



Labour Market Bulletin

Manitoba

April 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

During the month of April, employment in Manitoba remained relatively unchanged at 654,200, as there was little movement in either part or full-time employment.¹ In April, employment in the public sector remained relatively unchanged at around 160,600, while the private sector decreased slightly to about 400,800. Self-employment increased to 92,800 (+1,800).² Employment in Canada surprisingly increased by an astounding 106,500. Indeed, while other western provinces shared these gains, Manitoba did not experience similar job creation.³

There is growing uncertainty in Manitoba's industries that trade internationally. China continues to ban Canadian canola seed imports following allegations of pest contamination. Manitoba produces the third largest volume of canola in Canada, with China purchasing roughly \$2.7 billion of Canada's canola seed exports in 2018.⁴ As spring seeding has already begun, Manitoba farmers could be hurt financially should the ban continue beyond the harvest. In response, the Government of Canada has temporarily increased the loan limits under the Advance Payments Program.⁵

In addition, no further progress has been made on the new Canada United States Mexico (CUSMA) trade agreement, as U.S. tariffs on steel (25%) and aluminum (10%) persist. Moving forward, Manitoba's economy will continue to face an uphill battle due to ongoing trade disputes with its largest trading partners.

According to most recent data, the number of employment insurance beneficiaries in February fell to 15,370 (-2.7%) compared to the same time in 2018, and the number of beneficiaries have remained relatively unchanged between the months of January and February 2019.⁶

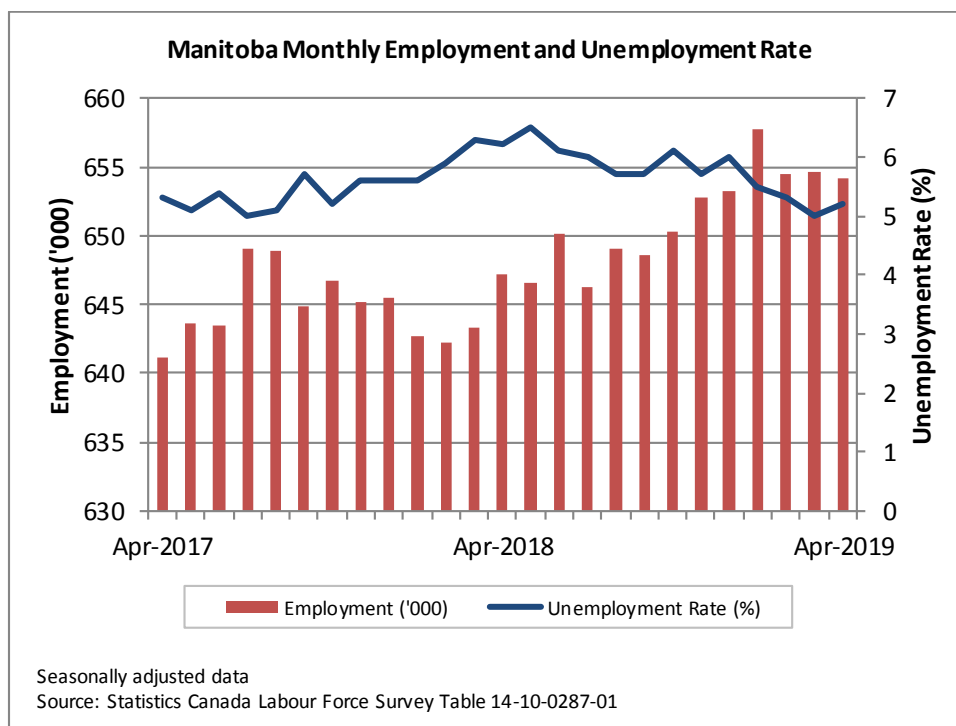
Month-over-month, Manitoba’s unemployment rate increased to 5.2%. Compared to other the provinces in western Canada, Manitoba had the second lowest unemployment rate, behind British Columbia (4.6%).⁷

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	April 2019	March 2019	April 2018	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	1,034.4	1,033.2	1,022.7	1.2	0.1	11.7	1.1
Labour Force ('000)	689.8	689.3	689.8	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.0
Employment ('000)	654.2	654.6	647.2	-0.4	-0.1	7.0	1.1
Full-Time ('000)	522.1	522.7	517.8	-0.6	-0.1	4.3	0.8
Part-Time ('000)	132.1	132.0	129.5	0.1	0.1	2.6	2.0
Unemployment ('000)	35.6	34.6	42.6	1.0	2.9	-7.0	-16.4
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.2	5.0	6.2	0.2	-	-1.0	-
Participation Rate (%)	66.7	66.7	67.4	0.0	-	-0.7	-
Employment Rate (%)	63.2	63.4	63.3	-0.2	-	-0.1	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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



