



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Manitoba

January 2020



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 661,000 people employed in Manitoba in January 2020 — up 3,500 from January 2019. Annual full-time employment losses (-2,600) were offset by part-time employment gains (+6,000). The majority of Manitoba's annual employment gains were in the private sector (+6,100), while self-employment decreased substantially (-4,700).<sup>1</sup>

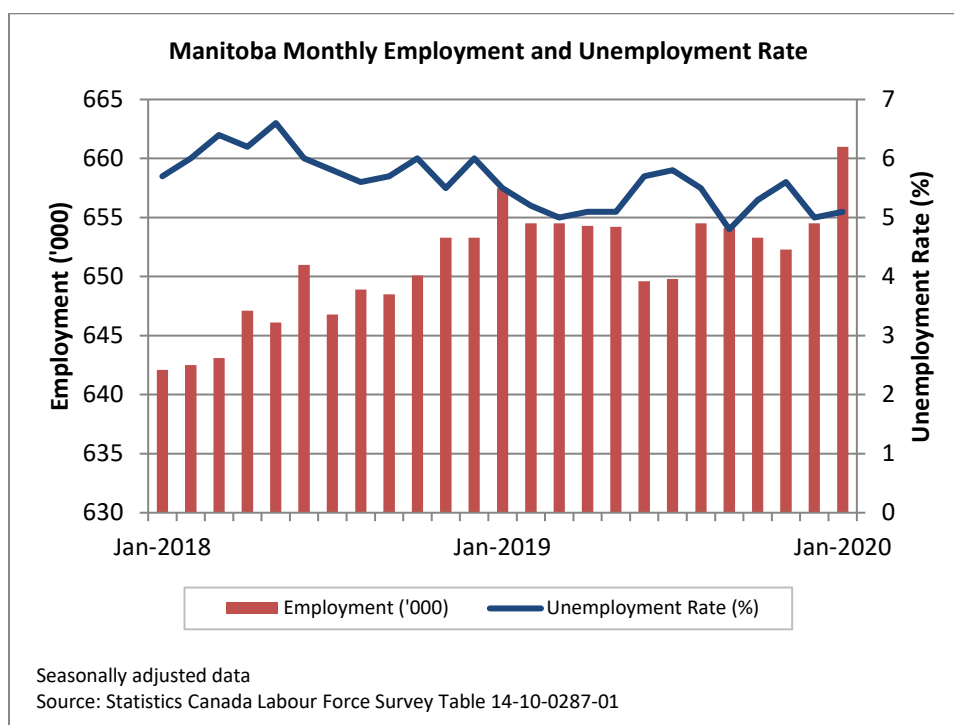
#### Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	January 2020	December 2019	January 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	1,044.2	1,043.7	1,031.2	0.5	0.0	13.0	1.3
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	696.7	688.9	696.1	7.8	1.1	0.6	0.1
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	661.0	654.5	657.5	6.5	1.0	3.5	0.5
Full-Time ('000)	524.3	522.8	526.9	1.5	0.3	-2.6	-0.5
Part-Time ('000)	136.6	131.7	130.6	4.9	3.7	6.0	4.6
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	35.7	34.4	38.6	1.3	3.8	-2.9	-7.5
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	5.1	5.0	5.5	0.1	-	-0.4	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	66.7	66.0	67.5	0.7	-	-0.8	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	63.3	62.7	63.8	0.6	-	-0.5	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Employment in Manitoba's public sector was up 2,000 year-over-year in January.<sup>2</sup> Looking ahead, the Government of Manitoba is conducting a review of manager-to-employee ratios and aims to reduce overall public sector management by 15 percent.<sup>3</sup>



The number of unemployed Manitobans was down 2,900 in January compared to the same period last year. The province's unemployment rate dropped 0.4 percentage points to 5.1%. Manitoba's unemployment rate has remained below the national average for six consecutive months.

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

Seasonally Adjusted Data	January 2020 (%)	December 2019 (%)	January 2019 (%)	Monthly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Total</b>	5.1	5.0	5.5	0.1	-0.4
<b>25 years and over</b>	4.3	4.1	4.2	0.2	0.1
Men - 25 years and over	4.5	4.1	4.3	0.4	0.2
Women - 25 years and over	4.2	4.2	4.0	0.0	0.2
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	9.2	9.4	12.8	-0.2	-3.6
Men - 15 to 24 years	10.7	11.7	16.6	-1.0	-5.9
Women - 15 to 24 years	7.7	7.1	8.9	0.6	-1.2

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Year-over-year, the unemployment rate decreased for those 15 to 24 years of age, while there was a slight increase among those aged 25 years and over. The most significant annual change was among young men, whose unemployment rate dropped 5.9 percentage points to 10.7% over the past year.

