



Labour Market Bulletin

Manitoba

November 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 almost 652,000 people employed in Manitoba in November 2019 — down 1,500 from October. Part-time employment losses (-2,800) were only partially offset by full-time employment gains (+1,300) this month. On an annual basis, employment was little changed in Manitoba (-900), with part-time employment losses (-1,800) outpacing full-time gains (+900).

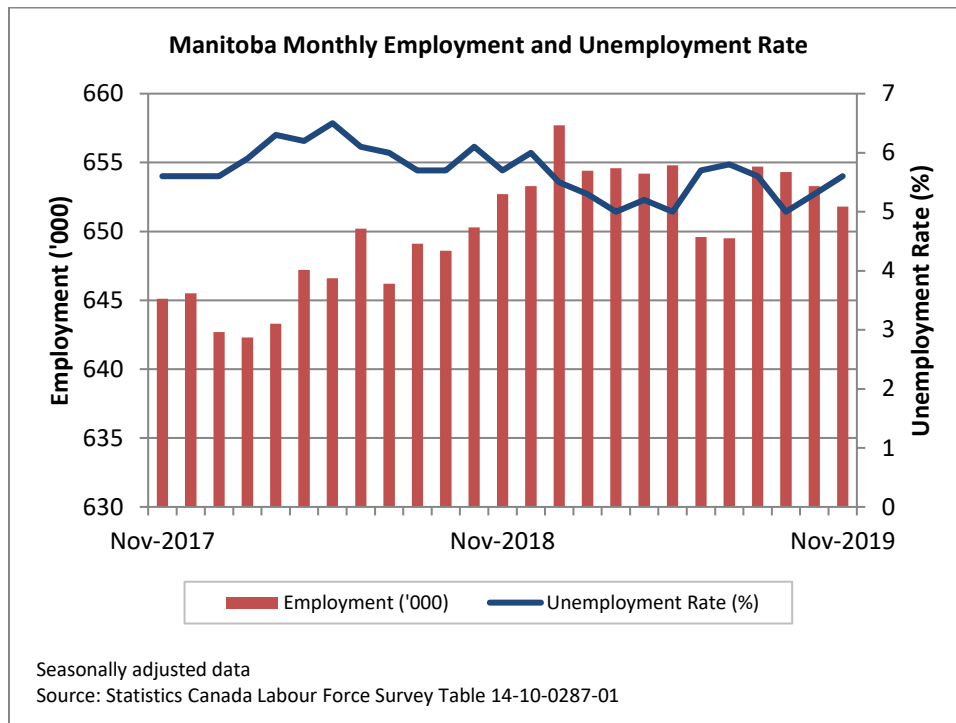
Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	November 2019	October 2019	November 2018	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	1,043.0	1,042.0	1,028.8	1.0	0.1	14.2	1.4
Labour Force ('000)	690.4	689.8	691.9	0.6	0.1	-1.5	-0.2
Employment ('000)	651.8	653.3	652.7	-1.5	-0.2	-0.9	-0.1
Full-Time ('000)	528.0	526.7	527.1	1.3	0.2	0.9	0.2
Part-Time ('000)	123.8	126.6	125.6	-2.8	-2.2	-1.8	-1.4
Unemployment ('000)	38.6	36.5	39.3	2.1	5.8	-0.7	-1.8
Unemployment Rate (%)	5.6	5.3	5.7	0.3	-	-0.1	-
Participation Rate (%)	66.2	66.2	67.3	0.0	-	-1.1	-
Employment Rate (%)	62.5	62.7	63.4	-0.2	-	-0.9	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Manitoba's unemployment rate rose to 5.6% in November after increasing for three consecutive months. Despite this uptick, the province's unemployment rate remains below the national average of 5.9%. Year-over-year, Manitoba's unemployment rate is relatively unchanged (-0.1 percentage points).



The unemployment rate for young women (15 to 24 years) is down significantly on an annual basis, falling 2.1 percentage points to 9.3%. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate for young men (15 to 24 years) remained stable at 14.1% in November, with a small increase on an annual basis. The unemployment rate for men (25 years and over) increased slightly to 4.6% in November, but was unchanged year-over-year.

At 4.1%, women (25 years and over) had the lowest unemployment rate of any demographic group in Manitoba. Over the last three months, Manitoba women (25 years and over) have had a lower unemployment rate than women of the same age group in any other province in Canada.

Manitoba Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	November 2019 (%)	October 2019 (%)	November 2018 (%)	Monthly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Total	5.6	5.3	5.7	0.3	-0.1
25 years and over	4.4	4.0	4.4	0.4	0.0
Men - 25 years and over	4.6	4.1	4.6	0.5	0.0
Women - 25 years and over	4.1	3.9	4.2	0.2	-0.1
15 to 24 years	11.9	12.0	12.5	-0.1	-0.6
Men - 15 to 24 years	14.1	14.0	13.5	0.1	0.6
Women - 15 to 24 years	9.3	9.9	11.4	-0.6	-2.1

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** declined for a second consecutive month in November (-1,300), while employment in the province's **services-producing sector** fell for the third consecutive month (-200).

