4
Accommodation and food services	42.1	42.4	44.4	-0.3	-0.7	-2.3	-5.2
Other services	30.8	30.6	28.9	0.2	0.7	1.9	6.6
Public administration	34.6	34.9	31.3	-0.3	-0.9	3.3	10.5

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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



#### **REGIONAL ANALYSIS**

Within the past year, employment grew in two of Manitoba's six economic regions. Southwest led employment growth with 3,900 jobs created, followed by Winnipeg (+2,700).

Manitoba Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

		Employment		Unemployment Rate			
Seasonally unadjusted data	4th Quarter 2018 ('000)	4th Quarter 2017 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	4th Quarter 2018 (%)	4th Quarter 2017 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)	
Manitoba	652.6	646.3	1.0	5.4	5.0	0.4	
Economic Regions							
Southeast	60.3	60.8	-0.8	4.3	4.7	-0.4	
South Central and North Central	55.1	56.6	-2.7	4.2	3.4	0.8	
Southwest	58.2	56.0	3.9	3.6	4.3	-0.7	
Winnipeg	402.7	392.2	2.7	5.7	5.5	0.2	
Interlake	44.4	45.3	-2.0	6.3	3.2	3.1	
Parklands and Northern	31.9	35.3	-9.6	8.1	4.9	3.2	

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

The provincial government announced a variety of funding initiatives that will benefit Manitobans in the near future. For instance, the province will provide an additional \$950,039 in funding towards 57 community development projects. <sup>21</sup> In addition, the provincial government announced a renovation and additions project at École Noël Ritchot, in St. Norbert. The investment in the project is expected to exceed \$16 million, and includes a \$1.99 million contribution from Heritage Canada. <sup>22</sup>

In October, the Manitoba government announced it would abandon implementing a carbon tax, and proceed with its Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan, as the provincial and federal governments could not come to an agreement. <sup>23</sup> The Manitoba government has now launched the Conservation Trust Fund in partnership with the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation and The Winnipeg Foundation. Already, \$28 million has been contributed to the targeted \$102 million trust, which is expected to generate \$5 million a year. The Conservation Trust will be permanently endowed and will be managed by The Winnipeg Foundation, while the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation will accept project proposals for grants and manage the grant administration process. Under this new framework, Manitoba-based not-for-profit organizations will receive additional funding towards protecting the province's natural environment.

As of October 17, 2018, recreational cannabis is now legal across Canada. At the time of writing, there are a reported 16 licensed retail stores in Manitoba providing new jobs to Manitobans. <sup>24</sup> Indigenous peoples in Manitoba are also benefitting from the growing industry, as seven First Nations in Manitoba are in formal partnerships with cannabis retailers. For instance, National Access Cannabis expects to have ten stores across the province in 2019, with an additional five in partnership with First Nations in Manitoba. <sup>25</sup>



Year-over-year, employment increased by 2.7% in Winnipeg. Over the same period, the unemployment rate increased to 5.7%. In the fourth quarter, employment in the construction industry remained strong, due in part to the number of housing starts in the Winnipeg Census Metropolitan Area having increased from 300 in October to 605 in November. <sup>26</sup> Looking forward, the government of Canada announced it would provide \$18 million in funding to build an affordable housing complex in Winnipeg. The 95-unit complex will be built in the neighborhood of Transcona, and have rents capped at 30 per cent of the area's median household income. <sup>27</sup>

Last October, U.S.-based agricultural company Monsanto announced it would close its Canadian head office in Winnipeg and relocate operations to Calgary by September 2019. Approximately 70 employees will be affected. <sup>28</sup> The move will mostly affect employees in finance, human resources, marketing, and commercial sales. Uncertainty remains surrounding an additional 56 Monsanto employees working at research facilities in Winnipeg, Carman, and Headingly. <sup>29</sup>

Employment within South Central and North Central declined by 2.7%, and its unemployment rate grew by 0.8 percentage points. Despite this decline, recent announcements suggest that the region's agri-food sector will remain strong, as construction continues on several food production facilities, including Roquette's peaprocessing plant and Simplot's potato production facility, both located near Portage la Prairie. <sup>30,31</sup> In addition, McCain Foods announced \$75 million in infrastructure investments until 2019, including \$45 million in its Portage la Prairie facility. The company also committed over \$30 million to its Carberry plant, located within Southwest. <sup>32</sup> As such, the outlook for local farmers looks positive in the coming years, as the expanding agrifood industry should increase the demand for local produce.

Compared to the fourth quarter of 2017, employment in Southeast remained relatively stable at 60,300 (-0.8%). Within the region, employment in construction is likely to increase in 2019, as the province has announced an estimated \$4.2 million planned addition and renovation project at Mitchell Elementary School in Hanover.<sup>33</sup> In addition, the National Energy Board issued its decision approving Manitoba Hydro's Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission project. The 500 kV transmission line, would run from Manitoba Hydro's Dorsey Converter Station to the international boundary between Manitoba and Minnesota.<sup>34</sup>

Compared to the fourth quarter of 2017, employment in Southwest increased to 58,200 (+3.9%) and its unemployment rate declined by 0.7 percentage points to 3.6%. The region's labour market is likely to remain robust for the first half of 2019, as construction continues on Enbridge's Line 3 replacement pipeline. The region also saw completion of Canada's largest hog finisher barn at the Plainview Colony near Elkhorn. The \$6 million barn can contain up to 15,000 hogs, of which 700 a week are expected to be sent to Brandon. 35,36

