



Labour Market Bulletin

Manitoba

October 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

The Government of Manitoba continues to extend a state of emergency initially declared on March 20, 2020. A surge in positive COVID-19 cases in Manitoba has caused the Province to re-introduce measures to contain the virus. While many of these changes affect the entire province, stricter regulations were temporarily imposed for the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region and Southern Health-Santé Sud, mandating the temporary closure of many businesses.¹

Employment in Manitoba decreased in October (-1,800) for the first time since March. While the province had been making strides in employment recovery over the last six months, the second wave of the pandemic will likely negatively impact provincial employment in the weeks ahead.

Total employment in the province is down 2,800 year-over-year. Annual job losses in the private sector (-11,200) were only partially offset by gains in the public sector (+3,200) and self-employment (+5,200).²

According to the Conference Board of Canada, Manitoba is expected to return to pre-pandemic levels of employment by the first quarter of 2021. Meanwhile, national employment levels are not forecast to fully recover until the fourth quarter of next year.³

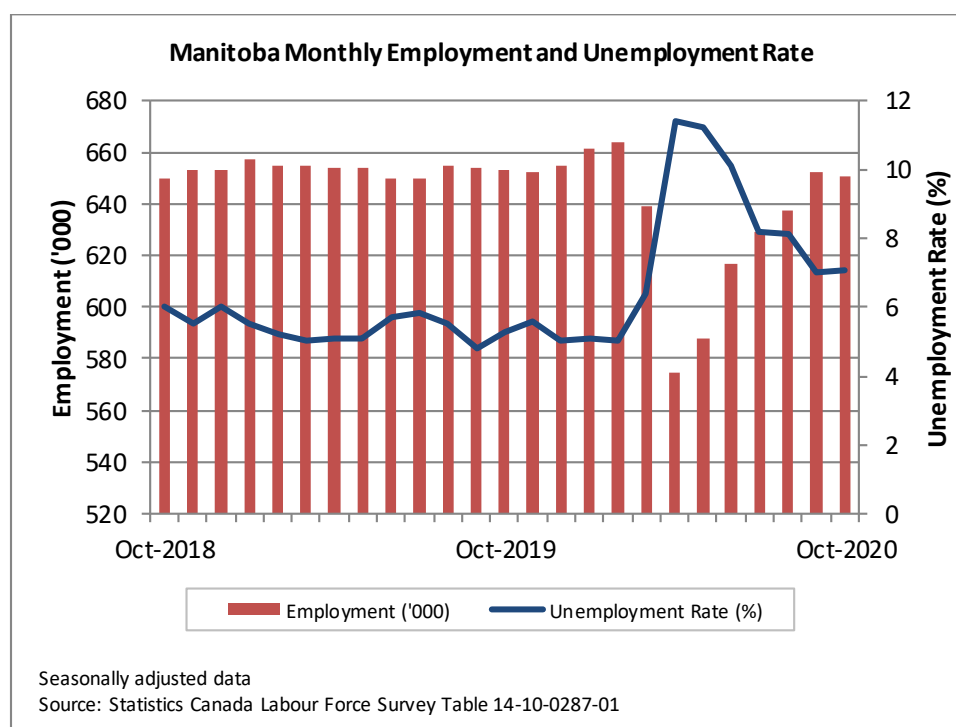
Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	October 2020	September 2020	October 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	1,047.9	1,047.5	1,042.0	0.4	0.0	5.9	0.6
Labour Force ('000)	700.2	701.6	689.7	-1.4	-0.2	10.5	1.5
Employment ('000)	650.5	652.3	653.3	-1.8	-0.3	-2.8	-0.4
Full-Time ('000)	517.0	518.3	526.4	-1.3	-0.3	-9.4	-1.8
Part-Time ('000)	133.5	134.0	126.9	-0.5	-0.4	6.6	5.2
Unemployment ('000)	49.7	49.3	36.4	0.4	0.8	13.3	36.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	7.1	7.0	5.3	0.1	-	1.8	-
Participation Rate (%)	66.8	67.0	66.2	-0.2	-	0.6	-
Employment Rate (%)	62.1	62.3	62.7	-0.2	-	-0.6	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

Manitoba's unemployment rate increased 0.1 percentage points to 7.1% in October — representing the second lowest unemployment rate among provinces and 1.8 percentage points below the national average. However, the provincial unemployment rate remains much higher than last October (5.3%).