On a month-over-month basis, the unemployment rate for Manitoba’s youth (ages 15-24 years) remained unchanged at 10.0%, while that of those aged 25 years and older increased by 0.2 percentage points to 4.3%. Year over year, Manitoba’s youth unemployment rate is down 2.0 percentage points, whereas the unemployment rate for the 25+ age group fell by 0.8 percentage points.

Manitoba Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	April 2019	March 2019	April 2018	Monthly Variation	Yearly Variation
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(% points)	(% points)
Total	5.2	5.0	6.2	0.2	-1.0
25 years and over	4.3	4.1	5.1	0.2	-0.8
Men - 25 years and over	3.9	4.2	5.5	-0.3	-1.6
Women - 25 years and over	4.7	4.0	4.5	0.7	0.2
15 to 24 years	10.0	10.0	12.0	0.0	-2.0
Men - 15 to 24 years	12.2	11.6	14.2	0.6	-2.0
Women - 15 to 24 years	7.5	8.2	9.6	-0.7	-2.1

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

When compared to the same time last year, Manitoba's goods producing sector increased to 154,100 (+5,300). Employment increased in construction (+6,500) and manufacturing (+2,500). Whereas employment declined in forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas (-1,600), agriculture (-1,100), and utilities (-900).⁸ Despite the potential for further growth in the goods sector due in part to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership and Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement, the ongoing trade disputes with China over canola has pushed Canada towards leading a trade mission in Japan and South Korea later this summer.⁹

Construction projects across the province are on the rise, including repairs on an anticipated 34 residential streets in Winnipeg, due in part to nearly \$20 million in extra funding from the federal gas tax.¹⁰ Across the province, the Manitoba government is investing nearly \$58 million in 59 school infrastructure projects, including structural repairs and roof replacements.¹¹ In preparation for Manitoba's 150th anniversary, the Manitoba government will invest \$45 million towards various capital projects, including the restoration of Memorial Park and fountain in Winnipeg.¹²

While danger was high for spring flooding across parts of the province, favourable weather conditions, the Red River Flood Way, and Portage Diversion helped mitigate the risk of severe flooding of farmland.¹³ However cold and damp conditions have slowed spring seeding across most of the province.¹⁴ In addition, China continues to ban Canadian canola seeds, putting Manitoba's canola farmers in a challenging position. Fortunately, a diversified agriculture sector, and a temporarily increase to the loan limits under the Advance Payments Program, will help mitigate some of the anticipated financial strain.¹⁵ However, as global trade relations remain strained due to a rise in protectionist policies and tariffs, Manitoba farmers are likely to see lower commodity prices in the coming months.

Year-over-year, Manitoba's services sector increased to 500,100 (+1,700), due in part to growth in transportation and warehousing (+5,400), business, building and other support services (+4,100), and public administration (+1,400). While several industries saw gains, others experienced job losses, including trade (-3,100), educational services (-3,200), other services (-2,100), and finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (-1,000).¹⁶

Compared to the same time last year, employment in health care and social assistance has remained relatively steady. However, changes to Manitoba's health care sector are anticipated, due to a bilateral agreement signed between the governments of Canada and Manitoba. Under the agreement, millions of dollars will be invested annually towards home and community care, and mental health and addiction services.¹⁷ In addition, the provincial government announced that it would be investing over \$3 million towards support services for newcomers. The additional funding will support settlement, language, employment, and community programs through 17 organizations across the province. Following consultations with newcomers, the funding will focus on improving programs to support newcomer youth, families, and those encountering barriers.¹⁸