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	November 2019	October 2019	November 2018	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	651.8	653.3	652.6	-1.5	-0.2	-0.8	-0.1
Goods-producing sector	149.2	150.5	149.4	-1.3	-0.9	-0.2	-0.1
Agriculture	26.3	26.0	25.0	0.3	1.2	1.3	5.2
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	5.4	5.6	6.0	-0.2	-3.6	-0.6	-10.0
Utilities	6.5	6.3	6.9	0.2	3.2	-0.4	-5.8
Construction	49.0	49.5	49.1	-0.5	-1.0	-0.1	-0.2
Manufacturing	62.1	63.2	62.4	-1.1	-1.7	-0.3	-0.5
Services-producing sector	502.6	502.8	503.2	-0.2	0.0	-0.6	-0.1
Trade	90.3	89.4	87.7	0.9	1.0	2.6	3.0
Transportation and warehousing	39.4	40.4	40.9	-1.0	-2.5	-1.5	-3.7
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	33.6	33.4	34.7	0.2	0.6	-1.1	-3.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	29.6	29.8	29.6	-0.2	-0.7	0.0	0.0
Business, building and other support services	21.5	22.3	22.4	-0.8	-3.6	-0.9	-4.0
Educational services	51.4	51.5	52.2	-0.1	-0.2	-0.8	-1.5
Health care and social assistance	106.0	105.0	105.6	1.0	1.0	0.4	0.4
Information, culture and recreation	22.7	22.8	22.7	-0.1	-0.4	0.0	0.0
Accommodation and food services	43.7	43.7	42.2	0.0	0.0	1.5	3.6
Other services	28.1	28.0	31.1	0.1	0.4	-3.0	-9.6
Public administration	36.4	36.4	34.1	0.0	0.0	2.3	6.7

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Construction industry employment remained steady, hovering around 50,000 over the last year in Manitoba. However, employment in this industry is expected to decline over the next few years with large construction projects such as Manitoba Hydro's Keyask generating station nearing completion in 2020.¹ Meanwhile, the province's **agriculture** and **manufacturing** industry are expected to fair well in part due to new federal free trade agreements with the Asia-Pacific region and Europe.²

Manitoba's resource extraction industry (**forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas**) currently employs nearly 5,500 people — down 10% from 2018. A recent announcement by Vale Company officials offers renewed optimism for Manitoba's mining industry thought. The head of Vale's Manitoba nickel operations indicated there are large enough ore deposits at its Thompson nickel mine to support the decision to invest \$1 billion. This would be the largest single investment in the history Manitoba's mining industry. If Vale decides to go ahead with the investment, the new money would be spent on assets that could enhance the Thompson mine's output and

extend the mine's life by another 25 to 30 years. Without further investment, the mine is projected to last only another five to eight years.

Employment is on the rise in Manitoba's **wholesale and retail trade** industry, up 900 on a monthly basis and 2,600 year-over-year. Several new specialty retail stores opened in Manitoba during 2019 following the legalization of recreational cannabis. There are now 28 cannabis retail stores operating throughout the province.³ Challenges around supply have eased, and according to Statistics Canada, monthly sales from cannabis stores in Manitoba increased from \$4.2 million in December 2018 to \$5.8 million in September 2019.⁴

The legalization of recreational cannabis has also created employment in agriculture and manufacturing, and more opportunities are on the horizon as the cannabis industry expands in scope. On October 17th, new cannabis regulations came into force allowing the production and sale of value-added cannabis products such as edibles.⁵ These new products are expected to generate approximately \$2.7 billion annually in Canada, with edibles responsible for over half of this revenue.⁶

In Winnipeg, AgraFlora Organics International Inc. was awarded a cannabis research licence from Health Canada to develop cannabis edible formulations.⁷ The company recently completed construction of a pharmaceutical-grade research and development laboratory and is in the process of retrofitting a 51,000 square foot building to house a new cannabis edibles manufacturing facility.⁸ The new facility is expected to be the largest of its kind in North America.⁹

There were 1,000 more positions in Manitoba's **health care and social assistance** industry this month. Employment in this industry is being supported by several new provincial government spending initiatives put in place to implement Manitoba's Mental Health and Addictions Strategy. In addition, the Province is looking to hire a total of 35 full-time equivalent rural paramedics and plans to have all positions filled by mid-January 2020.¹⁰ The Government of Manitoba will also be hiring another 80 full-time paramedics throughout the province over the next four years.¹¹

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Four of Manitoba's six economic regions saw year-over-year employment growth in November. The most significant increases were in the Winnipeg (+3,600) and Southwest (+1,700) regions. Meanwhile, annual job losses were concentrated in the Southeast (-2,200) and Parklands and Northern (-2,200) 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 and a half percentage points to 4.0%.