Manitoba's youth unemployment rate dropped 0.5 percentage points to 13.6% in October, remaining well below the national average (18.8%). The unemployment rate for young men declined significantly this month — down 2.4 percentage points to 13.7%. Indeed, the unemployment rate for this demographic group has been decreasing steadily since it peaked in April (24.0%) at the height of the pandemic. Meanwhile, men (25 years and over) are the only demographic group to have an uptick in their unemployment rate for the month of October (+0.2 percentage points to 6.2%).

Manitoba Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	October 2020 (%)	September 2020 (%)	October 2019 (%)	Monthly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Total	7.1	7.0	5.3	0.1	1.8
25 years and over	5.9	5.7	4.0	0.2	1.9
Men - 25 years and over	6.2	5.7	4.1	0.5	2.1
Women - 25 years and over	5.6	5.8	3.9	-0.2	1.7
15 to 24 years	13.6	14.1	11.7	-0.5	1.9
Men - 15 to 24 years	13.7	16.1	13.7	-2.4	0.0
Women - 15 to 24 years	13.5	11.9	9.6	1.6	3.9

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Employment in the **goods-producing sector** decreased 1,100 in October with losses in **agriculture, construction and resource extraction (forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas)**. Monthly employment losses in Manitoba's **services-producing sector** (-700) were due to job losses in **accommodation and food services** and **business, building and other support services**. While employment in the goods-producing sector has yet to fully recover from the pandemic (-8,800 on an annual basis), employment in the services-producing sector is up 6,000 year-over-year.

Employment in Manitoba's **resource extraction** industry is down both on a monthly (-7.9%) and annual (-37.5%) basis. Over half of all jobs in Manitoba's resource extraction industry are in the province's relatively small mining sub-industry. There are currently only four active mines in Manitoba, but one will close within two years.⁴ Closure, care, and maintenance of HudBay's 777 Flin Flon mine is set to be complete by fall 2022 when HudBay moves all of its Flin Flon operations to Snow Lake.⁵ Although no other closures have been announced, Vale Manitoba Operations has cut 144 jobs from its Thompson nickel mine since June. Job losses include 75 unionized employee layoffs, and the elimination of 28 positions. The remaining job cuts are from early retirements.⁶ These mines have a significant economic impact on local communities. According to Census 2016, employment income derived from mining represents 30% of all employment income in Thompson and 35% in Flin Flon.

In the services-producing sector, employment in the **accommodation and food services** industry decreased 3.4% in October and is down 15.3% year-over-year. This industry was on a slow path to recovery since the beginning of the pandemic when travel restrictions and restaurant closures prevented many from working. Due to an uptick in positive cases of COVID-19, the Province re-implemented several public health measures. Restaurants and bars in the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region were ordered to shut down on November 2, with only take-out and drive-thru options remaining for these businesses. Approximately 68% of all Manitobans employed in the accommodation and food services industry work in the Winnipeg region.

Other services-producing industries will also be impacted by increased restrictions. For instance, the **information, culture and recreation** industry will see reduced employment after casinos were ordered to close

throughout the province in early November. More stringent regulations in the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region shut down all recreational and sports facilities, concert halls, arcades, movie theatres, museums, galleries and libraries.⁷

Meanwhile, employment in **health care and social assistance** was down slightly in October (-0.3%). New employment opportunities in this industry should arise as part of provincial measures to manage the impact of the pandemic. For instance, the Red Cross expects to hire over 50 people to work remotely on a six-month contract as COVID-19 contact tracers.⁸ The Government of Manitoba is also opening additional COVID-19 testing sites throughout the province. In support of this strategy, Red River College is offering a new micro-credential course to train health-care providers on how to collect samples to test for the virus. The college is now expanding the course to train additional providers in rural Manitoba.⁹

By late October, COVID-19 hospitalizations had reached an all-time high in Manitoba and staffing was a challenge due to health-care workers becoming ill or self-isolating due to exposure.¹⁰ Meanwhile, the number of vacant home-care and health-care aide positions in western Manitoba is over 15%.¹¹

