



Labour Market Bulletin

Manitoba

January 2019



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 657,700 (+0.7%) between December and January. Part-time employment led overall employment growth, increasing by 9,700 (+8.0%); while full-time employment fell by 5,300 (-1.0%).¹ During this time, employment in the public sector fell to 164,200 (-1,100), while the private sector grew to 399,900 (+4,100). Self-employment also increased by 1,400 to 93,600 for the month of January.² Year-over-year, Manitoba's labour force was robust as an additional 15,000 people were employed.³

Following the implementation of the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership, the second round of tariff cuts took place with five of Canada's trading partners, including its newest member, Vietnam. Japan's second tariff cuts will take place this April, with Manitoba's leading export industries (manufacturing and agriculture) standing to gain substantially from it.⁴

According to most recent data, the number of employment insurance beneficiaries in November fell to 15,220 (-4.3%) compared to the same time in 2017.⁵ On a positive note, this is the fourth straight month that the number of beneficiaries have declined, after hitting an annual high of 16,080 in July 2018.⁶

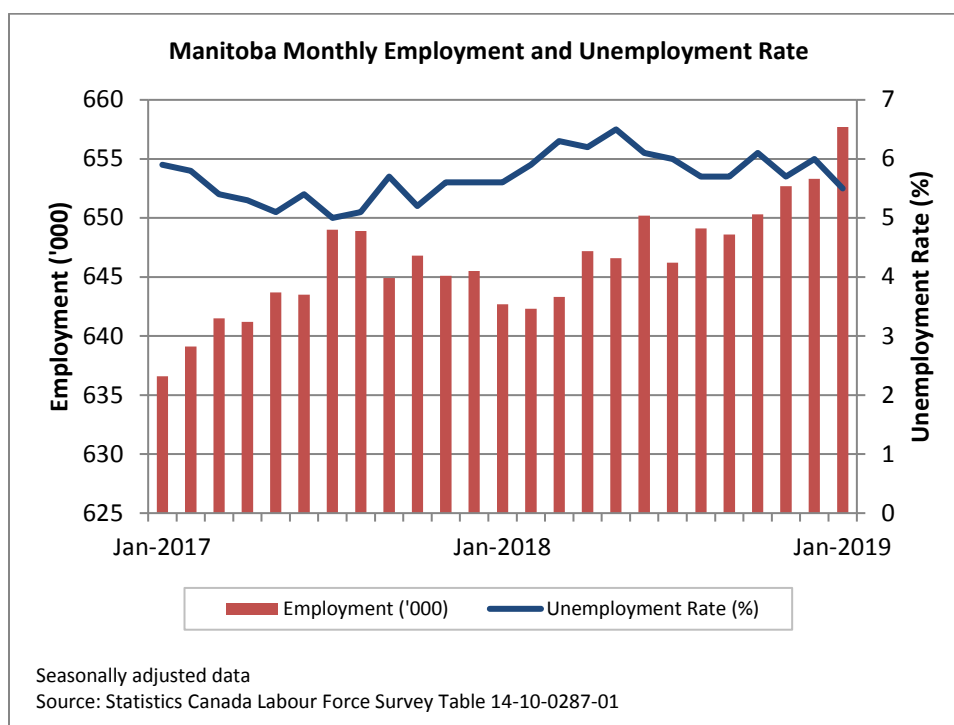
Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	January 2019	December 2018	January 2018	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	1,031.2	1,029.8	1,019.5	1.4	0.1	11.7	1.1
Labour Force ('000)	696.3	695.1	680.9	1.2	0.2	15.4	2.3
Employment ('000)	657.7	653.3	642.7	4.4	0.7	15.0	2.3
Full-Time ('000)	527.2	532.5	511.8	-5.3	-1.0	15.4	3.0
Part-Time ('000)	130.5	120.8	130.9	9.7	8.0	-0.4	-0.3
Unemployment ('000)	38.6	41.8	38.3	-3.2	-7.7	0.3	0.8
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.5	6.0	5.6	-0.5	-	-0.1	-
Participation Rate (%)	67.5	67.5	66.8	0.0	-	0.7	-
Employment Rate (%)	63.8	63.4	63.0	0.4	-	0.8	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Manitoba's unemployment rate fell by 0.5 percentage points to 5.5% between the months of December and January. Compared to the rest of the provinces, Manitoba tied with Saskatchewan for having the third lowest unemployment rate, just behind British Columbia (4.7%) and Quebec (5.4%).⁷