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	November 2019 ('000)	November 2018 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	November 2019 (%)	November 2018 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Manitoba	654.3	652.6	0.3	4.9	5.3	-0.4
Economic Regions						
Southeast	59.7	61.9	-3.6	4.8	3.4	1.4
South Central and North Central	55.0	54.5	0.9	3.5	4.0	-0.5
Southwest	59.4	57.7	2.9	5.3	2.7	2.6
Winnipeg	405.2	401.6	0.9	5.0	5.8	-0.8
Interlake	45.2	44.7	1.1	4.0	6.5	-2.5
Parklands and Northern	29.9	32.1	-6.9	6.0	7.2	-1.2

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Over 60% of all those employed in Manitoba reside in the **Winnipeg** economic region. Over the last three years, population growth in this region was supported by strong international migration averaging over 17,000 people a year. While immigration is forecast to slow down for this region, Winnipeg's population is still expected to grow 1.4% a year between 2019 and 2023.¹²

Meanwhile, rural Manitoba communities often struggle to find enough people to work in agriculture. The Northern and Rural Immigration Pilot is a new federal program to help smaller rural and remote communities attract foreign workers of various skill levels and provide the workers with permanent residence. Two of the 11 communities chosen to participate in the pilot are located in Manitoba. In the **Southwest** economic region, businesses in Brandon can now participate in the program and so can the those in the region of Rhineland, Plum Coulee, Gretna, Altona (R.P.G.A.) located in the **South Central** economic region.¹³ The program officially began at the beginning of November and newcomers participating in the pilot are expected to start arriving in 2020.¹⁴

Manitoba's **Southwest, South Central and North Central**, and **Southeast** economic regions have unique labour market needs. For instance, 78% of all Manitobans working in the agriculture industry reside within these three regions. As part of Manitoba's Economic Growth Action Plan, the Province recently appointed an interim board for the newly created Southern Manitoba Economic Development Organization that will be based out of Brandon to address local concerns. The new Brandon location will act as a hub for collaboration with economic development agencies throughout southern Manitoba.¹⁵

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 The Conference Board of Canada (November 5, 2019). Metropolitan Outlook 1: Winnipeg – Autumn 2019. Retrieved from: <https://www.conferenceboard.ca/e-library/abstract.aspx?did=10494>

² Ibid

³ Liquor, Gaming & Cannabis Authority of Manitoba. Buying cannabis in Manitoba. Accessed December 5, 2019: <https://lgcamb.ca/cannabis/store-list/>

⁴ Statistics Canada. Cannabis Stats Hub. Accessed on December 5, 2019: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/13-610-x/cannabis-eng.htm>

⁵ Health Canada (June 14, 2019). Health Canada finalizes regulations for the production and sale of edible cannabis, cannabis extracts and cannabis topicals. Retrieved from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2019/06/health-canada-finalizes-regulations-for-the-production-and-sale-of-edible-cannabis-cannabis-extracts-and-cannabis-topicals.html>

⁶ BNN Bloomberg (June 3, 2019). Canadian pot edibles, topicals market worth \$2.7B: Deloitte. Retrieved from: <https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/canadian-pot-edibles-topicals-market-worth-2-7b-deloitte-1.1267583>

⁷ Globe Newswire (November 27, 2019). AgraFlora Organics awarded Health Canada research licence at GMP Winnipeg edibles facility. Retrieved from: <https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2019/11/27/1953042/0/en/AgraFlora-Organics-Awarded-Health-Canada-Research-License-at-GMP-Winnipeg-Edibles-Facility.html>

⁸ Ibid

⁹ Winnipeg Free Press (November 21, 2019). Cannabis edibles facility being built in Winnipeg. Retrieved from: <https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/business/cannabis-edibles-facility-being-built-in-winnipeg-565310132.html>

¹⁰ Government of Manitoba (November 14, 2019). New, full-time paramedics working in communities across Manitoba. Retrieved from: <https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=46185&posted=2019-11-14>

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² The Conference Board of Canada (November 5, 2019). Metropolitan Outlook 1: Winnipeg – Autumn 2019. Retrieved from: <https://www.conferenceboard.ca/e-library/abstract.aspx?did=10494>

¹³ Pembina Valley Online (October 25, 2019). S.E.E.D. unwraps details on immigration pilot project. Retrieved from: <https://www.pembinavalleyonline.com/local/s-e-e-d-unwraps-details-on-immigration-pilot-project>

¹⁴ Government of Canada. Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot: About the pilot. Accessed on December 6, 2019: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/immigrate-canada/rural-northern-immigration-pilot.html>

¹⁵ Government of Manitoba (November 26, 2019). Province appoints interim board for new southern Manitoba economic development organization. Retrieved from: <https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=46377&posted=2019-11-26>