



Labour Market Bulletin

Manitoba

February 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 fell to 654,400 between January and February. Full-time employment led overall employment losses, declining by 2,700 (-0.5%); while part-time employment remained relatively unchanged at 129,900.¹ During this time, employment in the private sector grew to 401,500 (+0.4%), while the public sector fell for the third straight month to 162,900 (-0.8%). Self-employment also declined by 3,600 to 90,000 for the month of February.² Year-over-year, Manitoba's labour force was resilient, as an additional 12,100 people were employed.³

The future of the new Canada United States Mexico (CUSMA) trade agreement remains unclear, as U.S. tariffs on steel (25%) and aluminum (10%) persist. At this time, the three member countries are negotiating an agreement to lift the tariffs. However, the U.S. Commerce Department recently announced a new anti-dumping probe into fabricated structured steel from Canada.^{4,5,6} Faced with this uncertainty, Manitoba's economy will continue to face strong headwinds due to the ongoing trade disputes.

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics

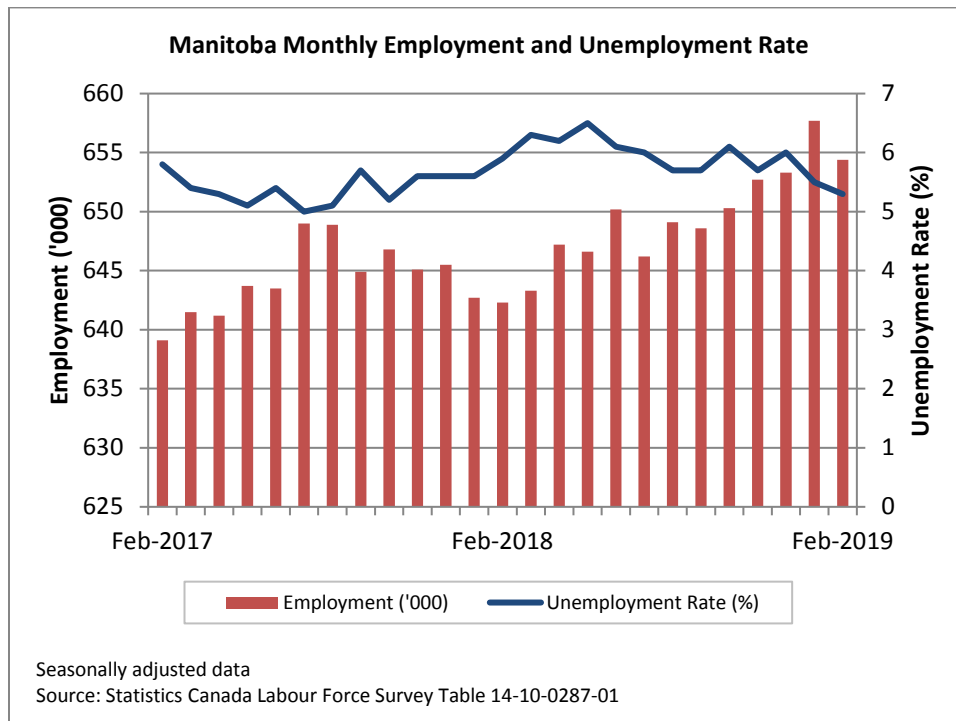
Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	February 2019	January 2019	February 2018	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	1,032.1	1,031.2	1,020.4	0.9	0.1	11.7	1.1
Labour Force ('000)	690.8	696.3	682.9	-5.5	-0.8	7.9	1.2
Employment ('000)	654.4	657.7	642.3	-3.3	-0.5	12.1	1.9
Full-Time ('000)	524.5	527.2	512.6	-2.7	-0.5	11.9	2.3
Part-Time ('000)	129.9	130.5	129.7	-0.6	-0.5	0.2	0.2
Unemployment ('000)	36.4	38.6	40.6	-2.2	-5.7	-4.2	-10.3
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.3	5.5	5.9	-0.2	-	-0.6	-
Participation Rate (%)	66.9	67.5	66.9	-0.6	-	0.0	-
Employment Rate (%)	63.4	63.8	62.9	-0.4	-	0.5	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

According to most recent data, the number of employment insurance beneficiaries in December fell to 15,700 (-0.6%) compared to the same time in 2017.⁷ However, the number of beneficiaries increased by 2.2% between November and December.⁸

Manitoba’s unemployment rate remained relatively unchanged at 5.3 percentage points between the months of January and February. Compared to the rest of the provinces, Manitoba tied with Quebec for the second lowest unemployment rate, just behind British Columbia (4.5%).⁹



Unemployment by major demographic groupings

On a month-over-month basis, the unemployment rate for Manitoba youth (ages 15-24 years) improved significantly, falling 2.8 percentage points to 9.9%, while the unemployment rate for those aged 25 years and older increased by 0.2 to 4.4%. Year over year, Manitoba youth unemployment rate is down 2.2 percentage points; whereas, the unemployment rate for the 25+ age group is down by 0.4 percentage points.