Year-over-year, employment declined by 2.0% in Interlake. Over the same period, the unemployment rate nearly doubled, increasing by 3.1 percentage points to 6.3%. Despite employment within the region having declined, employment prospects are likely to improve late next year as the Manitoba government has chosen two engineering firms to commence work on the \$540 million Lake St. Martin and Lake Manitoba Outlet Channels. Hatch Ltd. was awarded the Lake Manitoba engineering design and construction oversight contract, while the KGS Group was awarded a similar arrangement for Lake St. Martin.<sup>37</sup> Cost of the projects will be shared between the federal and provincial governments, with the federal government providing \$247.5 million in funding through the federal Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund.<sup>38</sup> Once complete, the project will



greatly reduce the risk of flooding to First Nations and surrounding communities within the Interlake and Southwestern Regions.

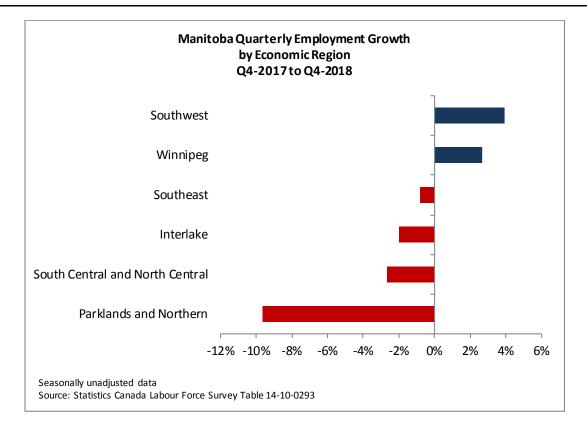
Compared to the fourth quarter of 2017, employment in Parklands and North declined by 9.6%, and the unemployment rate grew by 3.2 percentage points to 8.1%, due in part to the declining mining industry. Over the past two years, provincial mining activity has declined as Hudbay Minerals closed its Reed mine near Flin Flon, and Vale closed its Birchtree nickel mine, smelter, and refinery in Thompson. <sup>39,40</sup>

Employment prospects within the region are likely to decline further in the coming years, as Manitoba Hydro's Keeyask Hydroelectric project near Gillam could be finished by 2020, and Hudbay Minerals announced it will close its 777 mine in Flin Flon by 2021. <sup>41</sup> The mining company will simultaneously place its mill under care and maintenance once the mine closes. It is likely that the Hudbay Minerals will also close its zinc processor by then as well. <sup>42</sup> Around 800 employees could lose their jobs once Hudbay ceases operations in Flin Flon; however, the company estimates that up to 300 employees will be eligible for retirement in the coming years. <sup>43</sup> For now, the company expects to continue its operations at the Stall mill, New Brit Gold mine and Lalor mine near Snow Lake, 200 Km east of Flin Flon. <sup>44</sup>

In the fourth quarter, repairs to the rail line into Churchill were completed, and full passenger and freight rail service were restored to the town. In anticipation for next year's shipping season, the new owners of the rail line (Artic Gateway) are planning to import and export primarily agricultural products. 45,46,47

Indigenous peoples in northern Manitoba will soon benefit from millions in infrastructure funding targeting new schools. The Government of Canada announced that it would invest \$248 million towards new and upgraded school facilities on four remote First Nations in northern Manitoba. Bunibonibee Cree Nation, God's Lake First Nation, Manto Sipi Cree Nation, and Wasagamack First Nation have signed a contract to build four new schools in their communities, including renovations at an existing school at Bunibonibee Cree Nation. 48 Currently, the school in God's Lake Narrows only goes up to Grade 9 and the high school in Manto Sipi only goes to Grade 11. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2019, and is scheduled to be complete in 2020. Once complete, the new schools will provide children with access to education from kindergarten to Grade 12 in their home communities. 49





**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: <a href="www.statcan.gc.ca">www.statcan.gc.ca</a>

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- <sup>5</sup> Christopher Reynolds, Canada moves to block steel dumping with 25% surtax on select products, The Canadian Press, Financial Post online, last modified October 12, 2018, accessed January 7, 2019 <a href="https://business.financialpost.com/pmn/business-pmn/canada-moves-to-block-steel-dumping-with-25-surtax-on-select-products">https://business.financialpost.com/pmn/business-pmn/canada-moves-to-block-steel-dumping-with-25-surtax-on-select-products</a>
- <sup>6</sup> Janyce McGregor, 'Battle' over as Trudeau, Trump, Pena Nieto sign 'new NAFTA', CBC News online, last modified November 30, 2018, accessed January 7, 2019 <a href="https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/usmca-nieto-trudeau-trump-signing-1.4926961">https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/usmca-nieto-trudeau-trump-signing-1.4926961</a>
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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0287-01 Labour force characteristics, monthly, seasonally adjusted and trend-cycle, last 5 months accessed January 4, 2019 <a href="https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1410028701">https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1410028701</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0287-01 Labour force characteristics, monthly, seasonally adjusted and trend-cycle, last 5 months accessed January 4, 2019 <a href="https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1410028701">https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1410028701</a>

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