



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Manitoba

September 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

Between the second and the third quarter of 2019, employment in Manitoba remained relatively unchanged at 652,800, as gains in full-time employment (+5,000) were offset by losses in part-time employment (-5,100).<sup>1</sup> In the third quarter of 2019, employment in the public sector increased to around 163,800 (+2,300), with self-employment declining to around 88,900 (-2,600). The private sector remained relatively stable at 400,200.<sup>2</sup>

At the time of writing this report, Manitoba's economy remains caught in a trade dispute between China and Canada, which is affecting a variety of agriculture products, including canola and pork. Manitoba's economy will continue to face strong headwinds due to the ongoing trade dispute with its second largest trading partner.<sup>3</sup>

According to the Conference Board of Canada, Manitoba's economic outlook for 2019 may be modest at best. With an expected real GDP growth rate of 0.5 per cent in 2019, and 0.8 per cent in 2020, Manitoba's performance may sit near the bottom of the pack when compared to the rest of the provinces. The think tank points to the completion of large construction projects, lower consumer spending, declines in the oil and mining sectors, the trade dispute with China, and weak provincial spending for the sluggish growth. The projected downturn across the province will likely make it more difficult for the province to tackle its growing debt.<sup>4,5</sup>

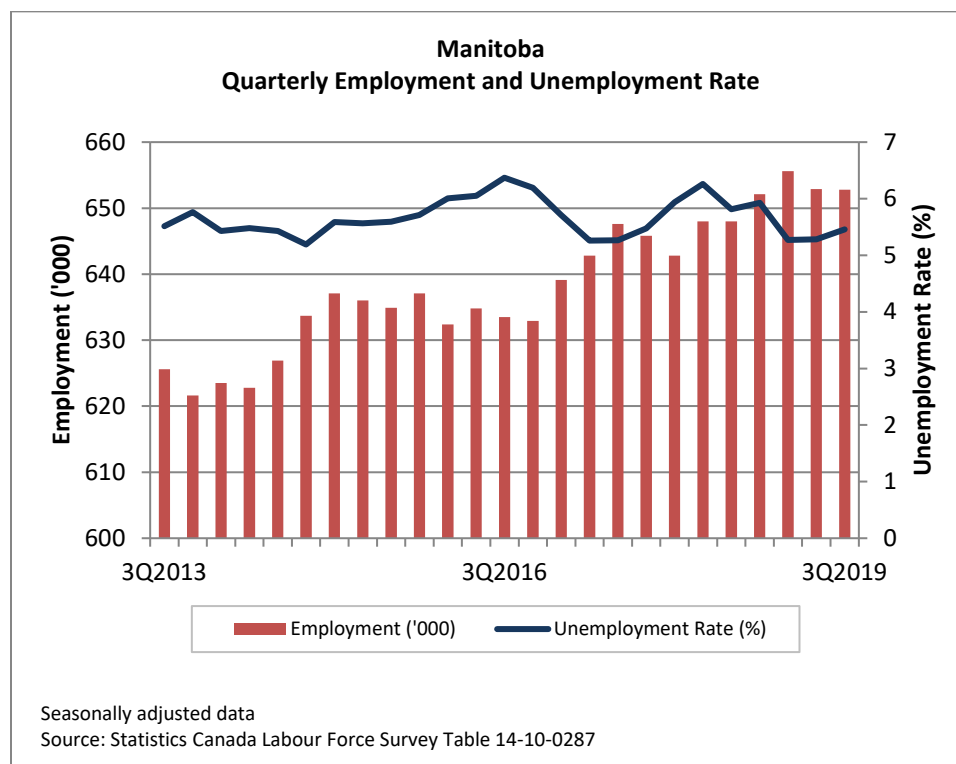
Quarter-over-quarter, Manitoba's unemployment rate increased to 5.5%. Compared to other provinces in western Canada, Manitoba had the third lowest unemployment rate, behind British Columbia (4.7%) and Saskatchewan (5.3%).<sup>6</sup>