Manitoba Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	February 2019 (%)	January 2019 (%)	February 2018 (%)	Monthly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Total	5.3	5.5	5.9	-0.2	-0.6
25 years and over	4.4	4.2	4.8	0.2	-0.4
Men - 25 years and over	4.7	4.3	5.2	0.4	-0.5
Women - 25 years and over	4.1	4.1	4.3	0.0	-0.2
15 to 24 years	9.9	12.7	12.1	-2.8	-2.2
Men - 15 to 24 years	11.9	16.2	14.7	-4.3	-2.8
Women - 15 to 24 years	7.7	8.9	9.4	-1.2	-1.7

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 153,200 (+3.2%) compared to the same time last year. Employment grew in manufacturing (+4,500) and construction (+2,600); whereas, employment in utilities and agriculture each declined by 900 jobs, and forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas fell by 700 jobs.

Despite year-over-year gains, the construction industry across the province will be facing major challenges later this year, as a series of large non-residential construction projects are completed. In addition, housing starts are expected to remain flat through 2020, due in part to stricter mortgage rules and available market inventory. On top of all this, the city of Winnipeg released their 2019 preliminary capital and operating budgets, in which roughly \$30 million would be cut from the city's road renewal budget.^{10,11}

The outlook for Manitoba's forestry industry is looking up, as the provincial government signed a forestry option licence with four First Nations in Manitoba. The licence is for two years, and supports the First Nations to pursue Indigenous-led forestry development along the east side of Lake Winnipeg.¹²

Within the past year, employment within the services-producing sector increased to 501,200 (+1.5%) due in part to strong employment growth in transportation and warehousing (+6,400), public administration (+3,600), and business, building and other support services (+3,500).

Compared to the same time last year, health care and social assistance increased to 104,700 (+1.3%), due in part to job growth in social assistance offsetting job losses in health care. As the health care sector continues to move forward under the Province's Health System Transformation, the delivery of health care services will continue to

change in the coming months. Looking forward, Manitobans will benefit with the addition of two new personal care homes, one in Carman and another in Steinbach.^{13,14} Even though construction of the two new personal care homes has yet to begin, construction of the much delayed Health Sciences Centre Women's Hospital in Winnipeg is now complete. The hospital is set to open later this year after health care teams receive training and new medical equipment is delivered.¹⁵

Looking forward, real estate may see a resurgence later this year, as the Manitoba Métis Federation announced the Métis First Time Home Purchase Program. The program is to provide nearly 400 families a year with the opportunity of owning their first home. Successful applicants are eligible to a maximum of \$15,000 in financial assistance towards their purchase.¹⁶

Year-over-year, trade fell to 86,300 (-4.7%), likely due in part to the continuing global trade disputes affecting wholesale retailers. The ongoing trade disputes could continue to put downward pressure and affect those employed in wholesale trade. Manitoba's retail trade sector may also see a slight decline in the coming months, as major retailers such as Payless ShoeSource, announced store closures across Canada.¹⁷ However, it is unclear at this time how many people may be affected, as the outlook for box-stores appears to be uncertain in a growing age of e-commerce.^{18,19}

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	February 2019	January 2019	February 2018	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	654.4	657.7	642.3	-3.3	-0.5	12.1	1.9
Goods-producing sector	153.2	152.6	148.5	0.6	0.4	4.7	3.2
Agriculture	25.4	24.6	26.3	0.8	3.3	-0.9	-3.4
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	5.9	6.3	6.6	-0.4	-6.3	-0.7	-10.6
Utilities	6.7	6.6	7.6	0.1	1.5	-0.9	-11.8
Construction	50.0	51.3	47.4	-1.3	-2.5	2.6	5.5
Manufacturing	65.1	63.9	60.6	1.2	1.9	4.5	7.4
Services-producing sector	501.2	505.0	493.8	-3.8	-0.8	7.4	1.5
Trade	86.3	87.8	90.6	-1.5	-1.7	-4.3	-4.7
Transportation and warehousing	42.9	41.7	36.5	1.2	2.9	6.4	17.5
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	34.0	34.1	36.7	-0.1	-0.3	-2.7	-7.4
Professional, scientific and technical services	29.3	31.0	28.6	-1.7	-5.5	0.7	2.4
Business, building and other support services	22.7	22.3	19.2	0.4	1.8	3.5	18.2
Educational services	50.9	51.9	50.8	-1.0	-1.9	0.1	0.2
Health care and social assistance	104.7	106.0	103.4	-1.3	-1.2	1.3	1.3
Information, culture and recreation	23.5	22.9	22.2	0.6	2.6	1.3	5.9
Accommodation and food services	41.7	43.1	44.4	-1.4	-3.2	-2.7	-6.1
Other services	29.6	29.2	29.7	0.4	1.4	-0.1	-0.3
Public administration	35.5	35.0	31.9	0.5	1.4	3.6	11.3