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	October 2020	September 2020	October 2019	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	650.5	652.3	653.3	-1.8	-0.3	-2.8	-0.4
Goods-producing sector	141.6	142.7	150.4	-1.1	-0.8	-8.8	-5.9
Agriculture	24.3	25.2	26.0	-0.9	-3.6	-1.7	-6.5
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	3.5	3.8	5.6	-0.3	-7.9	-2.1	-37.5
Utilities	5.5	5.5	6.3	0.0	0.0	-0.8	-12.7
Construction	48.5	48.8	49.5	-0.3	-0.6	-1.0	-2.0
Manufacturing	59.9	59.3	63.1	0.6	1.0	-3.2	-5.1
Services-producing sector	508.9	509.6	502.9	-0.7	-0.1	6.0	1.2
Trade	89.9	90.0	89.6	-0.1	-0.1	0.3	0.3
Transportation and warehousing	41.7	41.4	40.2	0.3	0.7	1.5	3.7
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	34.6	34.0	33.5	0.6	1.8	1.1	3.3
Professional, scientific and technical services	32.2	31.6	29.8	0.6	1.9	2.4	8.1
Business, building and other support services	22.4	23.4	22.2	-1.0	-4.3	0.2	0.9
Educational services	57.5	57.9	51.6	-0.4	-0.7	5.9	11.4
Health care and social assistance	103.6	103.9	104.9	-0.3	-0.3	-1.3	-1.2
Information, culture and recreation	21.8	21.4	22.7	0.4	1.9	-0.9	-4.0
Accommodation and food services	37.1	38.4	43.8	-1.3	-3.4	-6.7	-15.3
Other services	31.0	31.1	28.1	-0.1	-0.3	2.9	10.3
Public administration	37.0	36.4	36.4	0.6	1.6	0.6	1.6

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Employment is down in four of Manitoba's six economic regions on an annual basis. **Southwest** (-5.7%) and **Interlake** (-5.4%) saw the largest year-over-year percentage declines in employment. Meanwhile, the **Winnipeg** region had the most job losses (-4,400) during this period and also has the highest unemployment rate (9.2%) among all Manitoba regions (+3.7 percentage points from October 2019).

Year-over-year, employment grew 2.9% in the **South Central and North Central** while the unemployment rate dropped 0.6 percentage points to 3.6%. This region has kept the lowest unemployment rate of any region in the province throughout 2020. Employment in the food-processing industry is set to expand in Portage la Prairie with the opening of the world's largest pea protein plant. Approximately 850 people are still working on the construction of Roquette's \$400 million plant-based protein manufacturing plant.¹² Construction should be completed by the end of 2020.¹³ Once operational, the plant is expected to employ 150 people, with a total payroll of approximately \$9 million a year.¹⁴ Avena Foods is also expanding its Portage La Prairie pulse processing facility by spending \$3 million over the next three years to increase production.¹⁵

The **Parklands and Northern** region also saw a year-over-year uptick in employment (+4.3%) and a significant decrease in the unemployment rate over the same time frame (-2.8 percentage points to 3.9%). Recently, the Town of Gillam and the Rural Municipality of Mountain were among five rural Manitoba communities chosen to receive funding from the federal government through the Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP). This program aims to help rural communities make informed infrastructure investment decisions and support sound asset management practices through training, funding and information sharing.¹⁶ This type of support will be helpful for communities wanting to access funds through the Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure Stream (RNCIS). The RNCIS is part of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program that will distribute approximately \$3 billion over ten years in combined federal and provincial funding towards Manitoba infrastructure projects, including those addressing rural- and northern-specific needs.¹⁷

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	October 2020 ('000)	October 2019 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	October 2020 (%)	October 2019 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Manitoba	649.0	657.5	-1.3	7.5	5.2	2.3
Economic Regions						
Southeast	59.6	60.8	-2.0	5.2	4.4	0.8
South Central and North Central	56.7	55.1	2.9	3.6	4.2	-0.6
Southwest	56.6	60.0	-5.7	6.4	4.9	1.5
Winnipeg	400.8	405.2	-1.1	9.2	5.5	3.7
Interlake	43.5	46.0	-5.4	4.2	4.0	0.2
Parklands and Northern	31.7	30.4	4.3	3.9	6.7	-2.8

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

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

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 Government of Manitoba. #RestartMB Pandemic Response System. Accessed November 9, 2020:

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² Statistics Canada. Table 14-10-0288-01 (formerly CANSIM 282-0089) Employment by class of worker, monthly, seasonally adjusted and unadjusted, last 5 months (x1,000). Accessed November 6, 2020:

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³ Conference Board of Canada (September 29, 2020). Tough times ... but it could be worse: Manitoba's two-year Outlook – September 2020. Retrieved from: https://www.conferenceboard.ca/e-library/abstract.aspx?did=10811&utm_source=notification&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=oct62020

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⁷ Government of Manitoba. Pandemic response system changes effective Nov. 2. Accessed November 6, 2020:

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⁸ Winnipeg Free Press (October 20, 2020). Red Cross to hire 50 contact tracers for Manitoba. Retrieved from:

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¹⁰ Winnipeg Free Press (October 26, 2020). Health-care staffing issues a major concern during pandemic. Retrieved from:

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