## Manitoba Quarterly Labour Force Statistics

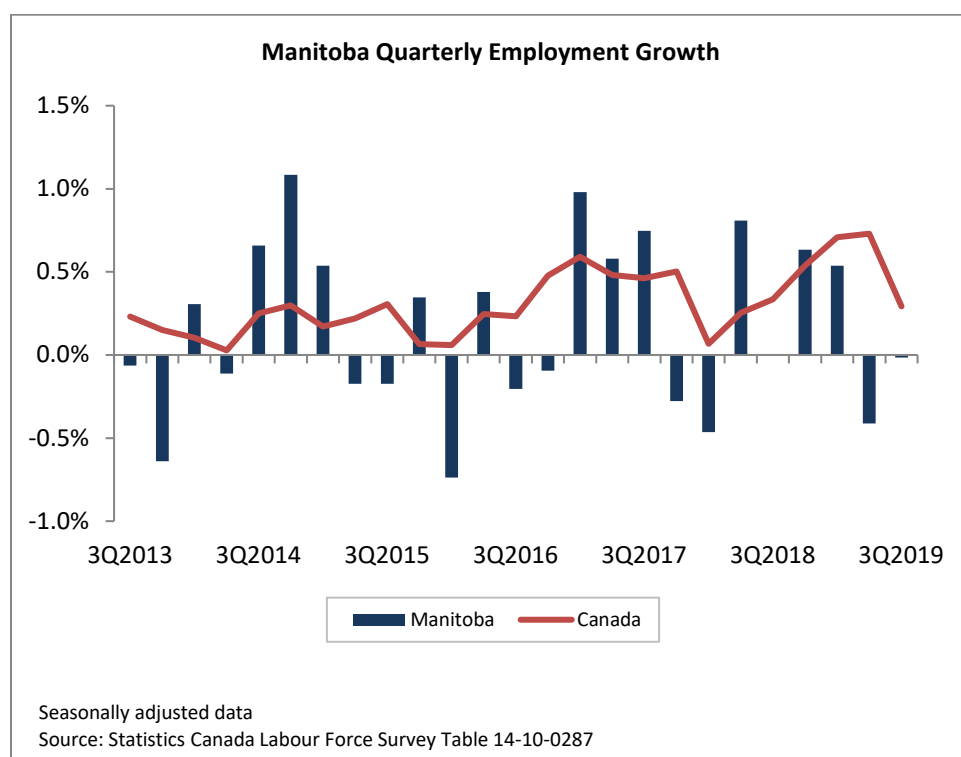
Seasonally adjusted data	3rd Quarter 2019	2nd Quarter 2019	3rd Quarter 2018	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	1,039.5	1,035.3	1,026.6	4.2	0.4	12.9	1.3
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	690.5	689.3	688.0	1.2	0.2	2.5	0.4
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	652.8	652.9	648.0	-0.1	0.0	4.8	0.7
Full-Time ('000)	527.8	522.8	522.8	5.0	1.0	5.0	1.0
Part-Time ('000)	125.0	130.1	125.2	-5.1	-3.9	-0.2	-0.2
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	37.7	36.4	40.0	1.3	3.6	-2.3	-5.7
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	5.5	5.3	5.8	0.2	-	-0.3	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	66.4	66.6	67.0	-0.2	-	-0.6	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	62.8	63.1	63.1	-0.3	-	-0.3	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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



On a quarter-over-quarter basis, the unemployment rate for Manitoba's youth (ages 15-24 years) increased to 12.3%, while that of those aged 25 years and older remained relatively unchanged at 4.2%. Year over year, Manitoba's youth unemployment rate is up 1.4 percentage points, whereas the unemployment rate for the 25+ age group fell by 0.7 percentage points.