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment in Manitoba's **services-producing sector** was up both on a monthly (+6,900) and annual (+7,100) basis. The province's **goods-producing sector** shed 400 positions in January and overall sector employment is down 3,600 compared to the same time last year.

The **construction** industry saw the most employment losses of any industry in the province's goods-producing sector over the past year. BuildForce forecasts employment in Manitoba's construction industry will shrink by 4,000 positions over the next five years as a number of large projects are completed and new housing construction slows down.<sup>4</sup>

Employment is also down in the **manufacturing** and **resource extraction** (forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas) industries. Manitoba's manufacturing industry is seeing large investments in plant protein facilities. For example, Merit Functional Foods' new 94,000 square foot pea and canola protein processing facility in Winnipeg will employ approximately 80 people when it becomes operational later this and expand to over 200 employees over the next three to five years.<sup>5,6</sup>

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

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	January 2020	December 2019	January 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	661.0	654.5	657.5	6.5	1.0	3.5	0.5
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	149.5	149.9	153.1	-0.4	-0.3	-3.6	-2.4
Agriculture	26.4	25.5	24.8	0.9	3.5	1.6	6.5
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	4.9	5.7	6.1	-0.8	-14.0	-1.2	-19.7
Utilities	6.6	6.5	6.5	0.1	1.5	0.1	1.5
Construction	48.3	50.6	51.3	-2.3	-4.5	-3.0	-5.8
Manufacturing	63.3	61.7	64.3	1.6	2.6	-1.0	-1.6
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	511.5	504.6	504.4	6.9	1.4	7.1	1.4
Trade	93.2	90.9	87.6	2.3	2.5	5.6	6.4
Transportation and warehousing	40.2	39.7	42.0	0.5	1.3	-1.8	-4.3
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	34.1	33.9	34.1	0.2	0.6	0.0	0.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	30.5	29.9	30.7	0.6	2.0	-0.2	-0.7
Business, building and other support services	21.9	21.6	22.5	0.3	1.4	-0.6	-2.7
Educational services	53.1	52.6	51.7	0.5	1.0	1.4	2.7
Health care and social assistance	107.1	104.8	105.7	2.3	2.2	1.4	1.3
Information, culture and recreation	21.8	22.3	23.0	-0.5	-2.2	-1.2	-5.2
Accommodation and food services	44.8	44.7	42.8	0.1	0.2	2.0	4.7
Other services	28.4	28.4	29.1	0.0	0.0	-0.7	-2.4
Public administration	36.4	35.8	35.2	0.6	1.7	1.2	3.4

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

The pea and canola processing facility will bolster Manitoba's **agriculture** industry thanks to its research and development of plant-based protein processing. New processing technology is expected to increase the value of pea and canola crops that should better serve emerging markets for plant-based meat alternatives. Estimates place the market for plant-based meat alternatives at about \$1 billion per year in North America with the possibility to expand to \$80 billion in the next five years.<sup>7</sup>

Approximately 4.0% of Manitoba's workforce is directly employed in the agriculture industry, over twice the national average (1.6%). Year-over-year, employment in Manitoba's agriculture industry increased 1,600 or 6.5%, primarily due to increased employment in animal production.

In the services-producing sector, increasing employment in the **wholesale and retail trade** industry was responsible for the majority of annual employment gains in the province (+5,600). Manitoba's trade industry is the second largest industry by employment, representing 14.1% of all jobs in the province. The trade industry is being disrupted as retailers move from traditional brick and mortar stores to a greater reliance on e-commerce. Several retail chains announced closures in Winnipeg including Ten Thousand Villages, Bench, Carlton Cards and Papyrus, La Senza, and Pier 1 Imports.

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Employment is up in just two of Manitoba's six economic regions over the past year. The most significant employment gains were in **Winnipeg** (+6,700) and **Interlake** region (+2,100). Annual job losses were greatest in the **Southwest** region (-2,800) and the **South Central and North Central** region (-2,200).