Unemployment by major demographic groupings

On a month-over-month basis, the unemployment rate for Manitoba youth (ages 15-24 years) remained relatively unchanged at 12.7%, while the unemployment rate for those aged 25 years and older fell by 0.6 percentage points to 4.2%. Year over year, Manitoba youth unemployment rate is up 1.1 percentage points; whereas, the unemployment rate for the 25+ age group is down by 0.3 percentage points.

Manitoba Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	January 2019 (%)	December 2018 (%)	January 2018 (%)	Monthly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Total	5.5	6.0	5.6	-0.5	-0.1
25 years and over	4.2	4.8	4.5	-0.6	-0.3
Men - 25 years and over	4.3	5.3	4.9	-1.0	-0.6
Women - 25 years and over	4.1	4.1	4.0	0.0	0.1
15 to 24 years	12.7	12.6	11.6	0.1	1.1
Men - 15 to 24 years	16.2	13.7	13.8	2.5	2.4
Women - 15 to 24 years	8.9	11.6	9.1	-2.7	-0.2

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment in Manitoba's goods-producing sector grew to 152,600 (+1.5%) compared to the same time last year. Employment grew in manufacturing (+2,900) and construction (+2,300); whereas, utilities and agriculture declined by 1,400 and 1,300 respectively.

Compared to January 2018, the construction industry continues to grow due in part to the continuation of major projects across the province. However, this year the industry is projected to contract, as major construction on the Keeyask hydroelectric project is expected to be completed by this fall; work on food processing facilities near Portage la Prairie are near completion; and new housing starts remain weak.

Despite a five percent drop in the agriculture industry employment, the provincial government is working towards making Manitoba a global leader in sourced protein. As demand for Manitoba's agriculture products will grow under the new free trade agreements, the province plans to create a sustainable protein strategy that will support animal and plant protein development. The strategy will also focus on attracting new investment, and support research and innovation.⁸

Within the past year, employment within the services-producing sector increased to 505,000 (+2.6%) due in part to strong employment growth in health care and social assistance (+4,000), and public administration (+3,700). In 2018, the province created around 780 licenced early learning and child-care spaces, through the Canada-Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care Agreement. Through the agreement, 20 capital projects were funded in communities where access to affordable childcare has been challenging.^{9,10} While regional health authorities recruited additional physicians in the past year, it is unclear if such hiring will continue through 2019.^{11,12} Meanwhile, the provincial government's Health Services Transformation continues and select services within the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority are being centralized.¹³

Employment within Manitoba's information and culture industry is projected to grow following the provincial government making the Manitoba Film and Video Production Tax Credit permanent in January. Benefiting

immediately are Amazon Studios and Fox 21 Television Studios, who are reported to be planning to co-produce a multi-million dollar TV series across the province.^{14,15}

In promoting gender equality, the provincial government is now targeting the under-representation of women in skilled trades with a new \$25,000 grant to the Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology (MITT). Announced at this year's Women's Equality Week, the new grant is expected to increase the number of women enrolled at MITT's programs.¹⁶