**Manitoba Quarterly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age**

Seasonally adjusted data	3rd Quarter 2019 (%)	2nd Quarter 2019 (%)	3rd Quarter 2018 (%)	Quarterly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Total</b>	5.5	5.3	5.8	0.2	-0.3
<b>25 years and over</b>	4.2	4.3	4.9	-0.1	-0.7
Men - 25 years and over	4.5	4.4	5.2	0.1	-0.7
Women - 25 years and over	3.7	4.2	4.5	-0.5	-0.8
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	12.3	10.6	10.9	1.7	1.4
Men - 15 to 24 years	15.6	12.6	12.3	3.0	3.3
Women - 15 to 24 years	8.6	8.3	9.4	0.3	-0.8

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 third quarter of 2019, the total population aged 15+ in Manitoba was 1.04 million. The Indigenous population living off-reserve accounted for 11.9% of that, or 123,600 people. Employment among Indigenous people in Manitoba decreased to 71,000, representing a loss of 100 positions (-0.1%) compared to the same time last year. Employment losses were in full-time positions (-1.5%) partially offset by an increase in part-time positions (+7.5%).

The unemployment rate among the Indigenous population was 10.8% in the third quarter of 2019, representing an increase of 0.6 percentage points from the previous year. Among the non-Indigenous population, the unemployment rate was 5.1%. Between third quarter of 2018 and third quarter of 2019, the participation rate among Indigenous people decreased to 64.4% while that of the non-Indigenous population decreased to 67.1%. Over the same period, the employment rate among the Indigenous population decreased to 57.2%, while the rate for the non-Indigenous population decreased to 63.7%.

**Manitoba - Labour Market Indicators for Indigenous People**

3-month moving averages Seasonally unadjusted data	Indigenous		Yearly variation (Indigenous)		Non-Indigenous		Yearly variation (non-Indigenous)	
	Q3 2019	Q3 2018	number	%	Q3 2019	Q3 2018	number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	123.6	120.2	3.4	2.8%	915.8	906.4	9.4	1.0%
Labour Force ('000)	79.6	79.1	0.5	0.6%	615.0	615.2	-0.2	0.0%
Employment ('000)	71.0	71.1	-0.1	-0.1%	583.5	580.2	3.3	0.6%
Full-Time ('000)	59.6	60.5	-0.9	-1.5%	479.9	475.5	4.4	0.9%
Part-Time ('000)	11.4	10.6	0.8	7.5%	103.5	104.7	-1.2	-1.1%
Unemployment ('000)	8.6	8.1	0.5	6.2%	31.5	34.9	-3.4	-9.7%
Unemployment Rate (%)	10.8	10.2	0.6	-	5.1	5.7	-0.6	-
Participation Rate (%)	64.4	65.9	-1.5	-	67.1	67.9	-0.8	-
Employment Rate (%)	57.5	59.1	-1.6	-	63.7	64.0	-0.3	-

**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.

This July, the Government of Canada announced \$5.1 million in funding towards the construction of the Metis National Heritage Centre in Winnipeg. Once complete, visitors will have the opportunity to learn about the history and culture of the Metis Nation.<sup>7,8</sup>

On August 30<sup>th</sup>, seven First Nations and the federal government held a signing ceremony that officially transferred Kapyong Barracks to Treaty 1 First Nations. Under the agreement, which was reached in principle in April, the Treaty 1 Development Corporation will develop nearly 45-hectares and Canada Lands Co. will develop the rest. The site is expected to take years to develop, as initial plans include a sports facility, hotel, and residential areas.<sup>9</sup>

Much further north, near Thompson MB., Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) held three sod turning-ceremonies for nearly \$82 million in new infrastructure. The First Nation will see a health centre, a Grade 7-12 school, and a water treatment plant built over the next few years.<sup>10</sup>

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

When compared to the same time last year, Manitoba's **goods** producing sector increased to 150,900 (+4,700). Employment increased in construction (+4,600) and manufacturing (+1,800), whereas employment in forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas fell by 1,300, and utilities by 400.<sup>11</sup>

In the third quarter, **construction** continued on Manitoba Hydro's Keeyask hydroelectric project near Gillam, and Roquette's pea-protein plant in Portage La Prairie.<sup>12,13</sup> With such large projects nearing completion, the industry will slowdown in the next few years, despite the announcement of new construction projects, including True North Square's Tower 5 in Winnipeg, and the Manitoba-Minnesota transmission line in Southeastern Manitoba.<sup>14,15</sup> In addition, over \$130 million in federal, provincial, and municipal funding will be invested in four projects to improve water and wastewater services in rural Manitoba.<sup>16</sup>

