



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Manitoba

October 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

There were over 653,000 people employed in Manitoba in October 2019 — 3,000 more than the same time last year. There were 2,300 additional people employed part-time compared to last October, while the number of full-time employees in Manitoba was essentially unchanged (+600). On a monthly basis, overall employment declined 1,000, with full-time employment losses (-7,200) only partially offset by part-time employment gains (+6,200).

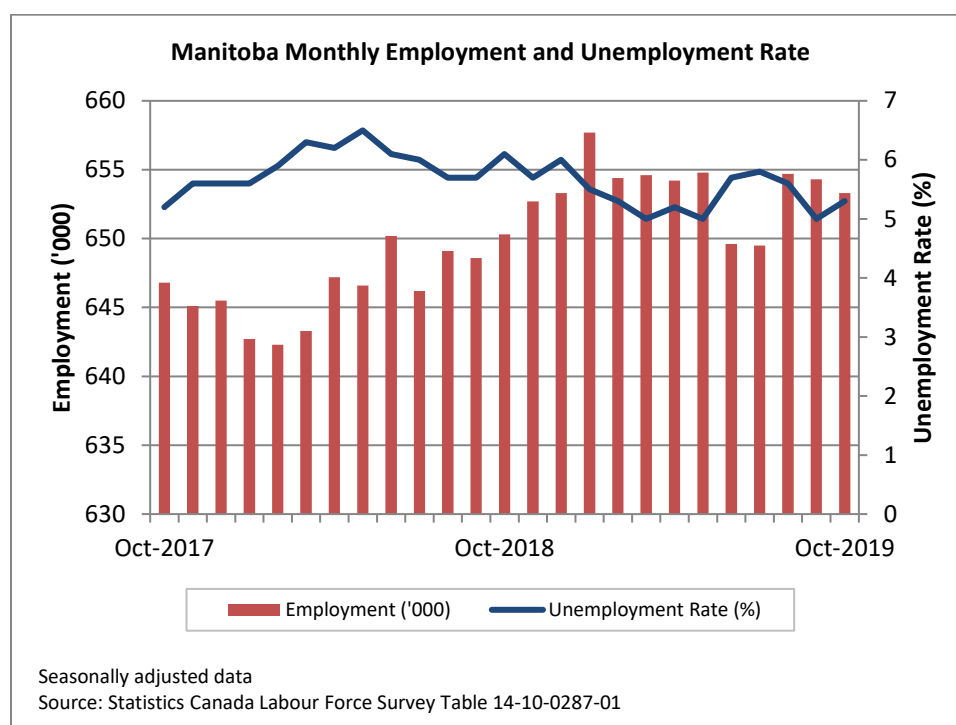
Manitoba's unemployment rate increased 0.3 percentage points to 5.3% in October. The province's unemployment rate remains below the national average of 5.5%, as it has been for most of 2019. Year-over-year, Manitoba's unemployment rate is down 0.8 percentage points.

### Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	October 2019	September 2019	October 2018	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	1,042.0	1,041.0	1,027.9	1.0	0.1	14.1	1.4
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	689.8	688.5	692.5	1.3	0.2	-2.7	-0.4
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	653.3	654.3	650.3	-1.0	-0.2	3.0	0.5
Full-Time ('000)	526.7	533.9	526.1	-7.2	-1.3	0.6	0.1
Part-Time ('000)	126.6	120.4	124.3	6.2	5.1	2.3	1.9
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	36.5	34.2	42.2	2.3	6.7	-5.7	-13.5
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	5.3	5.0	6.1	0.3	-	-0.8	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	66.2	66.1	67.4	0.1	-	-1.2	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	62.7	62.9	63.3	-0.2	-	-0.6	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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



The unemployment rate for men (25 years and older) and young men (15 to 24 years) edged down in October, while the rate for women (25 years and older) and young women (15 to 24 years) increased. The rate for young women jumped significantly this month — up three full percentage points to 9.9%.

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

Seasonally Adjusted Data	October 2019	September 2019	October 2018	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(% points)	(% points)
<b>Total</b>	5.3	5.0	6.1	0.3	-0.8
<b>25 years and over</b>	4.0	3.8	4.9	0.2	-0.9
Men - 25 years and over	4.1	4.2	5.0	-0.1	-0.9
Women - 25 years and over	3.9	3.3	4.8	0.6	-0.9
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	12.0	11.3	12.4	0.7	-0.4
Men - 15 to 24 years	14.0	15.3	13.3	-1.3	0.7
Women - 15 to 24 years	9.9	6.9	11.6	3.0	-1.7