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

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	January 2020 ('000)	January 2019 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	January 2020 (%)	January 2019 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Manitoba</b>	651.7	650.3	0.2	5.0	5.6	-0.6
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Southeast	58.1	59.3	-2.0	6.3	4.5	1.8
South Central and North Central	54.1	56.3	-3.9	4.3	3.9	0.4
Southwest	56.5	59.3	-4.7	5.5	4.2	1.3
Winnipeg	406.8	400.1	1.7	5.0	5.7	-0.7
Interlake	45.8	43.7	4.8	4.4	7.4	-3.0
Parklands and Northern	30.4	31.6	-3.8	5.0	8.4	-3.4

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding*

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

There was a 3.8% decline in employment (-1,200) in the **Parklands and Northern** region between January 2019 and January 2020. Some new developments in the mining industry may impact employment in the region going forward. Hudbay plans to restart its Snow Lake gold mill and spend \$124 million on refurbishment over the next two years, substantially increasing its capacity. The upgrades are expected to create 60 new jobs in the Snow Lake region.<sup>8,9</sup> Meanwhile, the company cut their exploration budget for the Flin Flon region and will either shut down or place most of the region's operations on care and maintenance in 2022.<sup>10</sup> Mining is a significant

economic driver in northern Manitoba, accounting for 35% of all employment income in Flin Flon and 48% in Snow Lake in 2016.<sup>11</sup>

Employment decreased 4.7% in the **Southwest** region year-over-year, while its unemployment rate went up 1.3 percentage points to 5.5%. Enbridge's Line 3 Replacement Program had employed approximately 2,200 Manitobans prior to December 2019 when the new pipeline came online.<sup>12</sup> The \$5.3 billion Canadian portion of the replacement project runs between Alberta and Saskatchewan, then through Manitoba's Southwest region. Minor reclamation work in Manitoba should be complete by June 2020.<sup>13</sup>

Manitoba's **Southeast** region had the highest unemployment rate in the province in January at 6.3%, a 1.8 percentage point increase from January 2019. Construction is the most significant industry by employment in the Southeast, representing 14.4% of all employment in the region. Compared to last January, employment in the region's construction industry is down 1,500. This trend could continue as one of the region's largest construction projects, Manitoba Hydro's Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project, will likely be completed this spring.<sup>14</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 14-10-0288-01 (formerly CANSIM 282-0089) Employment by class of worker, monthly, seasonally adjusted and unadjusted, last 5 months (x 1,000). Accessed February 7, 2020):

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

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Government of Manitoba (January 30, 2020). Manitoba government announces additional controls for more efficient and responsive public-sector management. Retrieved from:

<https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=46804&posted=2020-01-30>

<sup>4</sup> BuildForce. Manitoba construction & maintenance looking forward, highlights 2020-2029. Retrieved from:

[https://www.buildforce.ca/system/files/forecast\\_summary\\_reports/2020%20MB%20Constr%20Maint%20Looking%20Forward.pdf?language=en](https://www.buildforce.ca/system/files/forecast_summary_reports/2020%20MB%20Constr%20Maint%20Looking%20Forward.pdf?language=en)

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<sup>5</sup> Merit Functional Foods (January 10, 2020). Merit Functional Foods and Partners Receive Co-Investment from Protein Industries Canada. Retrieved from: <https://www.meritfoods.com/merit-functional-foods-and-partners-receive-co-investment-from-protein-industries-canada/>

<sup>6</sup> Winnipeg Free Press (January 10, 2020). Merit plant protein project growing. Retrieved from: <https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/business/merit-plant-protein-project-growing-566899972.html>

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Thompson Citizen (February 20, 2019). Hudbay plans to spend \$124 million to refurbish mill and double Lalor mine gold production. Retrieved from: <https://www.thompsoncitizen.net/news/nickel-belt/hudbay-plans-to-spend-124-million-to-refurbish-mill-and-double-lalor-mine-gold-production-1.23639770>

<sup>9</sup> The Reminder (January 8, 2020). Hudbay moving forward with Snow lake plans). Retrieved from: <https://www.there reminder.ca/news/local-news/hudbay-moving-forward-with-snow-lake-plans-1.24047716>

<sup>10</sup> The Reminder (January 7, 2020). Shutdown date set for 777 mine, mill, zinc and oxygen plant: Hudbay. Retrieved from: <https://www.there reminder.ca/news/local-news/shutdown-date-set-for-777-mine-mill-zinc-and-oxygen-plants-hudbay-1.24047622>

<sup>11</sup> Statistics Canada. Census 2016 ESDC Custom table.

<sup>12</sup> Enbridge. Line 3 Replacement Program (Canada) - Project Overview. Accessed February 7, 2020: <https://www.enbridge.com/projects-and-infrastructure/projects/line-3-replacement-program-canada#projectdetails:economic-benefits>

<sup>13</sup> Enbridge. Line 3 Replacement Program (Canada) - Project Overview. Accessed February 7, 2020: <https://www.enbridge.com/projects-and-infrastructure/projects/line-3-replacement-program-canada>

<sup>14</sup> Manitoba Hydro. Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project, description. Accessed on February 10, 2020: [https://www.hydro.mb.ca/projects/mb\\_mn\\_transmission/description/](https://www.hydro.mb.ca/projects/mb_mn_transmission/description/)