The third quarter was challenging for Manitoba's **agriculture** sector, particularly as extreme weather and global trade disputes persist. Looking forward, the outlook for Manitoba cattle farmers' remains poor, as warm weather during most of the summer affected the normal grazing season. Surprisingly, this September was one of the wettest months this year, replenishing some water levels in dugouts; unfortunately, the rains came too late in the year to improve forage yields. As such, there is the chance that some farmers will have to sell their cattle in anticipation of feed shortages. Despite a wet September providing some relief to cattle farmers, some fields across the province were inundated with water. At the time of writing this bulletin, roughly less than three-quarters of Manitoba's crops have been harvested.<sup>17</sup>

At this time, China continues to ban imports of Canadian canola seeds and meat, with no indication that the trade dispute will be resolved anytime soon.<sup>18</sup> According to most recent data, between January and August of 2019, Manitoba's agriculture exports to China have dropped by nearly 50% when compared to the same period last year.<sup>19</sup>

Year-over-year, Manitoba's **services** sector remained relatively unchanged at 501,900, due in part to growth in educational services (+1,800), professional, scientific and technical services (+1,600), and business, building and other support services (+1,200). However, while these few industries saw gains, they were offset by modest losses in healthcare and social assistance (-3,000), other services (-2,400), and finance, insurance, real estate and leasing (-1,200).<sup>20</sup>

This September, the provincial government was re-elected, and in their speech from the throne outlined the government's priorities, particularly implementing any outstanding measures from Budget 2019. For instance, the province intends to implement the New West Partnership Agreement, address ongoing addictions and public safety issues, and invest in front-line health, education, and social services.<sup>21</sup> However, Manitobans should not expect significant investments in the coming years, as the provincial government continues to focus on addressing its financial deficit, including \$1 billion spent to service the province's debt.<sup>22</sup>

## Manitoba Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally adjusted data ('000)	3rd Quarter 2019	2nd Quarter 2019	3rd Quarter 2018	Quarterly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	652.8	652.9	648.0	-0.1	0.0	4.8	0.7
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	150.9	154.3	146.2	-3.4	-2.2	4.7	3.2
Agriculture	25.1	25.9	25.0	-0.8	-3.1	0.1	0.4
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	5.2	5.1	6.5	0.1	2.0	-1.3	-20.0
Utilities	6.6	6.3	7.0	0.3	4.8	-0.4	-5.7
Construction	50.6	51.5	46.0	-0.9	-1.7	4.6	10.0
Manufacturing	63.5	65.4	61.7	-1.9	-2.9	1.8	2.9
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	501.9	498.6	501.7	3.3	0.7	0.2	0.0
Trade	88.8	87.2	88.2	1.6	1.8	0.6	0.7
Transportation and warehousing	41.0	43.1	40.1	-2.1	-4.9	0.9	2.2
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	34.3	34.1	35.5	0.2	0.6	-1.2	-3.4
Professional, scientific and technical services	30.1	28.7	28.5	1.4	4.9	1.6	5.6
Business, building and other support services	22.6	22.8	21.4	-0.2	-0.9	1.2	5.6
Educational services	53.0	51.4	51.2	1.6	3.1	1.8	3.5
Health care and social assistance	102.4	103.8	105.4	-1.4	-1.3	-3.0	-2.8
Information, culture and recreation	23.7	22.4	23.4	1.3	5.8	0.3	1.3
Accommodation and food services	41.9	42.3	42.4	-0.4	-0.9	-0.5	-1.2
Other services	28.2	27.6	30.6	0.6	2.2	-2.4	-7.8
Public administration	35.9	35.1	34.9	0.8	2.3	1.0	2.9

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Since the third quarter of 2018, Winnipeg and Southwest each created 3,900 new jobs, followed by Interlake (+900). Over the same period, half the regions saw their unemployment rates improve, led by Interlake which declined by 1.5 percentage points. Whereas, the largest increase amongst the regional unemployment rates was in Parklands and Northern (2.7 percentage points).<sup>23</sup>