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Manitoba's minimum wage increased from \$11.35 to \$11.65 an hour in October. Young workers are the demographic group most impacted by the changes as the majority of minimum wage workers in Canada are under the age of 25 and work part-time jobs.<sup>1</sup> Although increases in the minimum wage across Canada have been accompanied by a rise in the percentage of older minimum wage workers (35 to 64) nationally.<sup>2,3</sup>

Average weekly earnings (including overtime) for hourly workers in Manitoba are significantly lower than all other Western provinces. In August 2019, average weekly earnings in Manitoba were \$704.02 compared to \$763.15 in British Columbia, \$789.98 in Saskatchewan and \$870.98 in Alberta.<sup>4</sup>

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Although employment in Manitoba's **goods-producing sector** decreased 700 in October, overall employment in the sector is still up 2,100 positions year-over-year. Meanwhile, employment in Manitoba's **services-producing sector** was virtually unchanged this month (-300), but is up slightly (+800) compared to a year ago.

Year-over-year employment growth in Manitoba's goods-producing sector was driven by gains in **construction** industry employment (+2,700) in October. Major projects currently under way in the province include the Manitoba Hydro Keeyask Generating Station, which is expected to near completion in 2021. The project employs about 2,500 trades, support services, and professionals.<sup>5</sup>

A number of other construction projects are underway throughout the province. Work began on three major projects totalling \$82 million at the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation in August. The community will see a new health centre, Grade 7-12 school, and a water treatment plant built over the next two years.<sup>6</sup> In September, Merit Functional Foods Corp. began construction of their new \$65 million canola and pea processing plant in Centreport, near Winnipeg.<sup>7</sup> Paterson GlobalFoods also plans to begin construction of a new \$94 million oat processing facility just outside Winnipeg this winter.<sup>8</sup>

Employment in Manitoba's **manufacturing** industry edged up both on a monthly (+300) and annual basis (+800) in October. The province's manufacturing industry is dominated by food and beverage manufacturing. In 2018, this industry generated \$5.2 billion in total revenue and was responsible for 2.3% of Manitoba's Gross Domestic Product. Food and beverage manufacturing is also the largest manufacturing employer in Manitoba with over 12,400 positions.<sup>9</sup> While Manitoba exported close to \$2.65 billion in processed food and beverage products in 2018, perceived trade tensions with China have directly impacted this year's meat manufacturing and grain and oilseed milling exports — two of the province's top manufacturing exports.<sup>10</sup> However, Canada was able to resume shipments of pork and beef to China in November, ending a five month ban.<sup>11</sup>

Manitoba's **agriculture** industry has also been impacted by China's 2019 import bans; primary products like canola seed and live hogs were included in the trade dispute. While the ban on meat products has been lifted, canola seed exports to China have remained suspended since March.<sup>12</sup> As a result, Manitoba's total year-to-date exports to China were down almost 44% in September.<sup>13</sup>

While farmers in Manitoba reported planting 3.2% fewer acres of canola in 2019, overall Canadian canola stocks were up 55% as of July 31, 2019 compared to the same time last year, primarily due to weaker exports.<sup>14,15</sup> In addition, the price of canola in Manitoba dropped 8.5% from \$473.98 per metric tonne in September 2018 to \$433.82 in September 2019.<sup>16</sup>

Overall, harvest was an estimated 89% complete in Manitoba by the end of October.<sup>17</sup> However, potato harvest in the province was only 65% complete. It looks like Manitoba potato growers, are facing another back-to-back year of leaving a significant portion of their crop unharvested due to unfavorable weather conditions.<sup>18</sup> Despite

ongoing challenges due to trade issues and adverse weather conditions, year-over-year employment in the province's **agriculture** industry was relatively unchanged (+400).

Severe weather hit Manitoba in early October, destroying over 100 transmission structures and more than 3,600 wooden utility poles in the Dauphin, Interlake and Portage la Prairie. Manitoba Hydro deployed almost 900 field staff to restore power throughout the region where nearly 800 km of power lines went down. Manitoba Hydro employees were supported by contractors and Mutual Assistance Agreement partners including SaskPower, Minnesota Power, and Ontario's Hydro One.<sup>19</sup>

While Manitoba Hydro indicates the response to the massive power outage was not affected by staffing, supply, or infrastructure, the union representing Hydro workers suggests job cuts significantly impacted response efforts.<sup>20</sup> In 2017, Manitoba Hydro announced plans to eliminate 900 positions across the province.<sup>21</sup> Year-over-year, there were 800 fewer people employed in Manitoba's **utilities** industry and 2,100 fewer positions compared to October 2017.

**Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry**

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	October 2019	September 2019	October 2018	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	653.3	654.3	650.3	-1.0	-0.2	3.0	0.5
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	150.5	151.2	148.4	-0.7	-0.5	2.1	1.4
Agriculture	26.0	25.3	25.6	0.7	2.8	0.4	1.6
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	5.6	5.3	6.5	0.3	5.7	-0.9	-13.8
Utilities	6.3	6.7	7.1	-0.4	-6.0	-0.8	-11.3
Construction	49.5	51.0	46.8	-1.5	-2.9	2.7	5.8
Manufacturing	63.2	62.9	62.4	0.3	0.5	0.8	1.3
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	502.8	503.1	502.0	-0.3	-0.1	0.8	0.2
Trade	89.4	88.9	86.9	0.5	0.6	2.5	2.9
Transportation and warehousing	40.4	41.2	40.5	-0.8	-1.9	-0.1	-0.2
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	33.4	34.1	34.2	-0.7	-2.1	-0.8	-2.3
Professional, scientific and technical services	29.8	30.7	29.4	-0.9	-2.9	0.4	1.4
Business, building and other support services	22.3	21.4	22.6	0.9	4.2	-0.3	-1.3
Educational services	51.5	51.3	51.0	0.2	0.4	0.5	1.0
Health care and social assistance	105.0	104.7	106.2	0.3	0.3	-1.2	-1.1
Information, culture and recreation	22.8	23.9	23.7	-1.1	-4.6	-0.9	-3.8
Accommodation and food services	43.7	42.4	41.8	1.3	3.1	1.9	4.5
Other services	28.0	28.8	31.0	-0.8	-2.8	-3.0	-9.7
Public administration	36.4	35.7	34.6	0.7	2.0	1.8	5.2

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

The **health care and social assistance** industry is the largest employer in Manitoba — employing 105,000 individuals. While employment in this industry increased slightly in October (+300), employment was down 1,200 on an annual basis. The provincial government recently announced a number of funding plans as part of

Manitoba's Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, which follows key recommendations found in the 2018 VIRGO report on improving access and coordination of mental health and addictions services in the province.<sup>22</sup>

The Province is spending \$2.4 million over the next three years to expand walk-in mental health services and specialized trauma counselling; \$2.94 million over three years towards improving mental health and addictions programming; and plans to increase funding for the Community Schools program by \$1.6 million over three years.<sup>23,24,25</sup> The Community Schools program currently provides mental health and addictions resources to 31 schools in the province. The new funding will allow the program to expand by five more schools in January 2020.<sup>26</sup>

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Year-over-year employment grew in four of Manitoba's six economic regions. The most significant increases were in the Winnipeg (+3,800) and Southwest (+3,500) regions. Meanwhile, annual job losses were concentrated in the Southeast (-2,300) and Parklands and Northern (-1,800) regions. Unemployment rates were down in four of the six regions on an annual basis. The most significant decrease was in the Interlake region where the unemployment rate fell two percentage points to 4.0%.

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

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	October 2019 ('000)	October 2018 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	October 2019 (%)	October 2018 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Manitoba</b>	657.5	652.8	0.7	5.2	5.8	-0.6
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Southeast	60.8	63.1	-3.6	4.4	4.2	0.2
South Central and North Central	55.1	53.9	2.2	4.2	4.6	-0.4
Southwest	60.0	56.5	6.2	4.9	3.7	1.2
Winnipeg	405.2	401.4	0.9	5.5	6.4	-0.9
Interlake	46.0	45.6	0.9	4.0	6.0	-2.0
Parklands and Northern	30.4	32.2	-5.6	6.7	6.9	-0.2

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding*

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

The **Winnipeg** region's unemployment rate fell 0.9 percentage points over the last year to 5.5%, while employment grew by 0.9%. According to the Conference Board of Canada, Winnipeg is expected to gain 11,000 net new jobs between 2019 and 2020.<sup>27</sup> The forecast expects employment in Winnipeg to increase by an average of 1.7% between 2021 and 2023.<sup>28</sup> Meanwhile, the unemployment rate in Winnipeg should remain steady – around 5.5% during this period due to similar labour force growth.<sup>29</sup>

In Manitoba's **Interlake** region, employment increased 0.9% on an annual basis. Cattle farmers in this region are struggling with a feed shortage caused by a prolonged drought this summer. With a reduced yield of hay bales, many farmers are choosing to cull their herds, filling the auction mart in Dauphin.<sup>30</sup>

The **Parklands and Northern** region economies are dominated by resource extraction industries such as mining. Job losses over the last few years have been largely due to a decline in the region's mining sector. However, earlier this year, Hudbay Minerals Inc. announced plans to invest an estimated \$124 million into its New Britannia

mill and Lalor mine operations near Snow Lake.<sup>31</sup> The New Britannia upgrades are on schedule for completion in late 2021.<sup>32</sup> Rockcliff Metals Corporation is also active in the region, currently running drilling programs in Snow Lake with plans to begin additional drilling programs in 2020.<sup>33</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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**For information on the Labour Force Survey,** please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

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