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	January 2019	December 2018	January 2018	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	657.7	653.3	642.7	4.4	0.7	15.0	2.3
Goods-producing sector	152.6	150.2	150.3	2.4	1.6	2.3	1.5
Agriculture	24.6	24.8	25.9	-0.2	-0.8	-1.3	-5.0
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	6.3	6.1	6.5	0.2	3.3	-0.2	-3.1
Utilities	6.6	6.8	8.0	-0.2	-2.9	-1.4	-17.5
Construction	51.3	49.1	49.0	2.2	4.5	2.3	4.7
Manufacturing	63.9	63.4	61.0	0.5	0.8	2.9	4.8
Services-producing sector	505.0	503.1	492.4	1.9	0.4	12.6	2.6
Trade	87.8	86.7	89.5	1.1	1.3	-1.7	-1.9
Transportation and warehousing	41.7	41.2	37.5	0.5	1.2	4.2	11.2
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	34.1	34.4	36.6	-0.3	-0.9	-2.5	-6.8
Professional, scientific and technical services	31.0	30.9	28.3	0.1	0.3	2.7	9.5
Business, building and other support services	22.3	21.8	20.2	0.5	2.3	2.1	10.4
Educational services	51.9	51.3	51.1	0.6	1.2	0.8	1.6
Health care and social assistance	106.0	106.0	102.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	3.9
Information, culture and recreation	22.9	23.1	22.8	-0.2	-0.9	0.1	0.4
Accommodation and food services	43.1	42.3	43.8	0.8	1.9	-0.7	-1.6
Other services	29.2	30.1	29.4	-0.9	-3.0	-0.2	-0.7
Public administration	35.0	35.2	31.3	-0.2	-0.6	3.7	11.8

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 two of Manitoba's six economic regions. Winnipeg led employment growth with 11,300 jobs created, followed by Southwest (+4,000). Over the same period, the unemployment rate for Interlake more than doubled, and that of Parklands and Northern sharply rose to 8.4%.

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	January 2019 ('000)	January 2018 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	January 2019 (%)	January 2018 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Manitoba	650.3	640.0	1.6	5.6	5.4	0.2
Economic Regions						
Southeast	59.3	59.8	-0.8	4.5	5.8	-1.3
South Central and North Central	56.3	56.3	0.0	3.9	3.9	0.0
Southwest	59.3	55.3	7.2	4.2	4.5	-0.3
Winnipeg	400.1	388.8	2.9	5.7	5.9	-0.2
Interlake	43.7	44.6	-2.0	7.4	3.9	3.5
Parklands and Northern	31.6	35.1	-10.0	8.4	5.4	3.0

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Year-over-year, employment increased by 2.9% in Winnipeg; while over the same period, the unemployment rate fell to 5.7%. The labour market will likely remain strong over the coming months as the construction industry sees a rebound come spring with construction of the University of Winnipeg's new residential tower, and with the City of Winnipeg expected to demolish the Public Safety Building and adjoining Civic Centre Parkade for redevelopment later this year.^{17,18} For now, work continues on several non-residential projects, including the Waverly Underpass and the Richardson & Sons Innovation Centre.

Winnipeg's global recognition got a boost, as international video game developer Ubisoft has now opened its Winnipeg studio. The new studio was made possible due in part to the provincial Digital Media Tax Credit, as well as access to local talent and industry specific post-secondary programs.¹⁹ The company's Winnipeg studio already employs more than 25 workers, and plans to invest \$35 million and create up to 100 new jobs over the next five years.^{20,21}

Compared to January 2018, employment in Southwest increased to 59,300 (+7.2%) and its unemployment rate declined by 0.3 percentage points to 4.2%. As of last fall, significant progress has been made on Enbridge's Line 3 replacement. With the Manitoba portion of the project nearing completion, work is expected to steadily falloff in the coming months.²²

In the past year, employment in Parklands and North declined by 10.0%, and the unemployment rate grew by 3.0 percentage points to 8.4%. The regional labour market is unlikely to improve in the next few years, as several mining operations have ended and no new mining projects are planned. In support, University College of the North has opened the Swan Valley Workforce Development Centre, which provides job seekers in the Parklands region with new industry specific training opportunities.²³

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 14-10-0287-01 Labour force characteristics, monthly, seasonally adjusted and trend-cycle, last 5 months, last modified February 8, 2019, accessed February 8, 2019

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