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. Winnipeg led employment growth with around 12,000 jobs created, followed by Southwest (+3,900), and then South Central and North Central (+1,400). Over the same period, the unemployment rates for Interlake, and Parklands and North remained well above the provincial rate, at 7.0% and 7.8% respectively.

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	February 2019 ('000)	February 2018 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	February 2019 (%)	February 2018 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Manitoba	647.3	635.7	1.8	5.7	5.8	-0.1
Economic Regions						
Southeast	58.3	59.5	-2.0	4.7	5.6	-0.9
South Central and North Central	56.9	55.5	2.5	3.9	3.5	0.4
Southwest	58.7	54.8	7.1	4.7	4.5	0.2
Winnipeg	397.8	385.8	3.1	5.8	6.6	-0.8
Interlake	43.7	44.6	-2.0	7.0	4.5	2.5
Parklands and Northern	31.9	35.5	-10.1	7.8	5.1	2.7

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 3.1% in Winnipeg; while over the same period, the unemployment rate fell to 5.8%. Overall employment within the region is likely to increase, once construction projects begin to ramp up. Together with past announcements of new residential projects to be built across the city, the industry will also benefit from the government of Canada's \$2.5 million investment toward improvements to the city's bus maintenance facility.^{20,21}

Compared to January 2018, employment in Southeast declined to 58,300 (-2.0%) and its unemployment rate declined by 0.9 percentage points to 4.7%. New employment opportunities are likely to become available in the region, as the government of Manitoba announced the sale of the Pineland Forest Nursery to Botanist Organic Growers Corp.. The company intends to invest millions of dollars into hemp production facilities, and research and development, to become the largest indoor hemp cannabidiol producer. Over the next three years, the company expects to employ up to 200 people for various positions.²² Former staff at the nursery were provided with alternative employment opportunities.²³

In the past year, employment in Parklands and North declined by 10.1%, and the unemployment rate grew by 2.7 percentage points to 7.8%. However, after last year's announcement that Hudbay Minerals would close its 777 mine in Flin Flon, the company has now announced their intent to invest \$124 million into their operations around the Lalor Mine near Snow Lake. The investment includes reopening the New Britannia mill, which the company anticipates will double gold production by 2022.²⁴

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.

Prepared by: Labour Market Information (LMI) Directorate, Service Canada, Manitoba

For further information, please contact the LMI team at: http://www.esdc.gc.ca/cqi-bin/contact/edsc-esdc/eng/contact_us.aspx?section=lmi

For information on the Labour Force Survey, please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: www.statcan.gc.ca

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada as represented by Employment and Social Development Canada, 2019, all rights reserved

¹ Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0287-01 Labour force characteristics, monthly, seasonally adjusted and trend-cycle, last 5 months, last modified March 8, 2019, accessed March 8, 2019

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1410028701>

² Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0288-01 Employment by class of worker, monthly, seasonally adjusted and unadjusted, last 5 months (x 1,000), last modified March 8, 2019, accessed March 8, 2019

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1410028801>

³ Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0287-01 Labour force characteristics, monthly, seasonally adjusted and trend-cycle, last 5 months, last modified March 8, 2019, accessed March 8, 2019

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1410028701>

⁴ James McCarten, Tariffs impeding passage of USMCA deal through Parliament, Garneau warns U.S. governors, The Canadian Press, Global News online, last modified February 24, 2019, accessed March 6, 2019

<https://globalnews.ca/news/4994165/tariffs-usmca-deal-parliament-marc-garneau/>

⁵ Naomi Powell, Not ratifying NAFTA will be a 'catastrophe', U.S. trade czar says, as U.S. works to lift metals tariffs, Financial Post online, last modified February 27, 2019, accessed March 6, 2019

<https://business.financialpost.com/news/economy/not-ratifying-nafta-will-be-a-catastrophe-u-s-trade-czar-says-as-u-s-works-to-lift-metals-tariffs>

⁶ David Shepardson, U.S. opens anti-dumping probe into steel imports from China, Canada, Mexico, Reuters online, last modified February 26, 2019, accessed March 6, 2019

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-steel-investigation/u-s-opens-anti-dumping-probe-into-steel-imports-from-china-canada-mexico-idUSKCN1QF2S1>