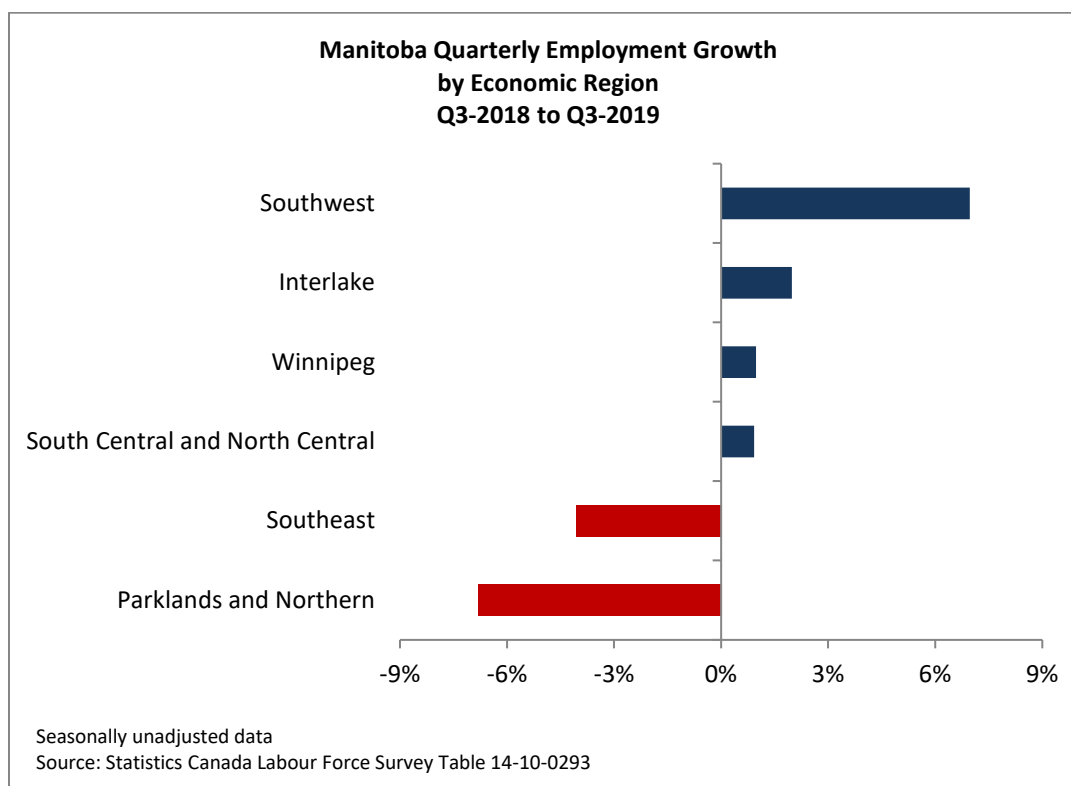
## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

## Manitoba Quarterly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

Seasonally unadjusted data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	3rd Quarter 2019 ('000)	3rd Quarter 2018 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	3rd Quarter 2019 (%)	3rd Quarter 2018 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Manitoba</b>	656.3	651.7	0.7	5.7	6.2	-0.5
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Southeast	61.4	64.0	-4.1	4.2	4.3	-0.1
South Central and North Central	54.7	54.2	0.9	5.2	4.6	0.6
Southwest	59.9	56.0	7.0	4.8	4.6	0.2
Winnipeg	403.7	399.8	1.0	6.0	6.9	-0.9
Interlake	46.3	45.4	2.0	4.5	6.0	-1.5
Parklands and Northern	30.2	32.4	-6.8	8.8	6.1	2.7

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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



Within the past 12 months, employment in Winnipeg increased to 403,700, and should continue to grow due to its diversified economy.<sup>24</sup> While, the region's **construction** sector is looking at a slowdown; the Government of Canada announced several funding initiatives that should soften any downturn. An investment of \$30.4 million

has been announced to increase air cargo capacity at the Winnipeg James Richardson International Airport and around \$25.6 million for the West Broadway Commons development, which will feature 110 new homes including 56 affordable housing units.<sup>25</sup> The Government of Canada also announced that it would provide \$8.8 million in funding for the new \$40 million Royal Aviation Museum of Western Canada, and nearly \$5 million for a new multi-purpose building, retrofits, and renovations at the Fort Whyte Centre.<sup>26</sup>