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	April 2019	March 2019	April 2018	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	654.2	654.6	647.2	-0.4	-0.1	7.0	1.1
Goods-producing sector	154.1	155.6	148.8	-1.5	-1.0	5.3	3.6
Agriculture	25.5	25.4	26.6	0.1	0.4	-1.1	-4.1
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	5.0	6.4	6.6	-1.4	-21.9	-1.6	-24.2
Utilities	6.3	6.4	7.2	-0.1	-1.6	-0.9	-12.5
Construction	52.6	51.8	46.1	0.8	1.5	6.5	14.1
Manufacturing	64.7	65.7	62.2	-1.0	-1.5	2.5	4.0
Services-producing sector	500.1	499.0	498.4	1.1	0.2	1.7	0.3
Trade	86.0	85.6	89.1	0.4	0.5	-3.1	-3.5
Transportation and warehousing	43.3	43.8	37.9	-0.5	-1.1	5.4	14.2
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	35.0	34.4	36.0	0.6	1.7	-1.0	-2.8
Professional, scientific and technical services	29.0	28.8	28.2	0.2	0.7	0.8	2.8
Business, building and other support services	23.3	23.4	19.2	-0.1	-0.4	4.1	21.4
Educational services	49.7	50.1	52.9	-0.4	-0.8	-3.2	-6.0
Health care and social assistance	105.8	105.0	105.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Information, culture and recreation	22.7	22.3	23.5	0.4	1.8	-0.8	-3.4
Accommodation and food services	42.9	42.5	42.7	0.4	0.9	0.2	0.5
Other services	27.7	27.8	29.8	-0.1	-0.4	-2.1	-7.0
Public administration	34.8	35.3	33.4	-0.5	-1.4	1.4	4.2

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 across half of Manitoba's regions. Winnipeg led employment growth with 13,200 new jobs created, followed by Southwest (+2,900), and South Central and North Central (+1,000). Over the same period, the unemployment rate in South Central and North Central worsened as it increased by 1.5 percentage points, and that of Parklands and Northern increased further to 6.8%.¹⁹

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	April 2019 ('000)	April 2018 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	April 2019 (%)	April 2018 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Manitoba	646.9	637.0	1.6	5.3	6.3	-1.0
Economic Regions						
Southeast	60.1	60.8	-1.2	3.8	5.2	-1.4
South Central and North Central	55.6	54.6	1.8	4.5	3.0	1.5
Southwest	57.6	54.7	5.3	5.1	5.0	0.1
Winnipeg	398.7	385.5	3.4	5.5	7.1	-1.6
Interlake	43.3	45.3	-4.4	5.5	6.8	-1.3
Parklands and Northern	31.8	36.1	-11.9	6.8	6.2	0.6

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Compared to the same time last year, employment increased by 3.4% in Winnipeg. Over the same period, the unemployment rate fell by 1.6 percentage points to 5.5%. While several major private construction projects are expected to be completed over the year, a number of publicly-funded projects will be breaking ground and boost the construction sector over the coming months. In addition to the upcoming road repairs, the City of Winnipeg continues to move forward on the Empress Street overpass reconstruction and rehabilitation project, and work on the second stage of the Southwest Transitway is ongoing.^{20,21} The Winnipeg census metropolitan area continues to grow, as housing starts increased to 444 (+33.7%) between the months of March and April.²² However, with tighter mortgage rules and the municipal impact fee, the number of housing starts are likely to remain flat in the coming months.

Year-over-year, employment within Southeast declined slightly to 60,100 (-700); however, the region may see improvement in the coming months as construction and agriculture ramps up.²³ For instance, a \$19.5 million community resource center will soon be built in Niverville.²⁴ In addition, Manitoba Hydro's Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission project continues to move forward as the Manitoba government approved its environmental licence. Construction of the transmission line continues in Minnesota, with the Manitoba portion expected to begin as soon as possible.²⁵

Compared to the same time last year, employment within Southwest grew to 57,600 (+2,900), as the regional unemployment rate remained relatively unchanged.²⁶ In support of the province's sustainable protein strategy, the Assiniboine Community College will receive \$640,000 in private and public funding towards the construction of a new Food Processing Centre for Animal Proteins. The new centre will help students gain new skills for employment opportunities in meat processing, thereby helping employers address employee shortages.²⁷

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 May 10, 2019, accessed May 10, 2019

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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 May 10, 2019, accessed May 10, 2019

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

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⁵ Government of Canada Taking Action for Canada's Canola Sector, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Government of Canada, last modified May 1, 2019, accessed May 2, 2019 <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2019/05/government-of-canada-taking-action-for-canadas-canola-sector.html>

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¹¹ PROVINCE ANNOUNCES MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES TO MANITOBA SCHOOLS, News Release – Manitoba, Government of Manitoba online, last modified April 18, 2019, accessed May 10, 2019

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