⁷ Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0011-01 Employment insurance beneficiaries (regular benefits) by province and territory, monthly, seasonally adjusted, last modified March 8 2019, accessed March 8, 2019

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1410001101>

⁸ Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0011-01 Employment insurance beneficiaries (regular benefits) by province and territory, monthly, seasonally adjusted, last modified March 8, 2019, accessed March 8, 2019

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1410001101>

⁹ Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0287-01 Labour force characteristics, monthly, seasonally adjusted and trend-cycle, last 5 months, modified March 8, 2019, accessed March 8, 2019

<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1410028701>

¹⁰ Bartley Kives, No major property tax hike in Winnipeg's 2019 budget, but road repairs take a hit, CBC News online, last modified March 1, 2019, accessed March 8, 2019 <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/winnipeg-budget-2019-1.5038940>

¹¹ 2019 PRELIMINARY OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS, 2019 Street Renewal Capital Program – \$86.4 million, 2019 Departmental Highlights, 2019 Budget, City of Winnipeg online, last modified March 8, 2019, accessed March 8, 2019 <https://www.winnipeg.ca/interhom/Budget/2019Budget/pdfs/2019PreliminaryBudgetPresentation.pdf>

¹² MANITOBA SIGNS FORESTRY AGREEMENT WITH FIRST NATION CONSORTIUM, News Release – Manitoba, Government of Manitoba online, last modified February 28, 2019, accessed March 7, 2019 <https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=45096&posted=2019-02-28>

¹³ NEW PERSONAL CARE HOME MOVING FORWARD IN CARMAN, News Release – Manitoba, Government of Manitoba online, last modified February 22, 2019, accessed March 11, 2019 <https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=45060&posted=2019-02-22>

¹⁴ NEW PERSONAL CARE HOME MOVING FORWARD IN STEINBACH, News Release – Manitoba, Government of Manitoba online, last modified February 21, 2019, accessed March 11, 2019 <https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=45054&posted=2019-02-21>

¹⁵ Sean Kavanagh, New \$233M Women's Hospital to open December after years of delays, CBC News online, last modified February 26, 2019, accessed March 11, 2019 <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/womens-hospital-hsc-completed-1.5033924>

¹⁶ The Head Start Promised in 1870 Revived, News, Manitoba Metis Federation online, last modified February 15, 2019, accessed March 7, 2019 http://www.mmf.mb.ca/news_details.php?news_id=343

¹⁷ Payless to close 248 Canadian stores saying it's 'ill-equipped' for market, The Canadian Press, BNN Bloomberg online, last modified February 19, 2019, accessed March 10, 2019 <https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/payless-to-close-248-canadian-stores-saying-its-ill-equipped-for-market-1.1216494>

¹⁸ Tara Deschamps, Payless ShoeSource to close 248 Canadian stores, saying it is 'ill-equipped' for market, The Canadian Press, Financial Post online, last modified February 19, 2019, accessed March 13, 2018 <https://business.financialpost.com/news/retail-marketing/payless-to-close-248-canadian-stores-saying-its-ill-equipped-for-market>

¹⁹ Pete Evans, HBC shutting all 37 Home Outfitters stores across Canada, CBC News online, last modified February 22, 2019, accessed March 13, 2019 <https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/hbc-home-outfitters-1.5028740>

²⁰ Ryan Thorpe, New housing complex gets go-ahead, Winnipeg Free Press, last modified February 18, 2019, accessed March 11, 2019 <https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/business/new-housing-complex-gets-go-ahead-506020412.html>

²¹ Prime Minister announces public transit improvements in Winnipeg, News, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada online, last modified February 12, 2019, accessed March 10, 2019 <https://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2019/02/12/prime-minister-announces-public-transit-improvements-winnipeg>

²² World's largest indoor organic hemp CBD grower setting up in Manitoba, Botanist Organic Growers Corp., CISION online, last modified February 22, 2019, accessed March 11, 2019 <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/world-s-largest-indoor-organic-hemp-cbd-grower-setting-up-in-manitoba-831163983.html>

²³ PROVINCE CONCLUDES DEAL TO BRING NEW ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES TO PINELAND FOREST NURSERY, News Release – Manitoba – Government of Manitoba online, last modified February 22, 2019, accessed March 11, 2019 <https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=45059&posted=2019-02-22>

²⁴ Hudbay plans to spend \$124 million to refurbish mill and double Lalor mine gold production, Thompson Citizen online, last modified February 20, 2019, accessed March 6, 2019 <https://www.thompsoncitizen.net/news/nickel-belt/hudbay-plans-to-spend-124-million-to-refurbish-mill-and-double-lalor-mine-gold-production-1.23639770>