The region's food manufacturing sub-industry sector will continue to grow, as Merit Functional Foods has now begun construction of its \$65 million protein production facility, and Winnipeg-based Paterson GlobalFoods announced it would soon begin construction of a new \$94 million oat processing facility.<sup>27,28</sup>

Across the **Interlake** region, the unemployment rate decreased to 4.5%, due in part to employment increasing slightly to 46,300 when compared to the same quarter last year.<sup>29</sup> Several rural municipalities declared a state of agriculture disaster due to severe drought conditions. Over the summer, Manitoba received very little rain, greatly affecting crop yields and feed for Manitoba cattle farmers.<sup>30</sup> The situation has become increasingly dire, as this is the second year in a row cattle farmers have been impacted by dry weather. Earlier this summer, the province temporarily allowed cattle farmers to access Crown land for emergency grazing and cutting of hay as forage and pasture growth has been poor.

Within the past year, employment across **South Central and North Central** remained relatively unchanged, and its unemployment rate increased by 0.6 percentage points.<sup>31</sup> The labour market within the region is unlikely to improve much over the coming months, as construction projects are nearing completion, including the now delayed Pine Ridge Childcare Centre in Winkler. Once complete, the Centre will provide the City with 114 additional childcare spaces.<sup>32</sup> In addition, the region saw improvements to its water system, including new pipes between the Morris treatment plant and St. Jean, and an anticipated \$4.75 million in upgrades to the Stephenfield water treatment plant by the end of August 2020.<sup>33</sup>

Despite employment in **Southeast** having declined to 61,400 (-2,600), the unemployment rate remained relatively unchanged in the past year.<sup>34</sup> After timely delays, construction has finally begun on the Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Line, which will run from the Dorsey Converter Station in Winnipeg, all the way to the Canada-U.S. border in South East Manitoba.<sup>35</sup> Approved in June by federal authorities, the \$453 million project is now on an accelerated construction schedule and should be completed by June 2020.<sup>36</sup>

In the past year, employment in **Parklands and North** declined to 30,200 (-2,200), and the unemployment rate surged to 8.8%.<sup>37</sup> After roughly two years, the first cargo ship left Manitoba's port of Churchill this July, with supplies for Nunavut's Kivalliq communities, including Arivat and Rankin Inlet.<sup>38,39</sup> The rail line to Churchill which had been in disrepair for more than a year, slowly resumed operations by the fall of 2018. Looking forward, grain shipments are expected to resume, although it is uncertain if past shipping volumes will be met.<sup>40</sup>

Over the past several years, job losses were largely due to a decline in the region's mining sector, particularly in the centres of Flin Flon and Thompson. Nevertheless, the regional mining industry may see a rebound over the medium term, as the Rockcliff Metals Corporation's exploratory drilling program is set to continue in the Flin Flon-Snow Lake greenstone belt until the end of 2020.<sup>41</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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<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0287-01 Labour force characteristics, monthly, seasonally adjusted and trend-cycle, last 5 months, last modified October 11, 2019, accessed October 11, 2019

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

<sup>2</sup> 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 October 11, 2019, accessed October 11, 2019

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<sup>4</sup> Bartley Kives, Conference Board slashes Manitoba's 2019 economic growth projection ahead of election, CBC News online, last modified August 22, 2019, accessed October 8, 2019 <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/conference-board-manitoba-election-1.5255287>

<sup>5</sup> Marie-Christine Bernard, Aimee McArthur-Gupta, and Daniel Lam, Conference Board of Canada, Provincial Outlook Executive Summary: Summer 2019, last modified August 24, 2019, accessed October 8, 2019,

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<sup>7</sup> Minister Bennet announces funding for Metis National Heritage Centre, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, Newswire online, last modified July 12, 2019, accessed October 8, 2019 <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/minister-bennett-announces-funding-for-metis-national-heritage-centre-807988111.html>

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